



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



2024

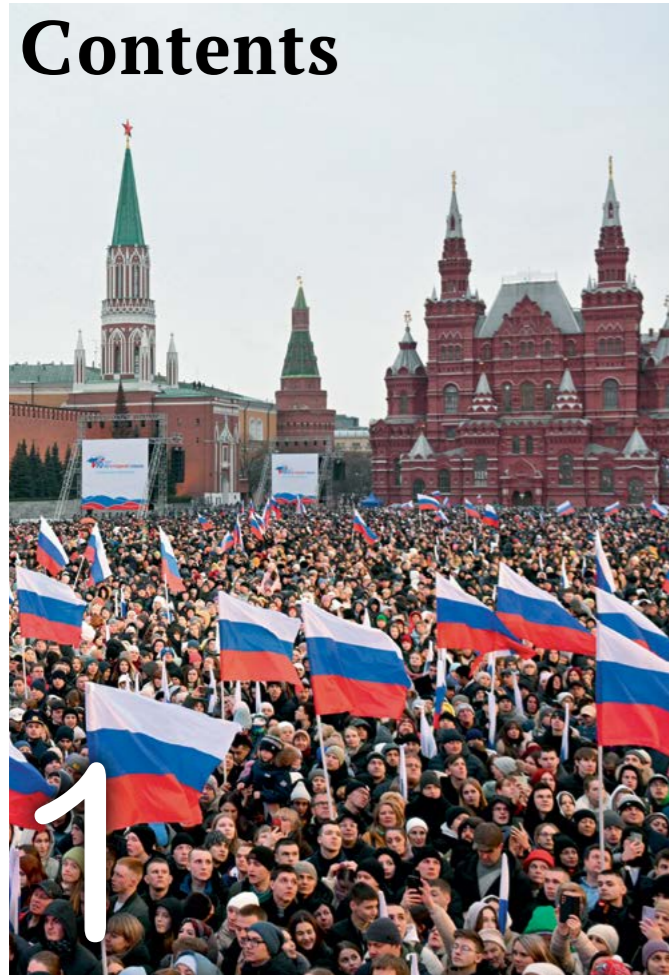


# **Report**

on the State  
of Civil Society in the  
Russian Federation for 2024



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# 2024: The Main Topics in Russian Civil Society



1

Russian civil society is a complex and multifaceted social phenomenon that emerges at the intersection of the interests of the state, society, and numerous individual citizens. At its core, civil society is defined by its institutions. Varied in their forms, these institutions organize, thematize, and direct civil society's activities, positioning it as an active agent of social action in its interactions with other spheres of social relations, primarily with its main regulatory political institution — the state.

Over the past few years, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation has documented a gradual expansion of dialog between the state and civil society across the broadest spectrum of topics and areas. The year 2024 has not been an exception, with its primary trend being the further enhancement of the involvement of public institutions in addressing pressing socioeconomic challenges.

Today, public institutions, alongside the state, are engaged in essential work aimed at ensuring social cohesion and stability within Russian society, serving as effective platforms for expressing and advancing the interests of various groups of citizens in our country.

This is facilitated by the regular meetings between the President of Russia and representatives of public organizations, which not only allow for discussions regarding the most significant initiatives of citizens, consolidated by civil society institutions, but also send a crucial public signal from the Head of State to governing bodies at all levels regarding the necessity for continued progressive development of state-society interaction.

The Annual Report on the State of Civil Society, presented for your consideration, does not purport to be a scientific study designed to answer fundamental questions about societal development; rather, it documents and analyzes the most relevant trends in the advancement of civil society in the current year—those areas and changes that have been observed, analyzed, and which the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation has participated in directly, as one of the key public institutions in our country.

*A Red Square rally-concert in Moscow dedicated to the tenth anniversary of the reunification of Crimea with Russia. March 18, 2024. Kirill Zykov / RIA Novosti*

## Civil society in sociological dimension

Modern civil society is experiencing dynamic development and evolution. Social structures, institutions, values, norms, and ideas are transforming, which directly reflects on citizen behavior and their evaluation of unfolding events. For the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, much like other public institutions, the results of sociological research documenting societal changes serve as critical benchmarks. These findings enable not only the identification and analysis of citizens' opinions and attitudes regarding various matters that pertain to their lives and the broader societal context but also the determination of the expectations and demands they place on the civil society institutions and the state itself.

rank as the most approved public institution, with support from 73.5% to 83.5% of respondents at various measurement points over the past four years.

A nationwide survey conducted in 2024 by the Center for Civil Society and Nonprofit Sector Research at HSE University<sup>1</sup> revealed that a total of 52% of Russians are aware of the functions of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation. Among those familiar with the activities of the Civic Chamber, 59% tend to trust it, while 41% are inclined to distrust it.

Among the citizens informed about the operations of the Civic

Chamber of Russia, neither the level of trust nor the evaluations of its effectiveness have changed markedly compared to 2023. However, a predominantly positive trend can be observed over the last five years, indicating an increase in public trust towards the Civic Chamber of Russia, rising from 40% in 2020 to 59% in 2023-2024.

**The level of trust among citizens in the Civic Chamber of Russia has risen from 40% to 59% between 2020 and 2023-2024.**

### Assessment of the Activities of Public Institutions

According to the monthly surveys conducted by the Russian Public Opinion Research Center (VCIOM), the overall structure of institutional evaluations regarding the activities of public institutions among Russian citizens has remained virtually unchanged from 2020 to 2024. The Armed Forces

*Since its establishment in 2005, the Civic Chamber of Russia has been housed in a building located at: Moscow, Miuskaya Street, 7, Building 1. This building is recognized as a historically significant urban landmark, with a history spanning over 100 years*

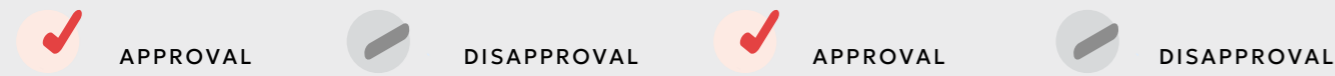






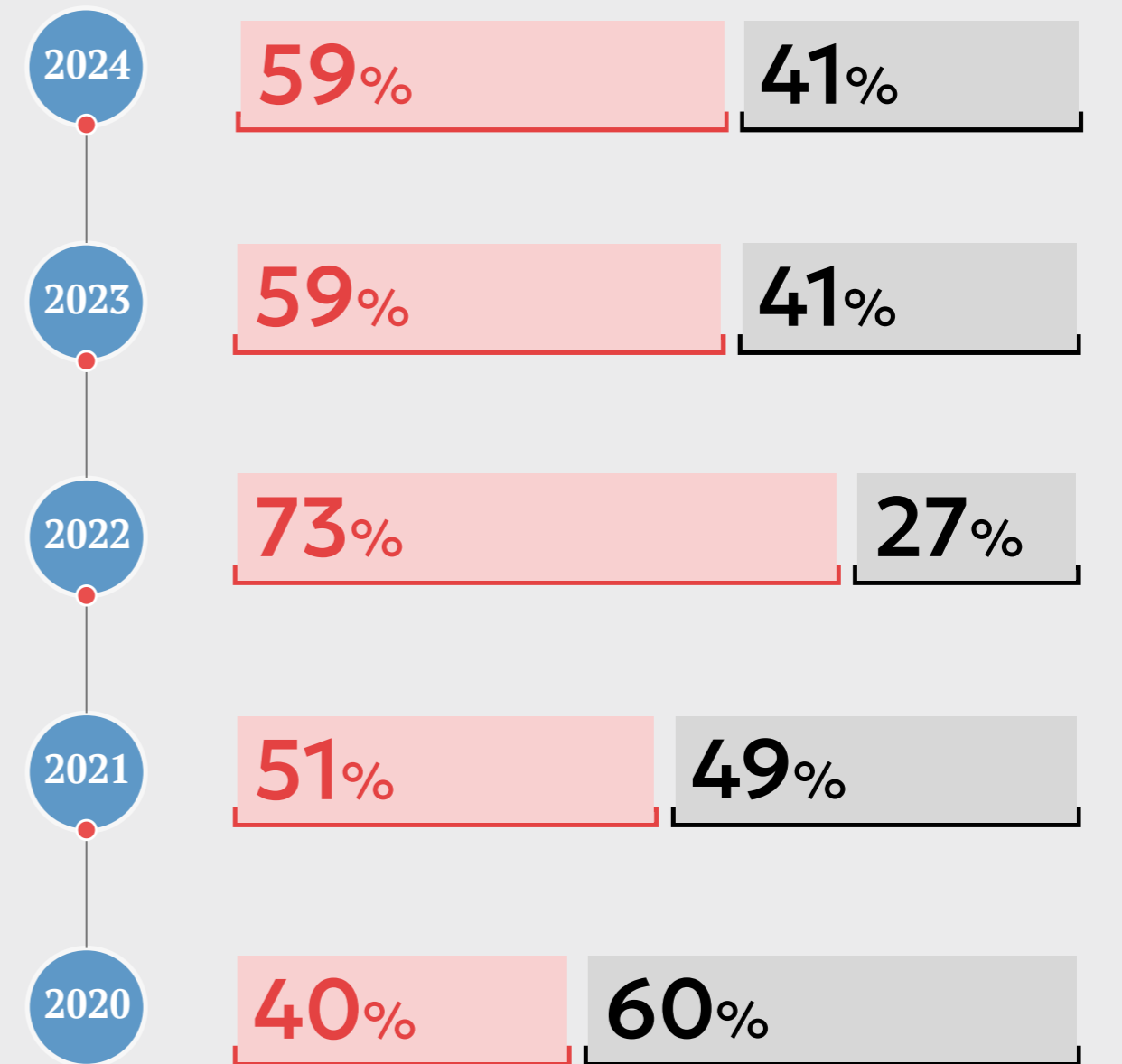
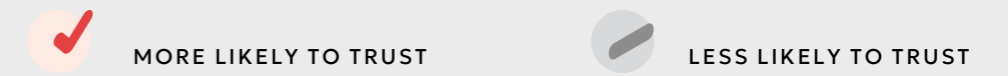
### Assessment of the activities of public institutions

APPROVAL OF THE ACTIVITIES OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS BY CITIZENS OF RUSSIA IN OCTOBER 2024 (VCIOM)<sup>2</sup>



<b>Russian Armed Forces</b>	<b>75.1%</b>	<b>11.6%</b>	<b>Political Parties</b>	<b>37.6%</b>	<b>26.5%</b>
<b>Russian Orthodox Church (RPC)</b>	<b>61.8%</b>	<b>19.6%</b>	<b>Civic Chamber</b>	<b>35.3%</b>	<b>16.7%</b>
<b>Law Enforcement Agencies</b>	<b>54.4%</b>	<b>26.9%</b>	<b>Trade Unions</b>	<b>30.0%</b>	<b>24.7%</b>
<b>Media</b>	<b>43.9%</b>	<b>36.4%</b>	<b>Opposition</b>	<b>25.8%</b>	<b>34.7%</b>
<b>Judicial System</b>	<b>38.4%</b>	<b>31.7%</b>			

DYNAMICS OF CITIZEN TRUST IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CIVIC CHAMBER IN 2020-2024 (HSE UNIVERSITY)





# Sociological dynamics of citizen reactions to social changes

## SOCIAL WELL-BEING (VCIOM)<sup>3</sup>

### Life Satisfaction

**60%**

of citizens reported varying degrees of satisfaction with their own lives (2023 — 60%)

Young people are the most satisfied with their lives:

**84%**

of Russians under 24 expressed varying degrees of positivity when asked about their life satisfaction

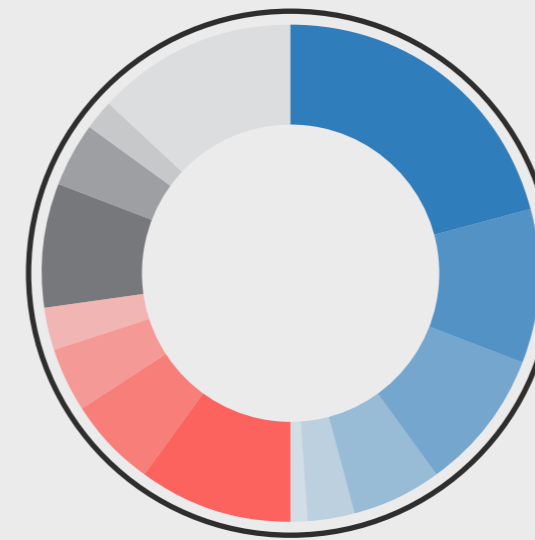
### Assessment of the situation in the country

**69%**

of citizens described the current situation in Russia as good (2023 — 66%)

The proportion of pessimists who assessed the situation in the country as poor stood at 26%

## SOCIAL JUSTICE AS DEFINED BY RUSSIANS (VCIOM)<sup>4</sup>



### Social guarantees

**50%**

- Equality, equal opportunities **21%**
- Social support for citizens **10%**
- Improvement of pensioners' lives, reduction of retirement age **9%**
- Accessible and free healthcare **6%**
- Affordable education **3%**
- Support for young families and families with children **1%**

## MODELS OF SOCIAL JUSTICE DEMANDED BY RUSSIAN SOCIETY IN 2024

**31%**

of Russians agree that social justice consists of equality before the law. This perspective has remained dominant throughout the measurement period since 2007 (2007 — 35%)

**16%**

of respondents support economic notions of social justice, advocating for a society without extreme wealth or poverty (2007 — 18%)

**16%**

of citizens in 2024 align with a labor-based model of social justice, where a person's position is determined by the results of their work (2007 — 10%)

### Legal guarantees

**14%**

- Equality before the law **8%**
- Protection of citizens' rights and freedoms **4%**
- Effective law enforcement and judicial system, absence of corruption **2%**

### Economic guarantees

**23%**

- Increase in living standards **10%**
- Absence of a large gap between the rich and the poor **6%**
- Rewarding everyone according to their work, availability of jobs, reasonable prices **4%**
- Well-being of citizens **3%**

**14%**

of Russians believe that social justice means allowing everyone to develop their abilities (2007 — 15%)

**5%**

of respondents favor a compensatory model of social justice, which provides guarantees for socially vulnerable groups (2007 — 11%)

**26%**

of youth under 25 are more likely to understand social justice as creating conditions for everyone to achieve their full potential

## HOW MUCH HAS SOCIAL JUSTICE IN OUR SOCIETY IMPROVED OVER THE PAST YEAR?

### Became more fair

**26%**

(2018 — 16%)

### Became less fair

**22%**

(2018 — 28%)

### No significant changes

**44%**

(2018 — 54%)



## Sociological dynamics of citizen reactions to social changes

### PUBLIC TRUST (VCIOM)<sup>5</sup>

Public trust is one of the most important resources for the development of society, fostering the creation of stable social connections that enable people to collaborate, exchange ideas, and collectively solve problems. A survey conducted by VCIOM in August 2024 revealed that there is a prevailing opinion in Russian society that caution should be exercised in interactions with others.

**24%**

of citizens agree with the statement that “most people can be trusted.” Over the past six years, this proportion has remained virtually unchanged (2018 — 23%)

**73%**

of citizens believe that “one should exercise caution in interacting with others.” This figure has also seen little change since 2018 (74%)

### Who is More Trusting?

The youth are generally less trusting compared to the older generation:

more than  
**85%**

of individuals aged 18 to 34 advocate for exercising caution in interactions with others

Young people are

**2,5** times

more likely to express the possibility of trusting those around them (32%) than elderly Russians

The caution exhibited by Russians in their interactions with others does not diminish their willingness to believe in the honesty of those around them. In fact,

**48%**

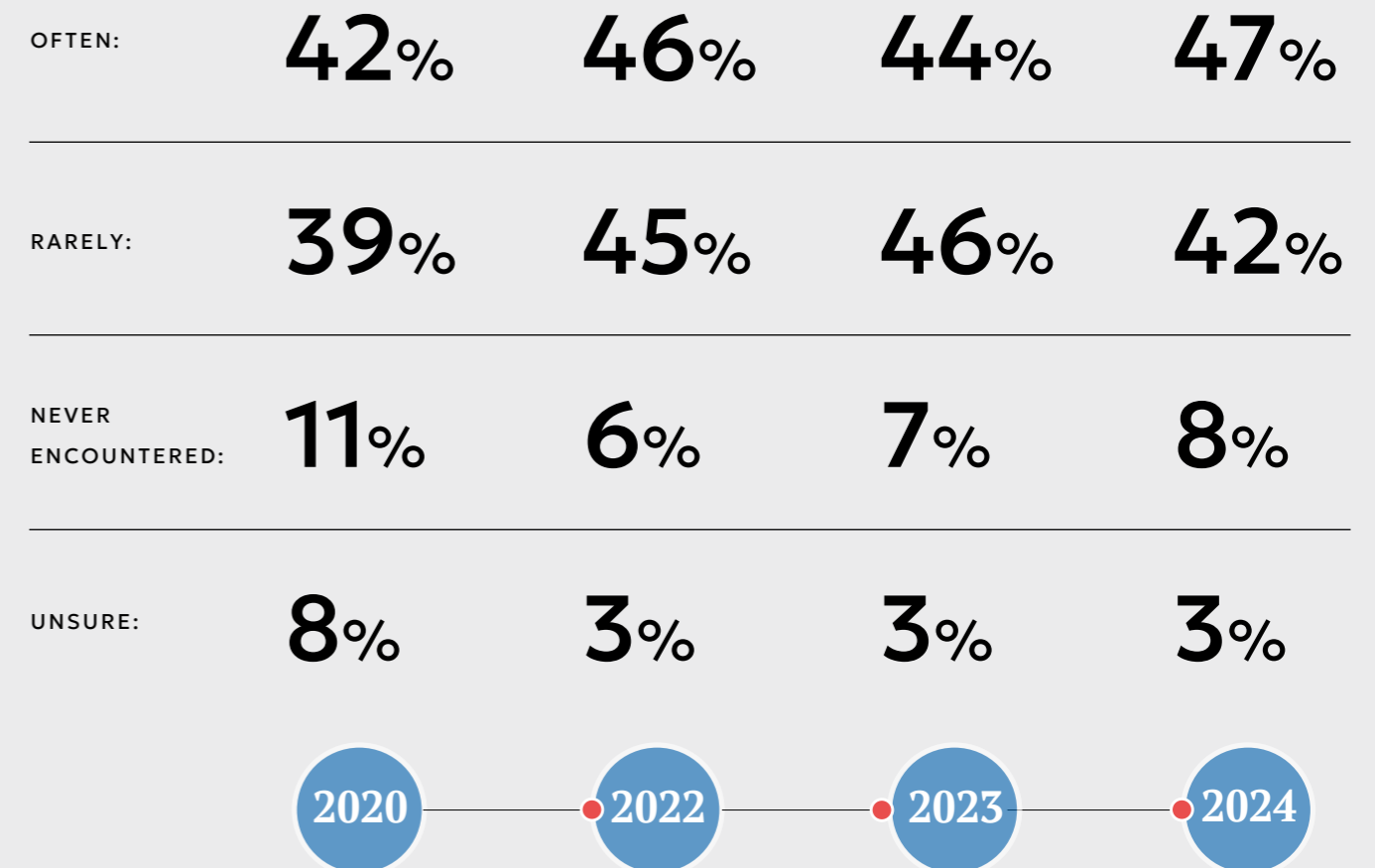
of respondents believe that others would act honestly, even if they had the opportunity to deceive them

### WILLINGNESS TO HELP (HSE UNIVERSITY)

Approximately half of respondents (47%) believe that there is often a willingness among people to help one another. In contrast, 42% feel that this willingness is rarely encountered, and only 8% assert that it is completely absent.

Exactly half of the respondents (50%) believe that the willingness to help within society has increased over the past year. Furthermore, 28% feel that this willingness has remained stable, while just 15% claim that it has decreased.

### In your opinion, how often do you encounter a willingness to help one another among the people around you today?



### The readiness to help those around them is more noticeable among:

- Young adults aged 18 to 30 (54%, compared to 47% in the overall sample); Individuals with higher education degrees (57%) and residents of cities with populations exceeding one million (53%);
- Those who have engaged in volunteer activities in the past year (59% versus 40% among nonparticipants), as well as those who are either willing to offer support or have already provided assistance to military personnel or their families (both at 52%);
- Individuals who believe that the country is moving in a distinctly positive direction (55%);
- Those who take pride in their citizenship (53%);
- Individuals who consider themselves to be unquestionably happy (56%).



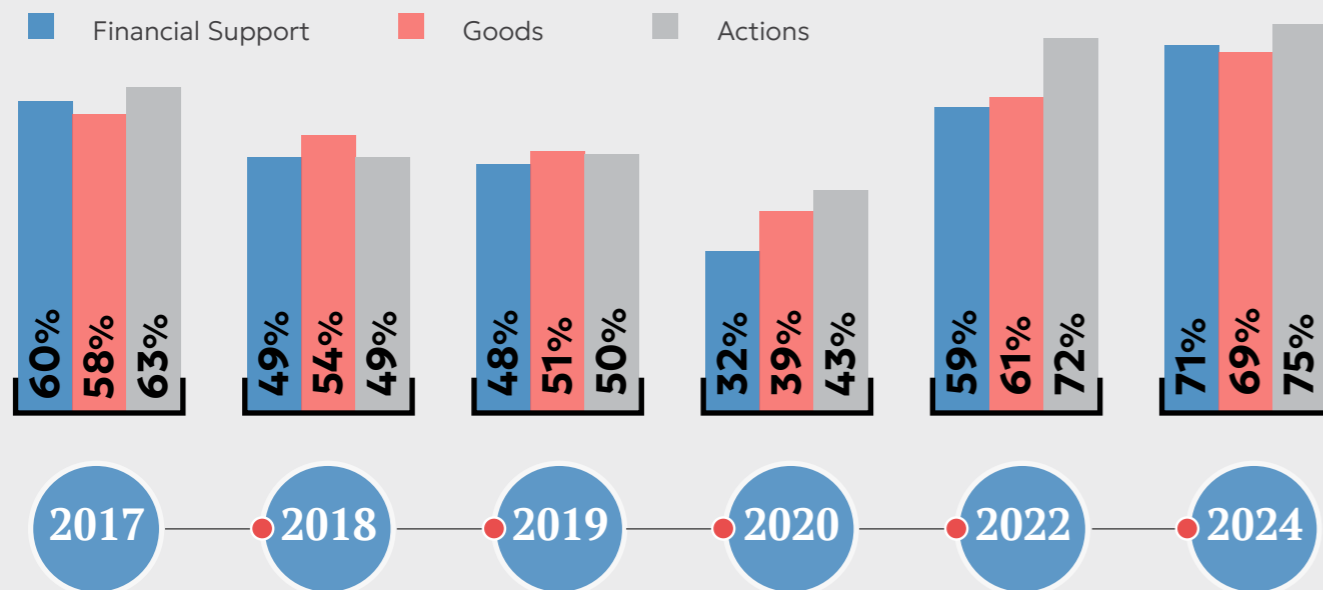
## Sociological dynamics of citizen reactions to social changes

### HELP FOR STRANGERS IN NEED (HSE UNIVERSITY)

Over the past year, **71%** of Russians have provided monetary assistance to strangers in need without expecting anything in return, **69%** have donated goods, and **75%** have offered assistance through actions or deeds. Consequently, **90%** of Russians have participated in at least one of these types of aid.

In 2024, the Center for Civil Society and Nonprofit Sector Research at HSE University recorded the highest level of public involvement in providing help through money, goods, and deeds since the commencement of observations in 2017.

#### The proportion of those who have assisted strangers in need through:



### SUPPORT FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL ON SPECIAL MILITARY OPERATION AND THEIR FAMILIES (HSE UNIVERSITY)

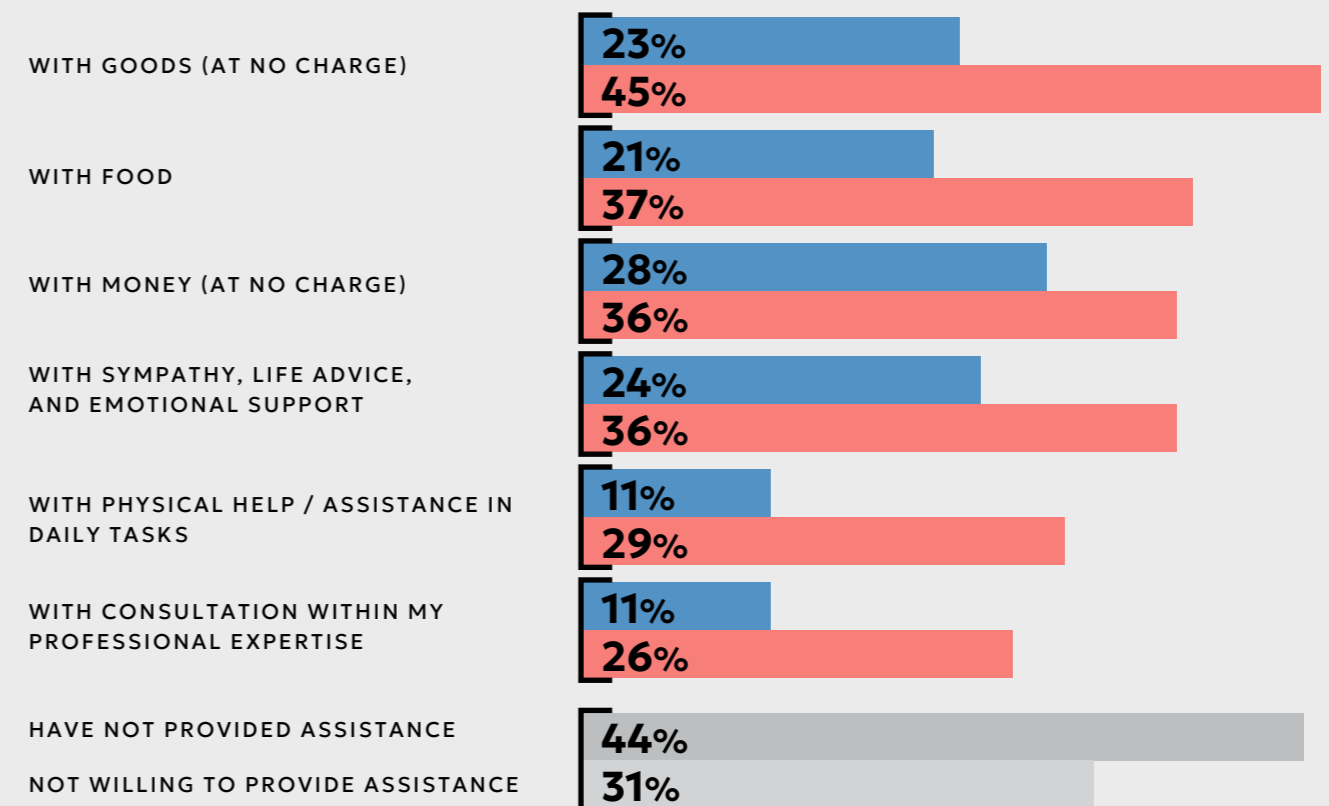
**69%** of Russians express their willingness to help the families of military personnel, as well as the servicemen themselves involved in special military operation. This percentage has remained relatively stable compared to 2023, when it was **71%**.

Overall, more than half of Russians (**56%**) have already provided assistance to military personnel or their families during the special military operation. This proportion has not changed since 2023.

Most often, respondents contributed by donating money (**28%**), offering emotional support and sympathy (**24%**), providing goods at no cost (**23%**), or giving food (**21%**). Additionally, 11% of respondents helped with daily tasks and offered professional consultations.

### How are you willing to provide assistance? Have you ever assisted military personnel involved in special military operation or their families? If so, how did you help?

■ Offered assistance in the past  
 ■ Willing to provide assistance



#### The groups that most frequently provided assistance included:

- Civil servants, with **70%** compared to **56%** in the general sample, and employees of publicly-funded organizations (**65%**);
- Individuals who perceive that a willingness to help is commonly encountered in society (**62%**), or who believe this willingness has grown over the past year (**63%**);
- Volunteers (**70%**);
- Those who believe the country is on the right developmental path and who express pride in their citizenship (**63%**);
- People who have relatives and/or friends in the special military operation (SMO) zone, with **65%** as opposed to **32%** among those without such connections.





# Enhancing efficiency and transparency in public institutions through ranking assessments

Ranking assessments serve as a crucial process for evaluating, comparing, and ranking entities based on specific criteria. This process helps in identifying strengths and weaknesses, stimulates growth, and supports the formulation of effective improvement strategies for the entities evaluated.

Since 2020, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, in partnership with the ranking agency RAEX, has executed several ranking studies focused on the public sector. Regular discussions on ranking methodologies are hosted by the Civic Chamber of Russia, allowing all stakeholders to contribute comments and suggestions for refining the processes.

## Regional ranking of the third sector: “Region-NPO”

The annual “Region-NPO” ranking, initiated in 2020, has emerged as a pivotal research effort led by the Civic Chamber of Russia, facilitating a comprehensive evaluation of dynamic developments within the third sector across Russian regions.

Before 2020, a standardized tool for comparative assessment of the development level and quality of nonprofit sectors

within the Russian Federation’s constituent entities did not exist. The “Region-NPO” ranking now offers a well-founded evaluation of regional disparities in the development of the third sector. It has also become a potent instrument for driving real transformation at both the regional and federal levels, providing strategic guidance for the multifaceted Russian nonprofit sector’s progressive growth.

Following each release of the “Region-NPO” ranking, regions receive detailed standings with thorough breakdowns of the supporting data.

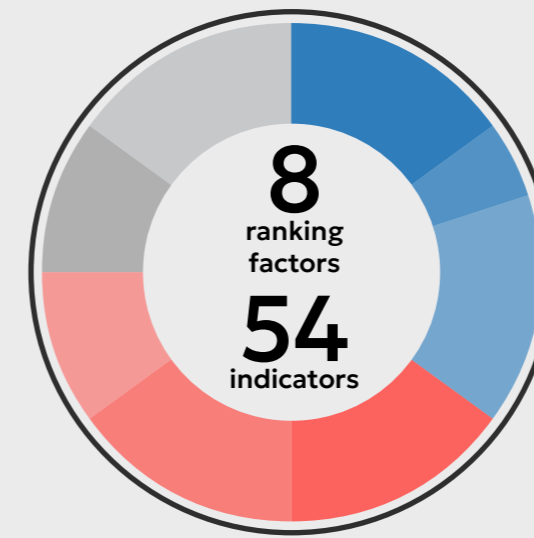
Twenty-eight regions in the Russian Federation, typically represented by collaborative teams from regional administrations, civic chambers, and nonprofit organizations, effectively partner with the Civic Chamber of Russia in leveraging the ranking’s analytics to develop the third sector. Many regions have seen

significant advancements in their standings: the largest five-year jump was 55 places, with an average increase of over 10 places in the rankings. These improvements reflect tangible achievements, such as substantial growth in social services offered to the population, an increase in volunteers engaged with socially-oriented NPOs, and a steady rise in donations, among other metrics.

In the 2024 ranking period, the nonprofit sectors of Russia’s new regions — Donetsk People’s Republic, Lugansk People’s Republic, Zaporozhye region, and Kherson region — were analyzed for the first time. While a lack of data on many metrics limited the complete application of the ranking methodology for a comprehensive evaluation, several promising factors and indicators were observed. These suggest systematic efforts by these four new subjects of the Russian Federation to develop their nonprofit sectors.

**The ranking methodology employs 23 objective information sources to evaluate the nonprofit sector across eight ranking factors and 54 indicators within the regions. In total, 170 metrics (initial values) are assessed to calculate the ranking indicators.**

## REGIONAL RANKING OF THE THIRD SECTOR “REGION-NPO”



### List of ranking factors:

- Economic Significance (3 indicators) **15%**
- Sustainability of NPO Existence (8 indicators) **5%**
- Activity Level of NPOs (14 indicators) **15%**
- Regional Support for NPOs (3 indicators) **15%**
- Online Accessibility of Information on Support for Socially Oriented NPOs (4 indicators) **15%**
- Media Activity (5 indicators) **10%**
- Results of Expert Survey (5 indicators) **10%**
- Social Significance (12 indicators) **15%**

### Results of the regional ranking of the third sector “Region-NPO” for 2024 (Top 10 regions of Russia):

No.	Region	Scores
1	Moscow	<b>62.969</b>
2	Republic of Tatarstan	<b>59.661</b>
3	Nizhny Novgorod Region	<b>57.777</b>
4.	Samara Region	<b>57.395</b>
5	Chelyabinsk Region	<b>54.824</b>
6	Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug — Yugra	<b>54.796</b>
7	Belgorod Region	<b>53.326</b>
8	Arkhangelsk Region	<b>53.291</b>
9	Leningrad Region	<b>52.493</b>
10	Sverdlovsk Region	<b>52.407</b>



Award ceremony for regional leaders in the "Region-NPO" ranking at the final "Community" forum in Moscow. November 2, 2024. Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

### Top 5 most dynamic regions (with an increase of over 35 positions in 5 years)

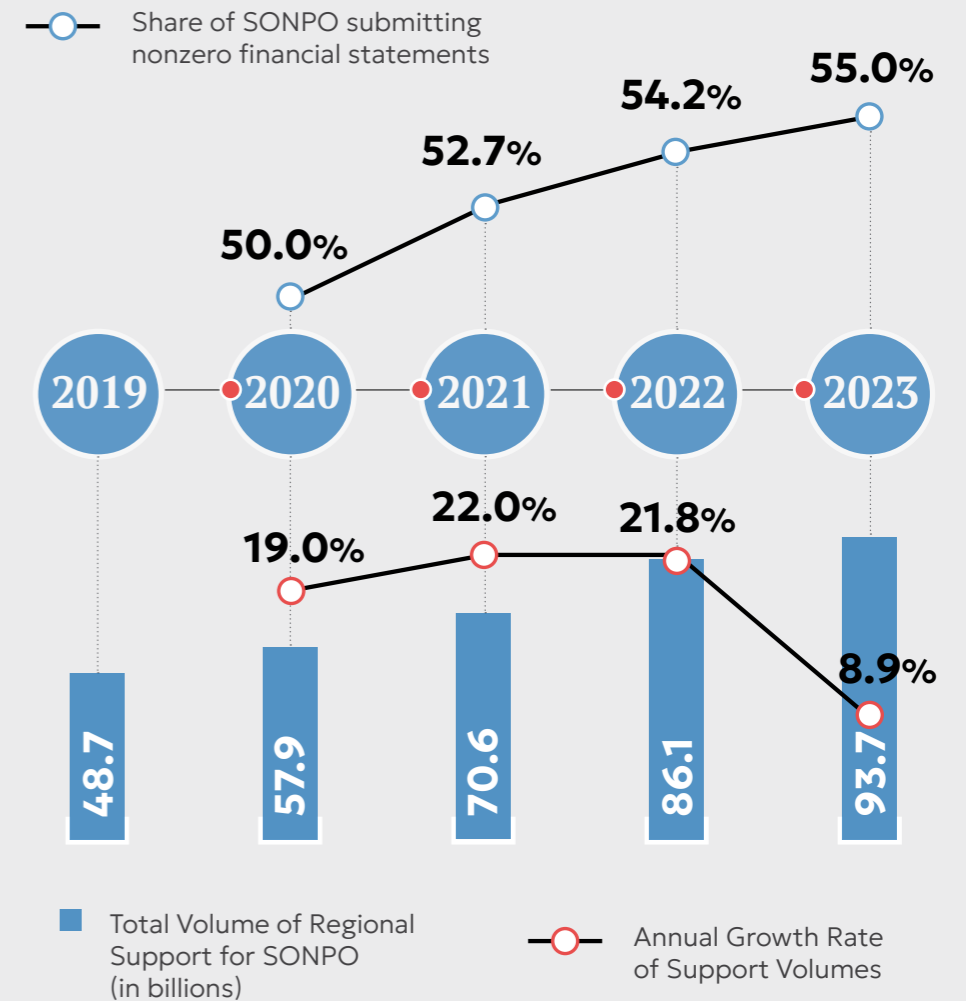
Region	Position in 2024	Growth in 2024 Ranking	Growth in Ranking over 4 Years
Nizhny Novgorod Region	3	↑ +4	↑ +55
Krasnodar Krai	28		↑ +52
Orenburg Region	31	↑ +9	↑ +44
Novgorod Region	21	↑ +9	↑ +42
Leningrad Region	9	↑ +13	↑ +39

### The "Region-NPO" ranking highlights several positive developments within the nonprofit sector

#### In several key indicators of the "Region-NPO" ranking, new regions have successfully secured top positions:

 Lugansk People's Republic	 Donetsk People's Republic	 Kherson Region	 Zaporozhye Region
<b>1st Place</b>	<b>3rd Place</b>	<b>3rd Place</b>	<b>4th Place</b>
Effectiveness in participation in Trust Fund for Culture and Arts competitions	Effectiveness in participation in Trust Fund for Culture and Arts competitions	Media activity of the nonprofit sector	Media activity of the nonprofit sector
<b>14th Place</b>	<b>23rd Place</b>		
Media activity of the nonprofit sector	Media activity of the nonprofit sector		

Transparency within the sector is improving: the proportion of Socially Oriented Nonprofit Organizations (SONPO) submitting nonzero financial statements has risen from 50% to 55% over the past three years



The volume of support provided by regional authorities to the nonprofit sector has consistently increased over the last five years. However, the rate of this growth has noticeably slowed down during the past year



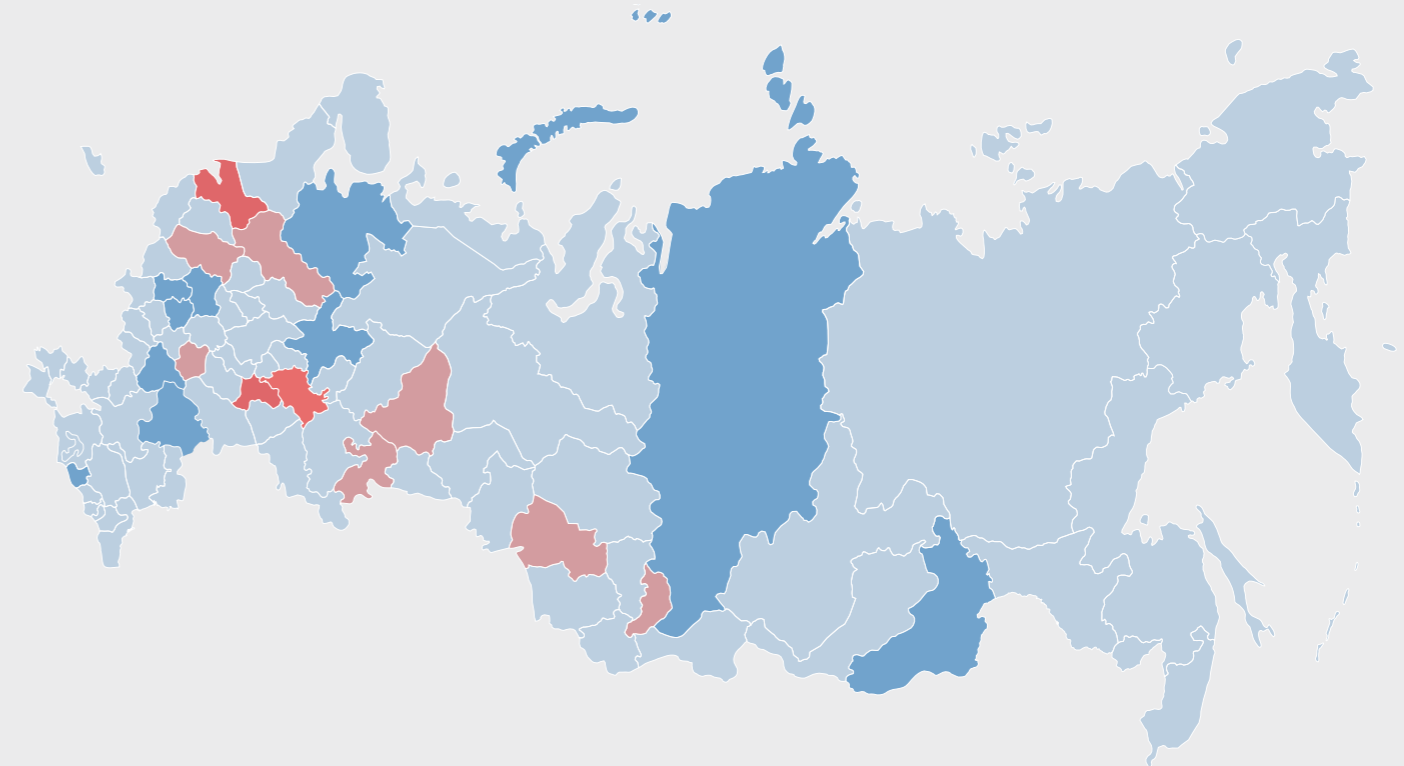


### Ranking of regional civic chambers

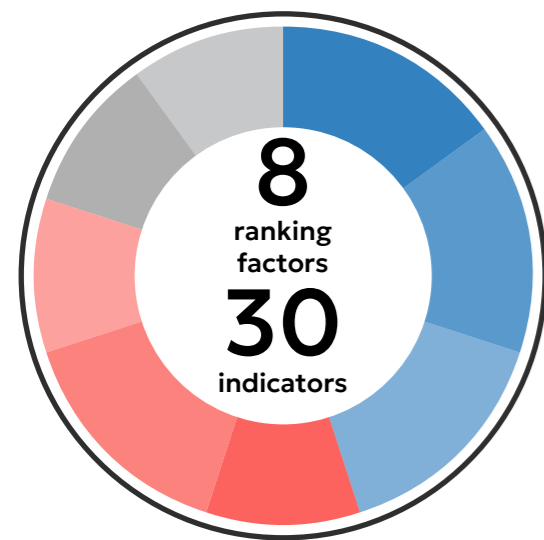
The launch of the ranking of civic chambers for the subjects of the Russian Federation in 2020 aimed to assist these regional chambers in objectively evaluating their activities. Initially, the ranking of regional civic chambers was presented to the public as a part of the “Region-NPO” ranking. By 2022, due to the unprecedented public interest and expert opinions, which highlighted that the activities of regional civic chambers significantly surpassed merely supporting the nonprofit sector as institutional platforms, it was decided

to separate the “Significance of regional civic chambers for SONPO” factor from the “Region-NPO” ranking, establishing it as an independent and standalone ranking.

The annual publication of the research results shows that healthy competition for top positions in the ranking motivates regional civic chambers to enhance the quality of their work. This involves improving mechanisms and increasing the effectiveness of interactions between public institutions and citizens, government bodies at various levels, and the expert and professional communities.



### RANKING OF REGIONAL CIVIC CHAMBERS



#### List of ranking factors

Public observational activity (5 indicators)	15%
Legislative activity (3 indicators)	15%
Information transparency (3 indicators)	15%
Interaction with the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation (2 indicators)	10%
Media activity (4 indicators)	15%
Public engagement of members (4 indicators)	10%
Financial resources and organizational work (8 indicators)	10%
Expert survey (1 indicator)	10%

#### ■ Civic Chambers — Leaders of the 2024 ranking:

1. Ulyanovsk Region;
2. Republic of Tatarstan;
3. Leningrad Region.

#### ■ The top 10 leaders of the ranking also include\*:

- Vologda Region;
- Novosibirsk Region;
- Republic of Khakassia;
- Sverdlovsk Region;
- Tambov Region;
- Tver Region;
- Chelyabinsk Region.

#### ■ The group of regions with high efficiency of regional civic chambers includes:

- Arkhangelsk Region;
- Volgograd Region;
- Voronezh Region;
- Zabaykalsky Krai;
- Kaluga Region;
- Karachay-Cherkessia Republic;
- Kirov Region;
- Krasnoyarsk Krai;
- Moscow Region;
- Tula Region.

\* All the regions that reached the top 10 in the ranking achieved above-average scores in most of the eight categories of criteria used for evaluation.



## Ranking of public councils under the federal executive authorities

Since 2021, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation has been annually compiling a ranking of public councils affiliated with the federal executive authorities, which are overseen by the Government of the Russian Federation.

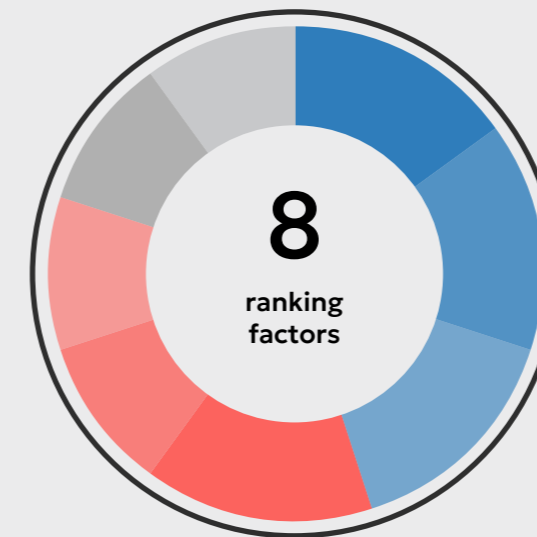
Over the past three years, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, in collaboration with federal executive authorities and the expert community, has continuously refined the research model of the ranking. Today, it consists of seven objective ranking factors that reflect the

main topics in the activities of public councils. In addition to these objective factors, the methodology includes data from a special expert survey (an eighth factor), the results of which are also considered when calculating the ranking indicators.

The ranking has had a significant positive impact on fostering constructive collaboration between the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation and the public councils under the federal executive authorities in consistently improving their activities. This includes efforts to ensure that the needs and interests of the citizens of the Russian Federation are taken into account in the implementation of state policy in the relevant areas.

In 2024, the ranking of public councils demonstrated a number of positive changes in the activities of public councils under the federal executive authorities, which began to consider the ranking criteria in their operations: 59% of councils participated in the preparation of reports on control activities (compared to 45% the previous year); 84% reported that the head of the federal executive authority participated in council meetings (compared to 73% the previous year); and 10% have a documented procedure for the council's work with legal regulations—with the regulations published on their website (compared to 8% the previous year).

## RANKING OF PUBLIC COUNCILS UNDER FEDERAL EXECUTIVE AUTHORITIES



### List of ranking factors

■ Influence on the activities of federal executive authorities	15%
■ Implementation of public oversight functions	15%
■ Information transparency	15%
■ Public engagement	15%
■ Interaction with stakeholders	10%
■ Organizational aspects of the activities of Public Councils under federal executive authorities	10%
■ Interaction with the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation	10%
■ Expert survey	10%

### Results of the 2024 ranking of public councils under federal executive authorities

#### Group A — Leaders:

- Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation (Minprosveshcheniye of Russia);
- Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation (Minselkhoz of Russia);
- Ministry of Construction and Housing and Communal Services of the Russian Federation (Minstroy of Russia);
- Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation (Mintrans of Russia);
- Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Russian Federation (Mintrud of Russia);
- Federal Service for State Registration, Cadastre, and Cartography (Rosreestr);
- Federal Service for Supervision in Education and Science (Rosobrnadzor);
- Federal Service for Supervision in Transport (Rostransnadzor);
- Federal Agency for Youth Affairs (Rosmolodezh);
- Federal Road Agency (Rosavtodor).

#### Subranking “Most dynamic”

Public councils that achieved maximum progress (improvement of 10 or more positions in the ranking used to compile the ranking):

- Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation (Mintrans of Russia);
- Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation (Minfin of Russia);
- Federal Licensing Chamber;
- Federal Service for Intellectual Property (Rospatent);
- Federal Service for Supervision in the Sphere of Communication, Information Technology, and Mass Communications (Roskomnadzor);
- Federal Agency for Maritime and River Transport (Rosmorrechflot);
- Federal Agency for Management of State Property (Rosimuschestvo).



Presentation of the ranking of public councils under federal executive bodies at the final forum “Community” in Moscow on November 2, 2024. Press service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation



# Civil Society and the State

## 2

A well-developed civil society is an essential component of the democratic process, encouraging citizens to actively participate in the sociopolitical life of the country. The most recognized organizational form of such participation consists of civil society institutions, which provide platforms for expressing opinions, articulating positions, proposing initiatives, protecting interests, and engaging citizens in significant decision-making processes.

*In recent years, the qualitative enhancement of dialog between the state and nonprofit organizations has led to a substantial transformation of social institutions. Today, these institutions not only address challenges in various areas of public life but also serve as initiators of social change themselves.*

## Institutions of civil society as catalysts for social change

### Collaboration and cooperation between society and the state

The regular meetings between the President of Russia and representatives of civil society institutions acknowledge the vital role these institutions play in shaping the public agenda and facilitating positive social change. Such meetings not only exemplify the state's commitment to considering public opinion and engaging with it, but they also provide an invaluable opportunity

to convey consolidated public initiatives directly to the head of state.

A tangible outcome of these meetings is the directives issued by the President of Russia regarding pressing issues and the directions of state policy across various areas of public life. These discussions have occurred at the turn of 2023 and 2024, particularly with the Council on Civil Society and Human Rights,<sup>6</sup> as well as with participants from the All-Russia People's Front (APF).<sup>7</sup>

*Russian President Vladimir Putin held a meeting with the new members of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation at the Victory Museum in Moscow. November 3, 2023. Sergey Guneev / RIA Novosti*

On November 3, 2023, a meeting was held at the Victory Museum with the eighth composition<sup>8</sup> of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation as part of the final forum entitled "Community." During the dialog, the members of the Civic Chamber provided the President of Russia with a comprehensive overview of their ongoing work, presenting initiatives and proposals that had been previously developed in collaboration with the expert community through the public institute's platform.

As a result of this meeting, on December 23, 2023, the President of Russia approved a List of Instructions.<sup>9</sup> The implementation of these presidential instructions has become one of the key focus areas for the Civic Chamber in 2024 and throughout the remaining term of its eighth composition.

*The Civic Chamber of Russia has systematically developed proposals aimed at supporting motherhood, childhood, and families with children, as well as increasing the birth rate over many years. One of the outcomes of this activity was the publication of a Special Report by the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation titled "Demography 2030: How to Ensure Sustainable Population Growth in the Russian Federation."<sup>10</sup> In this report, based on the analysis of several scenarios, the authors establish the only scenario that ensures sustainable demographic development for the Russian Federation, where an increase in the birth rate guarantees population reproduction.*

Acknowledging the critical importance of demographic development, the Civic Chamber suggested, following a series of regular expert discussions on citizen initiatives in this area, the creation of a new strategic document targeting demographic issues during a meeting with the Head of State. In this context, the President of Russia directed the Government of the Russian Federation, in collaboration with the Civic Chamber of Russia, to prepare and submit proposals for developing a strategic planning document concerning demographic security.

In response to the President's directive and with the aim of further enhancing demographic policy management, the Civic Chamber highlighted the need for a Demographic Development

Strategy for the Russian Federation extending until 2035. This strategy includes measures to raise the birth rate to achieve a total fertility rate (TFR)<sup>11</sup> of 2.1 by 2030.

A key feature of the proposed Strategy is the transition from goal-oriented management to value-oriented management, rooted in traditional family values recognized by all cultures and major religions. These values include fostering a strong family foundation based on marriage between a man and a woman, nurturing multiple children as essential for generational continuity, caring for children from conception, honoring parents, respecting elders within the family, and maintaining ancestral memory and generational continuity.

**In alignment with the provisions of the National Security Strategy of the Russian Federation, the Civic Chamber proposed to expand the list of threats to national security by introducing the concept of "demographic security." This concept should encompass a criterion for demographic security established as the lower threshold of the total fertility rate, set at 2.1.<sup>12</sup>**



# Proposals from the Civic Chamber of Russia for the development of a strategic planning document in the field of demographic security

## Main objectives of the strategy

- Increasing the birth rate to ensure the reproduction of generations and the revival of the Russian tradition of large families.
- Reducing the level of premature mortality, particularly among men of working age.
- Elimination and prevention of demographic threats related to the destruction of reproductive potential, the availability of abortions without medical indications, and destructive ideologies regarding family, motherhood, fatherhood, childhood, and the elderly.
- Reducing mortality rates and health losses due to alcohol consumption, narcotics and psychoactive substances, tobacco use, and preventing obesity.

## Key proposals

**1**

Establish a State Trust Fund named "Future Generations of Russia" to implement programs aimed at increasing the birth rate in regions facing unfavorable demographic conditions.

**2**

Establish a limit of the number of foreign citizens and stateless persons allowed to reside within the territory of a constituent entity of the Russian Federation, based on the number of Russian citizens living in that region.

**3**

Aim to increase investments in state support for families with children to 3-4% of GDP, ensuring that at least 40% of these investments are dedicated to supporting the birth of a third child and assisting large families. Additionally, allocate no less than 11% of the funds for health protection, including initiatives focused on strengthening public health.

**4**

Prevent the spread of destructive ideologies such as hatred of family, rejection of childbirth, murder and suicide, consumption of narcotic and psychotropic substances, alcohol abuse, and the proliferation of subcultures and movements aimed at the destruction of the family, and the discrediting of fatherhood, motherhood, and having large families.

**5**

Legislatively establish measures aimed at neutralizing demographic threats, specifically:

- Organizing pre-abortion counseling for pregnant women with the involvement of public organizations.
- Providing state social assistance to women who wish to terminate their pregnancies, regardless of income level.
- Offering health rehabilitation services for pregnant women at sanatoriums and health resorts.
- Ensuring regular monitoring and assistance for women and men suffering from infertility.

## Proposals from the Civic Chamber of Russia for inclusion in the demographic development strategy of Russia until 2035:

- Increase birth rates and provide support for large families.
- Reduce mortality rates and enhance public health.
- Support reproductive health across the nation.
- Improve the quality of migration.
- Ensure demographic security.
- Protect the institutions of family and marriage.
- Promote demographic development in the Far East.
- Restore the demographic potential of Central and Northwestern Russia.
- Preserve and strengthen traditional family values. Safeguard the informational and cognitive sovereignty of society.





A special report, along with proposals for developing a strategy to improve the demographic situation, has been submitted to the Administration of the President of the Russian Federation concerning the formation and activities of the State Council of the Russian Federation, the Government of Russia, and the Ministry of Labor of Russia. The report proposed several measures to increase birth rates and reduce mortality rates, which have garnered support from the President of Russia during public meetings. These measures include increasing the mortgage repayment subsidy for the birth of a third or subsequent child from 450,000 rubles to 1 million rubles in the Chukotka Autonomous Okrug and regions of the Far East with low birth rates; exempting large families in the Far East from property tax on housing; and raising the standard deduction for children in the

calculation of personal income tax (PIT), among others.

During a meeting with members of the Civic Chamber, significant attention was paid to the development of creative industries in the country. Public representatives emphasized the importance of this sector and requested the President to support the priority consideration of a bill regulating creative industries.

This initiative was reflected in the President of Russia's directives. The State Duma, in collaboration with the Civic Chamber and representatives from the professional community, has been tasked with refining the federal bill "On the Development of Creative Industries in the Russian Federation" and ensuring it is treated as a priority.

In January 2024, a public examination of this draft

*"Russia" Exhibition: A meeting with the most famous large-family mother in Russia, Tatyana Sorokina. January 20, 2024. Mikhail Voskresensky / RIA Novosti Photo Agency*

federal law took place at the Civic Chamber, during which the members supported the adoption of the bill and prepared a conclusion evaluating the bill and providing recommendations for its improvement.<sup>13</sup> On July 30, 2024, Federal Law No. 330-FZ "On the Development of Creative Industries in the Russian Federation" was adopted by the State Duma of the Russian Federation in its third reading, and on August 8, 2024, it was signed by the President of the Russian Federation. The Civic Chamber's proposals, specifically the inclusion of public relations activities in the creative industries' scope, have been acknowledged by the State Duma and integrated

into the final edition of the Law. Another initiative endorsed by the President of Russia in this field was the proposition to expand and establish development centers for creative industries in the new regions of the Russian Federation.

The President tasked the Government of the Russian Federation to collaborate with the executive bodies of the Donetsk People's Republic and the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation to draft and submit proposals for the establishment of a creative cluster in Donetsk. This cluster would encompass a development center for creative industries, a film studio, and educational institutions such as a school and college for creative industries.

These proposals were crafted by the executive authorities of the DPR with contributions from members of the Civic Chamber of Russia. In forming the creative cluster, it was suggested to combine existing creative industry zones with new facilities to foster multifunctional creative spaces, and to establish the Creative Industries Center in Donetsk as a coordinating hub for the organizations within the cluster. The Concept for a Creative Cluster in the DPR emphasized that developing the creative economy could serve as an effective new approach to rehabilitating the economy of the Donetsk People's Republic.

To systematically develop the cluster, experts have proposed the establishment of a platform for interdepartmental communication—a council chaired by the Head of the entity, comprising

representatives from relevant departments, members of the professional community, and experts. Furthermore, the Civic Chamber has emphasized the necessity for the Government of the Donetsk People's Republic to allocate a dedicated facility. This space would accommodate a production center for creative

industries, a new media school, a branch of the Presidential Fund for Cultural Initiatives, and a regional residence for the National Open Championship of Creative Competencies, ArtMasters. Collaborative efforts among all stakeholders in this initiative are currently underway.

## Creative cluster in the Donetsk People's Republic

### Structure of the center for creative industries in Donetsk:

- Public spaces
- Music studio and label
- Center for applied urban studies
- Offices for small and medium enterprises
- Content creation studios
- Publishing house
- Film company office

### Measures for the development of the creative cluster

- Develop collaborations between creative colleges in the DPR and Russian federal competency enhancement programs for the 2024/2025 academic year
- Launch new creative faculties in universities of the DPR
- Create a Film Production Center in Shakhtyorsk
- Establish a School of Creative Industries under the Ministry of Culture of Russia
- Introduce updated educational programs in universities and colleges.



The President of Russia has endorsed the proposal from civic groups to engage representatives from the creative industries in the transformation of school environments as part of the expansion of the “School of Dreams” project. This project was initiated by the Civic Chamber of Russia in support of the federal presidential program for the comprehensive renovation of schools, “Modernization of School Education Systems,” within the state program “Development of Education.”

This initiative provides creative youth with a unique opportunity to rethink the educational spaces of Russian schools, many of which were constructed over 30–40 years ago, transforming them into modern, comfortable, and ergonomic environments that align with contemporary demands and the needs of current students and educators. It empowers all stakeholders in the educational process to become co-creators of these changes.

In 2024, the “School of Dreams” nationwide participatory design marathon was initiated in alignment with the specified directives.

In the fall of 2024, creative teams comprising future architects and designers from the Lugansk and Donetsk People’s Republics joined the “School of Dreams” marathon.<sup>14</sup>

Another crucial educational initiative backed by the President of Russia is the federal project “I Am a Citizen of Russia.” This project aims to provide educational materials to children entering general education organizations and to individuals receiving a Russian Federation passport for the first time. These materials are designed to acquaint them with essential historical, geographical, cultural, and other scientific facts about Russia. Under this initiative, the Russian Ministry of Education and the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation were tasked with developing proposals for the federal project’s implementation.

In a series of meetings between activists and ministry representatives, a comprehensive structure for these educational materials was formulated. To incorporate public opinion on this matter, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation conducted a nationwide survey regarding citizens’ attitudes toward the structure

### Results of the “School of Dreams” participatory design marathon

53

regions across the Russian Federation actively participated in the nationwide “School of Dreams” Participatory Design Marathon in 2024.

Over 15,000 students and activists from the Movement of Firsts, more than 2,000 parents,

Over 3,000 members of the educational community, more than 1,400 university and college student

specializing in “Design,” “Architecture,” “Construction,” “Sociology,” and “Pedagogical Education” actively participated in the marathon.

Student teams from

over 120

specialized universities and colleges visited

more than 150

schools involved in the federal capital repair program. They conducted a collaborative study of the educational organization buildings alongside students, teachers, and parents.<sup>15</sup>

and content of the educational materials being developed. Based on the analysis of the survey results, the Ministry of Education approved the project for publishing collections of educational materials titled “I Am a Citizen of Russia.” Currently, the Civic Chamber and the Ministry of Education of Russia continue consultations on the substantive content of the educational publications.

For several years, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation has consistently advocated for launching a new program to attract and retain specialists in the cultural sector in small towns and villages, where a third of the country’s population resides. A meeting between members of the Civic Chamber and the President of Russia marked a significant breakthrough in this matter: the President of Russia supported the request for the prompt launch of the “Rural Cultural Worker” program and the allocation of necessary funds for its implementation.

### Top 5 sections for inclusion in the educational publication “I am a citizen of Russia” for first graders\*

77.9%

Significant information about Russia

70.4%

Heroes of our country

73.2%

Traditional Russian spiritual and moral values

72.3%

Russia’s cultural heritage

67.9%

Russia’s natural heritage

\* According to a survey conducted by the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation.

14 billion rubles will be allocated for the “Rural Cultural Worker” program from 2025 to 2030.

The program aims to provide employment for approximately 10,000 specialists in cultural institutions in rural areas and small towns.

It is expected to reduce the staffing deficit by over 60%.

On February 29, 2024, the President of Russia announced the launch of the “Rural Cultural Worker” program during the Address to the Federal Assembly. The program is modeled after the successful “Rural Teacher” and “Rural Doctor” initiatives: cultural specialists who move to work in villages or small towns will receive a one-time payment of 1 million rubles. In the Far East, Donbass, and Novorossiya, the payment will be doubled to 2 million rubles. The program is set to begin in early 2025.





After the recent meeting, the proposal to involve the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation in the revision and enhancement of traffic regulations was taken into account. Immediately following the meeting, the President invited the Civic Chamber representative for a discussion with the Minister of Internal Affairs, Vladimir Kolokoltsev. This led to a directive from the President of Russia instructing the government, alongside the Civic Chamber, to develop and present recommendations for improving the nation’s primary traffic regulations document.

The Civic Chamber had previously highlighted that frequent amendments to existing traffic rules have made them complex for both new and seasoned drivers. Many provisions are currently ineffective, as their phrasing fails to facilitate enforcement and accountability for violations.

The presidential directive has escalated this initiative to a higher level. Taking into consideration public demands and expert advice, the Civic Chamber prepared a document in 2024 proposing enhancements to traffic regulations through the creation of a new document.

Key topics at the meeting with the President included accelerating the integration and development of new regions within the Russian Federation.

The President of the Russian Federation supported the proposal by public figures to create an effective mechanism for a system of public control,

accounting, and monitoring of the situation in the regions. In the list of relevant instructions,<sup>16</sup> the necessity was noted for conducting comprehensive public monitoring in the Donetsk People’s Republic, the Lugansk People’s Republic, Zaporozhye region, and Kherson region of the compliance by state authorities and local government bodies with the social rights of citizens during the integration of these entities of the Russian Federation into the economic, financial, credit, and legal systems of the Russian Federation, as well as into the system of state authorities of the Russian Federation. The execution of this directive in the Civic Chamber is carried out by the Coordination Council for the integration of new subjects of the Russian Federation, which includes both members of the Civic Chamber and leaders of public opinion in the new regions of Russia,<sup>17</sup> with the participation of commissions and other working bodies of the Civic Chamber.

As a result of the year-long monitoring, the Civic Chamber notes the coordinated and active work on the integration of the new regions of Russia into the economic, financial, credit, and legal systems of the Russian Federation. However, the monitoring results also identify issues that require increased attention.

To prevent the violation of citizens’ rights, the Civic Chamber, within the framework of fulfilling the directives of the Head of State, has submitted proposals for legislative adjustments. Monitoring the compliance with the social rights

of citizens in the new regions of the Russian Federation continues.

Another initiative supported by the President of Russia, which will be implemented shortly, is the proposal to establish a museum in Mariupol dedicated to the city’s native, the well-known Soviet party and state leader Andrey Alexandrovich Zhdanov, who led Leningrad during the blockade; Mariupol bore his name until 1989.

In March 2024, a joint meeting of the governments of the twin cities St. Petersburg and Mariupol was held in St. Petersburg, where the results of the work on the restoration of Mariupol during 2022–2023 were summarized. During the meeting, an agreement was reached to open a branch of the Museum of the Defense and Blockade of Leningrad in Mariupol, with a separate hall dedicated to A. A. Zhdanov.

## Consolidated efforts of public institutions to support Special Military Operation veterans

In contemporary Russia, providing social support for participants and veterans of the special military operation and their families ranks among the primary priorities of national social policy. This critical focus has led to the adoption of comprehensive legislation designed to create a unified and targeted system of assistance for service members, veterans, and their families.

Through a presidential decree, the State Support Fund for Participants of the Special Military Operation, named “Defenders of the Fatherland,” was formed to ensure a dignified standard of living and active involvement in society for those engaged in the operation and their families. The Fund’s initiatives span crucial sectors, offering essential social, medical, psychological, and legal assistance.

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**More than 100 regulatory legal acts have been adopted to support military personnel performing combat missions in the special military operation zone.**<sup>18</sup>

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Emphasis is placed on providing necessary medical rehabilitation and professional retraining, which expedite the reintegration of individuals who have undergone significant trials back into civilian life.

In 2024, a robust engagement of public institutions continues, fostering collaboration towards humanitarian projects and advancing societal initiatives that establish a resilient network of support for operation participants and their families. The Civic Chamber of Russia remains steadfast in prioritizing this field of work.

Throughout the past year, the Civic Chamber hosted thematic events that involved stakeholders from all levels of public authorities, relevant NPOs, professional associations, expert circles, and business communities.

*A veteran at the opening of the “Defenders of the Fatherland” support fund branch for participants of the special military operation in Kaliningrad on May 31, 2023. Photo by Vitaly Nevar / RIA Novosti*

These gatherings aimed to share effective practices, address current challenges, and explore viable resolutions. Among these discussions were notable regional “Community” forums in Irkutsk, Kaluga, and Magas, where experts deliberated on retraining programs, adaptive support, and medico-psychological assistance for participants and their families. Additionally, they examined ways of cultivating societal respect for participants through media, filmmaking, and cultural channels, as well as best practices in providing social, humanitarian, and legal help.

A growing demand currently exists among operation participants and their families for high-quality legal assistance. This demand includes a need for guidance regarding their legal rights and the mechanisms available for claiming entitled benefits and preferences.

In 2024, the Civic Chamber, in strategic partnership with the ANO “Committee of Families of Warriors of the Fatherland,” has greatly expanded the “Legal Assistance to Participants of the special military operation and Their Families” project. Over the course of the year, this initiative has addressed numerous requests that go beyond mere consultation; it includes document preparation, engagement with authorities, and representation in legal proceedings. Key issues addressed pertain to military service details, discharge processes, financial entitlements, military medical assessments, compensations for injuries, social benefits, as well as soldier recovery and exchange efforts.





As part of the activities of the social project “Pravomobil” by the Civic Chamber of Russia, members of the chamber, along with lawyers and government representatives, organize on-site legal citizen appeals offices for participants of the special military operation and their families. These offices provide assistance on a variety of legal issues. In some cases, members of the Civic Chamber also offer direct support to residents of border regions facing challenging situations, such as arranging accommodation in temporary housing centers, transporting seriously ill elderly people to hospitals, and distributing humanitarian aid.

Another joint project by the Civic Chamber of Russia and the nonprofit organization “Committee of Families of Warriors of the Fatherland” is the establishment of a hotline. This hotline is staffed by volunteer lawyers who offer free legal assistance to SMO veterans, their families, and residents of regions bordering the special military operation zone.

**In 2024, the joint hotline of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation and the Coordination Headquarters for Volunteer Activities received and processed over 9,000 inquiries from citizens, providing assistance on 8,968 issues. There are currently 70 cases in court proceedings across the country, with 37 court decisions made in favor of the applicants\*.**

Reducing social tensions among special military operation veterans and their families relies heavily on the unification of the professional legal community, its engagement in supporting these individuals, and the advanced legal knowledge and qualifications of the lawyers involved in providing legal assistance.

To foster the development of skills and knowledge among practicing lawyers in offering legal aid to SMO veterans and their families, a practical seminar and conference for legal community representatives was held in October 2024. This event was organized by the Civic Chamber in partnership with the “Committee

of Families of Warriors of the Fatherland,” an autonomous nonprofit organization.

The Russian notariat, a vital public institution within the free legal aid system of the Russian Federation, plays a proactive role in supporting participants in the special military operation and their families.

In the first half of 2024 alone, notaries provided more than 124,000 free consultations to SMO veterans and their families as part of the state’s free legal aid program. Furthermore, regional notarial chambers contributed over 1,700 consultations through nongovernmental centers and legal clinics.

In addition to offering free legal assistance, the notarial community initiated a series of programs providing extra benefits tailored to SMO veterans and their relatives, alongside charitable projects supporting soldiers in combat zones.

Furthermore, the Russian notariat is active in the “Legal Support for the SMO” project by the Russian Lawyers Association. This initiative allows SMO veterans, their families, and residents of border territories to receive free legal advice through in-person meetings with notaries and other association members, as well as through hotline calls and chatbot conversations.

The comprehensive experience of providing free legal assistance to SMO veterans and their families— offered by lawyers, notaries, and civil organizations— has been compiled in a Special Report by the Civic Chamber of Russia titled “Development of Free Legal Aid in the Russian Federation under the Conditions of the Special Military Operation,” this report was unveiled to the public at the concluding “Community” forum held in Moscow on November 1, 2024.

*Read the Special Report:  
“Development of Free Legal Assistance in the Russian Federation during the Special Military Operation”*



In September 2024, the Civic Chamber reviewed and endorsed federal bill No. 667894-8, titled “Amendments to Article 112 of the Federal Law ‘On Enforcement Proceedings’.” This law proposes waiving enforcement fees for military personnel, volunteers, and other participants in the special military operation when enforcement actions are initiated against them.

Beyond legal aid, the Civic Chamber of Russia offers psychological support to the families of SMO veterans. A federal Telegram chat for medico-psychological support, “CFWF. Talk with a Psychologist,” has been active since August 2024, organized jointly with ANO “Committee of Families of Warriors of the Fatherland.”

Since its inception, the Telegram chat has facilitated over 544 instances of psychological assistance concerning various anxiety-related issues for SMO veterans and their families, provided by state medical psychologists.

The tasks of the project, implemented in the format of a medico-psychological support Telegram chat, are not only to provide a unified channel of communication with qualified psychologists but also to involve family members

of SMO veterans in various activities aimed at joint leisure and relaxation, promoting family, spiritual, moral, and cultural values, and conducting socially significant public actions with the support of regional headquarters of the ANO “Committee of Families of Warriors of the Fatherland.”

Supported by the Civic Chamber of Russia and the Civic Chamber of the Novosibirsk region, a pilot initiative for a Consulting and Coordination Center for Veterans’ Support has been launched. This center aims to provide free psychological, legal, and informational assistance to veterans, military service-disabled individuals, law enforcement pensioners, and SMO veterans. The goal is to facilitate their social adaptation by offering necessary services seamlessly in a “one-stop” format.

Members of the Civic Chamber and affiliated organizations have consistently engaged in collecting and sending humanitarian aid to the SMO region and to those affected by conflict, including the Kursk region. Throughout 2024, shipments included medical supplies, equipment, clothing, food, household items, machinery, construction materials, and animal feed, aiding both the soldiers and impacted communities.

### For the years 2023–2024, the specialists of the Novosibirsk veterans support center accomplished the following work:

- Direct targeted assistance was provided to **526 service** members who sought help.
- **Eight visits** to hospitals were organized.
- Group sessions with family members of SMO veterans are conducted on a regular basis.
- A training program for advanced qualification, “Psychological Rehabilitation of SMO veterans and Their Families,” was conducted for **90 psychology specialists**.
- A database of employers was created, including **more than 600 private** and state enterprises.
- Work is being carried out on career orientation, retraining, and employment of veterans.

\* As of December 3, 2024.





## Humanitarian aid for the residents of the Kursk region

Since August 2024, the Civic Chamber of Russia has expanded its collection efforts to include additional regions; in addition to Donbass and Novorossiya, border regions are now part of the initiative. People from across the country contribute by bringing medications, clothing, sanitary supplies, and medical equipment to collection points.

As part of the “We do not abandon our own” project,

**4** convoys with a total weight of **40** tons

have been sent to the Civic Chamber of the Kursk region for the residents of the area



Overall, within the framework of the “We do not abandon our own” project, activists have sent:

**45** shipments

**>900** tons



The Russian Union of Rural Youth has also contributed by sending 4 tons of humanitarian aid to regional activists in Kursk, Bryansk, and Belgorod. Along with the cargo, the activists handed over postcards made by children.



The Russian Red Cross has partnered with the Russian marketplace “Wildberries” to deliver aid to the border regions. As part of a joint initiative, public organizations can send goods free of charge to the humanitarian aid warehouse in Kursk.



For example, this opportunity is being utilized by

**40** **>1,000** tons

regional headquarters of the Committee of Families of Warriors of the Fatherland, which have sent

of essential items through the marketplace

The remaining headquarters send aid using traditional methods—by passenger and cargo vehicles to the organization’s warehouse in Kursk.



The charitable foundation “Blagomed” regularly assists medical institutions in the Kursk region. The Foundation’s team procures medicines, surgical instruments, and medical furniture based on requests from medical and sanitary services.

In early November, the Foundation delivered another humanitarian cargo. It was received by evacuation teams operating in the anti-terrorist operation zone in the Kursk region.

**100**

complete first aid kits

**UAZ-452**

vehicle for transporting the injured

**5**

evacuation stretchers

Assistance was provided not only to people but also to animals



As part of the nationwide campaign “ZOOfriend,”

**80** tons

of dog food were dispatched on August 14, 2024, to shelters in the Kursk, Lipetsk, and Belgorod regions, supporting

**2,300**

pets until the end of the year





President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin held a plenary meeting of the Council for Strategic Development and National Projects and the commissions of the State Council of the Russian Federation. May 29, 2024. Grigory Sysoev / RIA Novosti

## Public participation in achieving national development goals

For several years, in order to fulfill the President of the Russian Federation's directives,<sup>19</sup> the Civic Chamber has been working to support civic initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life for citizens. This area is one of the priorities of the Coordination Council under the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation for national projects and population retention.

Summarizing the results of 2023, the Civic Chamber sent a corresponding report to the President of the Russian Federation outlining the most significant initiatives that were supported and proposed for consideration in the framework of forming a new system of national development goals until 2036, as well as for economic development.

Taking into account the tasks for ensuring sovereign development set by the President of Russia, the report suggested defining indicators for the growth of the population's well-being by creating a system for measuring the results of state policy called the "Index of Real Well-Being and Happiness of Citizens."

As key initiatives, it was also proposed to:

- Identify the reduction of inequality among citizens based on their income as a national goal;
- Develop a national project titled "Preservation, Health Promotion, and Well-Being of Families," which would include a federal project on "Support and Development of Large Families," as well as a federal project on "Psychological Health," which envisions the establishment of a state system for psychological support for citizens.

Additionally, it was noted that it would be advisable to elevate tasks such as the preservation of traditional spiritual and moral values, as well as the development of microelectronics and industrial robotics, to the level of federal projects.

In the context of developing and strengthening the labor market, it was proposed to introduce a social certificate for professional retraining in the Russian Federation, funded by the state budget, which would be effective during the first year after a worker is dismissed from permanent employment. It was also suggested to establish the creation of new jobs, increasing labor productivity, and real wages as key goals of the state investment policy.

At the same time, the advisability of creating a digital system for modern state planning based on a balanced approach and big data was highlighted. This system would ensure optimal solutions for the socioeconomic development of the country, as well as facilitate flexible and variable planning of state activities at all levels of government in real-time.

The Civic Chamber participated in the development of a program for the energy sector in the Far East until 2050, along with the mechanism for its project financing in accordance with the assignment from the Head of State.<sup>20</sup>

At the recent joint meeting of the Civic Chamber and the State Council Commission on "Energy," approaches to the development program for the energy sector in the Far East until 2050 were approved. These approaches are based on the outstanding domestic experience of electrification embodied in the plan of the State Commission for Electrification of Russia (GOELRO), particularly:

- *The energy sector of the Far East should develop based on targeted state planning for the accelerated development of the macroregion, utilizing natural productive forces to the maximum extent.*
- *When developing the energy system of the Far Eastern Federal District (DFO), long-term prospects for electricity export to countries in the Asia-Pacific region, which is the most dynamically developing region in the world, must be taken into consideration.*
- *The development of the energy sector should focus on providing the industry with advanced technologies and skilled personnel.*
- *The foundational principles for the industry's development should include a continuous reduction of costs in electricity production and transmission, along with an increase in labor productivity.*
- *To finance the program, it is proposed to use a targeted project emission mechanism that will provide long-term and low-cost funding.*

The protocol summarizing the outcomes<sup>21</sup> of the meeting was sent to the Government of the Russian Federation, the Administration of the President, the Central Bank of the Russian Federation, the Accounts Chamber, and the relevant ministries and agencies. Following this, the Government instructed<sup>22</sup> these ministries to consider the outlined decisions while working on the directive given by the Head of State to develop the energy development program for the Far East until 2050.

In May 2024, the President of Russia outlined the national development goals for the Russian Federation for the period leading up to 2030, with perspectives extending to 2036.<sup>23</sup> These goals include:

- Preserving the population, enhancing health, improving citizens' well-being, and supporting families;
- Unlocking the potential of each individual, nurturing their talents, and fostering a sense of patriotism and social responsibility;
- Ensuring a comfortable and safe living environment;
- Promoting ecological well-being;

- Establishing a sustainable and dynamic economy;
- Achieving technological leadership;
- Implementing digital transformation across state and municipal governance, the economy, and the social sphere.

The Civic Chamber of Russia is actively engaged in shaping and adjusting national projects designed to achieve these new national objectives and performance indicators, as well as the tasks set by the President. Several members of the Civic Chamber have been appointed to the relevant public-expert councils associated with the project committees of these new national initiatives.

Experts from the Civic Chamber emphasize that a fundamental requirement for attaining all national development goals is the establishment of a comprehensive support system for the upbringing, education, and development of children and youth. This system should encompass education, enlightenment, and nurturing, while also creating effective social mobility opportunities for the younger generation of citizens. The national projects "Youth and Children" and "Personnel" specifically target these objectives.





### The national project “Youth and Children” encompasses a range of initiatives aimed at ensuring, among other things:

- The construction of no fewer than **150 new general educational institutions**, with an allocation of additional budgetary appropriations from the federal budget, amounting to **210 billion rubles**, directed to the constituent entities of the Russian Federation that face a shortfall in spaces within these educational organizations.
- The extension of the “School Education System Modernization” program until 2030, with an allocation of additional budgetary funds from the federal budget totaling at least **317.5 billion rubles** for its implementation.
- The provision of additional budgetary appropriations from the federal budget, amounting to no less than **100 billion rubles**, to finance in-demand cultural, educational, informative, historical, and other creative projects disseminated across cinemas, television, the informational and telecommunication network known as the “Internet,” and social media platforms during the period from 2025 to 2030.

document entitled “Strategy for the Implementation of Youth Policy in the Russian Federation for the Period up to 2030.”

The primary objective of the strategic document is to ensure the continuity of generations, the transmission of traditional values inherent to the peoples of Russia, and the knowledge and understanding of the nation’s history. At the core of the strategy are principles aimed at fostering the values of family culture and a healthy lifestyle, as well as promoting youth volunteer initiatives.

For the first time, the document categorizes the youth demographic into specific age groups: 14–17 years, 18–24 years, and 25–35 years, while also reflecting the distinct characteristics and needs of individuals within each of these brackets. Additionally, it takes into account the specificities of various social groups, including rural youth, young scientists, entrepreneurs, youth with disabilities, young people who have served in the military, including in the special military operation zone, and young parents.

On August 17, 2024, the “Strategy for the Implementation of Youth Policy in the Russian Federation for the Period up to 2030” was approved by a resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation.

There is ongoing work to enhance the Federal Law “On Youth Policy in the Russian Federation,” particularly in terms of placing greater emphasis on the infrastructure of youth policy, which includes solidifying the priority of patriotic work with youth—a matter of utmost importance in the current geopolitical landscape globally.

Representatives from four specialized commissions of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation have been integrated into the commission of the State Council focused on “Youth and Children.” This national project aims to consolidate various mechanisms of state support and address all topics in young people’s lives, including infrastructure, career development, entrepreneurship, volunteering, science, international youth cooperation, and much more. It will consist of nine federal projects that together will coordinate all measures of support for children and youth, enabling the alignment of the activities of various governmental agencies in the implementation of policies in this sphere, with the involvement of public institutions and volunteer organizations.

In parallel with the development of the national project “Youth and Children,” the Government of the Russian Federation, at the directive of the President of Russia and with the participation of the Civic Chamber and the expert community, has been working on a new foundational

### Key indicators specified in the strategy for implementing youth policy in the Russian Federation for the period until 2030:<sup>24</sup>

By 2030,

at least

# 75%

of young citizens are expected to participate in programs and projects aimed at their professional and personal development, as well as patriotic education

at least

# 85%

of young citizens will share and uphold traditional Russian spiritual and moral values

at least

# 50%

of young individuals will have access to an effective and comprehensive system designed for identifying, supporting, and nurturing the talents and abilities of children and youth

at least

# 50%

of young people will be reached to establish a framework for cultivating a generation of Russian citizens who are patriotic, ethically responsible, and capable of ensuring the country’s sovereignty, competitiveness, and future development

at least

# 85%

of young citizens will have faith in their opportunities for self-realization within Russia

at least

# 45%

of young people are expected to be engaged in volunteer and community service activities

at least

# 50%

of researchers under the age of 39 will constitute the overall number of researchers in Russia

# 5%

should be the maximum youth unemployment rate for individuals aged 15 to 29



An active process of enhancing legislation is also underway in the field of volunteering. The scope of volunteer activities is expanding. The State Duma has adopted a bill in its first reading that equates donors with volunteers and provides them with new support measures. Currently, a draft resolution is under consideration by the Government of the Russian Federation, which will establish uniform health requirements for volunteers entering medical and social institutions based on the type of assistance provided. This initiative aims to eliminate barriers associated with excessive medical documentation requirements for volunteers, thereby making assistance more accessible. Furthermore, discussions are focused on simplifying the mechanism for compensatory payments in cases of health damage to volunteers during their engagement in volunteer activities.

Members of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation have played an expert role in the development and discussion of these draft documents. In 2024, expert discussions were conducted within the Civic Chamber, leading to the formulation and submission of recommendations and proposals that have been incorporated into the current revisions of the relevant regulatory legal acts.

Representatives from five specialized commissions of the Civic Chamber of Russia have joined the State Council's commission on personnel issues. The implementation of the national project "Personnel," which contributes directly or indirectly to achieving each of the national development goals, aims to synchronize the needs of the economy with personnel training initiatives.

In September 2024, 26.8 million schoolchildren and students commenced their studies across 80,000 educational institutions in Russia. However, a critical shortage of highly qualified personnel is hindering progress in sectors that are priorities for the economy, including high-tech manufacturing, the innovation sector, science, education, and the creative economy.

This situation underscores the necessity for not only refining the personnel training process and restructuring the education system but also for establishing a comprehensive development strategy. Such a strategy should encompass a broad range of objectives: from early engagement of children in current issues and the integration of various formats of primary and supplementary education into unified standards of sovereign education, to the development of effective models

**In 2024, the number of children involved in technical education increased by 37% (over 3.3 million children, with more than 351.3 thousand additional general education programs), while participation in natural sciences education grew by 35% (over 3.2 million children, with more than 466.8 thousand additional general education programs).<sup>25</sup>**

It is evident that education cannot be developed in isolation from the economy. To tackle the issue of staffing for national development goals, comprehensive efforts should be undertaken in the following areas:

- 1 *Establish a system for long-term planning and forecasting of workforce needs, while sharing best practices in developing and implementing labor demand forecasts across various economic sectors;*
- 2 *Analyze existing practices and create effective mechanisms for collaboration among the government, employers, and educational institutions;*
- 3 *Update educational programs to align with labor market demands and integrate modern educational technologies into the learning process;*
- 4 *Develop a robust system for early career guidance, particularly focused on engineering and natural sciences;*
- 5 *Enhance the attractiveness of productive labor by increasing social safeguards and creating favorable conditions for career advancement and employee development;*
- 6 *Foster a supportive environment for employees in the sectors prioritized by the Russian economy, especially in smaller towns;*
- 7 *Implement measures to attract and retain highly qualified professionals and talents within enterprises.*

that motivate and enhance the attractiveness of careers in critical and high-tech industries. The task of developing a long-term strategy for educational development by 2025 was assigned by the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation.

Recently, there has been a substantial overhaul of the strategic planning documents to better specify the priority areas and key science-intensive technologies essential for ensuring the technological and intellectual leadership of the Russian Federation.<sup>26</sup> If the quality and effectiveness of the education system align with the goals outlined in these documents by the end of the third decade of the 21st century, Russia will have its own scientific, personnel, and technological foundation for critical and cross-cutting technologies.

To realize the objectives defined in these documents, adequate personnel support is crucial. The development of human capital for establishing an advanced engineering and economic base in various sectors of the country cannot proceed without extensive transformations in the general and supplementary education systems.

Projects from the Physics and Technology School Development Fund, particularly the "Science in Regions" initiative, play a pivotal role in enhancing Russia's school education system, especially in the areas of science and technology.

The Fund's technopark — Russia's largest — offers students unique opportunities for project work and research, featuring

**52** high-tech laboratories that benefit **more than 40,000** learners and educators

**More than 18,000** talented students **from 60** regions

engage in intensive programs and camps focused on in-depth studies of natural sciences under the "Science in Regions" project.

For several years, the Civic Chamber has actively supported a wide array of educational initiatives, ranging from training programs in engineering and tools for fostering the pedagogical community to federal projects for renovating schools, psychological and pedagogical support for students, career guidance for youth, parental education programs, and other significant professional and societal initiatives.

Experts from the Civic Chamber emphasize that all necessary conditions for achieving the objectives specified in the strategic planning documents currently exist within the pre-tertiary education system.

As part of the National Technological Olympiad and the Circle Movement of the National Technology Initiative (NTI),

**>650,000** schoolchildren and students

have participated through 50 tracks focusing on modern engineering technologies such as energy, new materials, and unmanned transportation systems.

The Circle Movement has gathered information on educational and project-research programs from **over 5,000 engineering and technology circles** across the country

One of the key indicators for achieving the national development goal of "Sustainable and Dynamic Economy" is the creation of an effective system for training, retraining, and continuing professional development for priority sectors of the economy by 2030, based on projected workforce needs.

Experts from the Civic Chamber consider the establishment of a new national higher education system to be essential in this regard. In line with the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation,<sup>27</sup> a pilot project is currently underway that aims to reform the levels of vocational education.





## Pilot project aimed at transforming levels of vocational education

In accordance with the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation dated May 12, 2023, No. 343 titled “On Certain Issues of Improving the Higher Education System,” the following levels of education have been established:

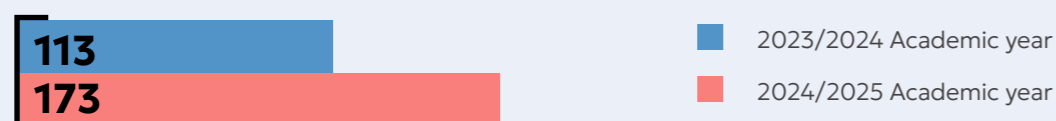
- Basic higher education, with a duration of 4 to 6 years;
- Specialized higher education (including master’s programs, residency, and assistantship-internship);
- Postgraduate education (adjuncture) — a distinct level of professional education focused on preparing scientific and academic personnel.

## The pilot project involves six leading higher education institutions:

- Federal State Autonomous Educational Institution of Higher Education “Moscow Aviation Institute (National Research University)”;
- Federal State Autonomous Educational Institution of Higher Education “National Research Technological University ‘MISIS’”;
- Federal State Autonomous Educational Institution of Higher Education “Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University”;
- Federal State Budgetary Educational Institution of Higher Education “Moscow Pedagogical State University”;
- Federal State Autonomous Educational Institution of Higher Education “St. Petersburg Mining University of Empress Catherine II”;
- Federal State Autonomous Educational Institution of Higher Education “National Research Tomsk State University”.

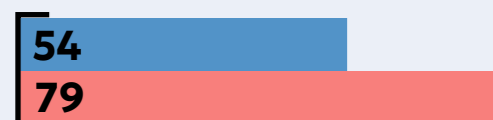
### Project overview

#### SPECIALTIES AND AREAS OF STUDY

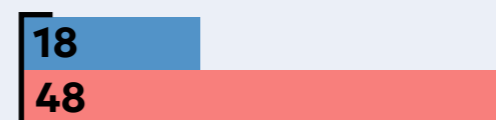


Of which:

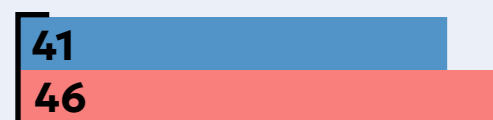
#### BASIC HIGHER EDUCATION LEVEL



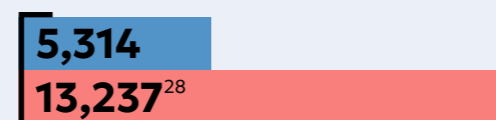
#### SPECIALIZED HIGHER EDUCATION LEVEL (MASTER’S DEGREE)



#### POSTGRADUATE STUDIES LEVEL



#### THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED BASED ON THE RESULTS OF THE ADMISSION CAMPAIGN



### Key changes in educational programs

- ✓ Increase in the volume of practical training
- ✓ Assignment of specific qualifications
- ✓ The presence of a “core” in programs, including sociohumanitarian and fundamental components
- ✓ Enhanced interaction with industry partners
- ✓ Possibility of choosing a module for obtaining an additional qualification (pedagogical module, entrepreneurial module, legal module, etc.)

### Duration of study



### First results





As a strategic national priority, “Technological Leadership” is now formally recognized for the first time in national objectives as a pathway to achieving technological independence in key areas of Russian science.

In accordance with subparagraphs “a” and “b” of paragraph 9 of the President of Russia’s instruction dated March 30, 2024, No. Pr-616, the development, approval, and implementation of national projects aimed at ensuring technological leadership are currently underway. These initiatives will be launched in critically significant fields, focusing on both research and development, as well as personnel training:

- “Means of Production and Automation,” “New Materials and Chemistry,” “Industrial Support for Transport Mobility,” and “Unmanned Aerial Systems,” all of which come under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation;
- “New Health Preservation Technologies” — under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation;
- “Technological Support for Food Security” — Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation;
- “New Nuclear and Energy Technologies” — Ministry of Energy of the Russian Federation;
- “Promising Space Technologies and Services” — State Corporation “Roscosmos.”

A significant number of activities aimed at scientific and technological development and personnel support are included in the national project “Youth and Children.”

The mechanism of national projects for ensuring technological leadership is focused on uniting the efforts of a qualified customer, who ensures guaranteed long-term demand for the produced goods, and the main contractor, who, with the help of cooperative chains, develops critical technologies and organizes the production of the corresponding high-tech products.



Representatives of four relevant commissions of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation have joined the commission of the State Council focused on **“Sustained and Active Life.”** The implementation of a new large-scale national project is aimed at improving the quality of life for Russians and raising the expected lifespan to 78 years by 2030 and to 81 years by 2036.

One of the key areas within achieving the goals of the national project, alongside the development of the healthcare system, is the promotion of the values of physical culture, sports, and a healthy lifestyle. Experts from the Civic Chamber note that in 2024, there has been a significant increase in the number of citizens engaged in sports, highlighting the essential role that public organizations play in this work.

According to the Presidential Grants Foundation, the category “Health Protection of Citizens and Promotion of

*Grom (Russia) during the breaking competitions at the BRICS Games in Moscow. June 23, 2024.  
Vladimir Astapkovich / RIA Novosti*

### The budget for the state program “Development of Physical Culture and Sports” amounted to 70.32 billion rubles in 2024.

a Healthy Lifestyle” ranks first in terms of the number of projects submitted for participation in competitions, and second for the number of winning projects.

Over the past year, numerous private charitable foundations have been actively engaged in supporting hundreds of civic organizations and projects related to sports, physical culture, and healthy lifestyles.

In 2024, the Presidential Fund for Cultural Initiatives, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Sports of the Russian Federation, launched a large-scale charitable program aimed at providing targeted assistance to cultural and sports institutions in the newly integrated regions of Russia. In addition to this targeted support, the fund also backed projects from civic organizations in the field of sports, totaling 100,091,285.36 rubles.

Throughout 2024, there was significant growth in the development of new sports civic organizations, including associations of sports clubs, leagues of sports societies, specialized public organizations, student sports clubs, and other similar entities, which remain independent from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and other international sports structures. These sports organizations are forging alliances with analogous bodies in other countries and are themselves conducting international competitions in various formats.

In recent years, Russia has hosted numerous prominent sporting events, including international ones, in which over 100 countries participated. These events were organized by civic structures, despite the prohibitions imposed by the IOC and the sanctions that followed. Experts from the Civic Chamber of Russia emphasize that the support for organizations that directly unite sports communities and contribute to the nation’s health, provided by the Ministry of Sports of the Russian Federation, is inadequately established and often excessively bureaucratic. This issue persists into 2024.

In 2024, public interest in contemporary sports disciplines—particularly mass or street sports—continued to grow. According to the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation, over 800 nonprofit organizations registered in various spheres of street and contemporary sports, marking a 13% increase compared to 2023 and a 47% increase relative to 2022.

The construction of sports facilities within walking distance is one of the most crucial mechanisms for encouraging citizens to engage in systematic physical activity and sports. In Russia, the federal project “Sport is a way of life” plays a significant role in creating comfortable conditions for physical activity. Since its inception in 2019, 199 facilities have been constructed. By the end of the first half of 2024, the level of sports facility coverage in Russia’s regions reached 64.5%. However, an analysis of the inquiries received by the Civic Chamber from athletes and physical culture activists across various regions of Russia indicates that, despite the high official percentage of cities equipped with sports facilities, the actual demand and relevance for such facilities today is far more extensive and diverse.



The Civic Chamber is monitoring the implementation of the instructions from the President of the Russian Federation dated October 7, 2021, No. Pr-1919, and July 20, 2024, No. Pr-1365, regarding the development of youth sports. In this regard, recommendations have been prepared and sent to the Government of Russia to increase to 100% the share of children who have accessible opportunities for engaging in sports that correspond to their lifestyle, to provide opportunities for those with health deviations to pursue educational programs in sports training in abstract-logical sports, and to expedite the approval of the subprogram “Sports in Rural Areas” and the federal project “Local Coach.”

In October 2023, during his speech in Perm at the international forum “Russia – A Sports Power,” the President of Russia set the task of engaging 70% of citizens<sup>29</sup> in systematic sports activities by 2030. The Civic Chamber of Russia emphasizes that the public sector retains a leading and key role in achieving this target by promoting the values of physical culture, sports, and a healthy lifestyle, as well as mass and street sports.

### The share of participation of public organizations in the areas of mass or street sports in 2024 is over 84%.

Another national project that will directly influence the quality of life for Russians is the national project “**Environmental Well-Being.**” Representatives of the Civic Chamber have joined the State Council’s commission on “Environmental Well-Being” to monitor the achievement of the national goal of environmental well-being and to track the progress of the corresponding national project, along with other matters related to environmental protection.<sup>30</sup>

Experts from the Civic Chamber have formulated and submitted proposals to the State Council’s commission on “Environmental Well-Being” for inclusion in the new national project aimed at improving the quality of life for citizens.

The achievement of the national goal of “Environmental Well-Being” will also be supported by the process of public validation of companies’ reports on sustainable development, which received new impetus<sup>31</sup> in the Civic Chamber in 2024. The public auditor will be represented by the Coordinating Council under the Civic Chamber for Environmental Well-Being and the Development of Nonfinancial Public Reporting Practices.<sup>32</sup>

Its members consist of representatives from leading civil society organizations and independent experts.

The ranking partner will be the RAEX agency, which is tasked with the professional evaluation of nonfinancial public reporting based on its own methodology, utilizing specific indicators and criteria.

Currently, ethnocultural, religious, and interethnic organizations, along with other specialized nonprofit entities, are actively collaborating with the government to address a wide range of key issues arising during the implementation of the state national policy. A significant area of focus for civil society organizations during the special military operation is the patriotic upbringing of the younger generation, the preservation of historical memory, and the counteraction to the ideology of neo-Nazism, which is particularly relevant for the new subjects of the Russian Federation.

The priorities of the national policy of the Russian Federation include the strengthening of civic unity and consciousness, the preservation of the distinctiveness of the multinational people of the Russian Federation (the Russian nation), the protection of ethnocultural and linguistic diversity within the country, the prevention of extremism, and the mitigation of conflicts arising on national and religious grounds. Additionally, the promotion of interethnic and interreligious peace and harmony is of utmost importance, especially in regions with high levels of migration and complex ethnic and religious demographics, as well as in the border territories of the Russian Federation.<sup>33</sup>

All these issues consistently remain at the forefront of the Civic Chamber’s attention, where discussions involving public authorities, civil society organizations, and various scientific, professional, and specialized communities take place. These discussions address existing problems, formulate proposals for their resolution, and evaluate successful practices in the implementation of the national policy of the Russian Federation.

In 2024, the Civic Chamber served as a platform for broad discussions on topics such as the interaction between the government and religious organizations during the special

military operation,<sup>34</sup> the role of civil society in implementing national policy,<sup>35</sup> the reinforcement of ethnocultural sovereignty of the multinational people of Russia,<sup>36</sup> the role of traditional religions in bolstering spiritual and moral values,<sup>37</sup> enhancing measures against extremism,<sup>38</sup> and improving state migration policies.

During discussions at the Civic Chamber regarding the current challenges facing the state and civil society institutions in furthering their collaboration on the implementation of national policy, public experts noted the necessity of activating and stimulating the development of ethnocultural infrastructure, including friendship houses, centers for the national cultures of the peoples of the Russian Federation, ethnoparks, ethnovillages, and other state and municipal organizations whose activities are directed at addressing the objectives of national policy.

In the context of heightened international tensions and increased external pressures on Russia, including through ideological influence and informational confrontation, the need to ensure the ethnocultural sovereignty of the Russian Federation, as well as to protect its traditional spiritual and moral values, is of particular urgency. This involves a comprehensive understanding of the historical experience of cooperation among the peoples of Russia, their joint service to the homeland, the ideological and spiritual foundations of nationwide unity, as well as enriching and developing the prospects for a coherent Russian civic identity.

Among the strategic goals of the state in implementing national policy are measures aimed at countering any manifestations of neo-Nazism, contemporary forms of racism, nationalism, xenophobia, and Russophobia, as well as attempts to distort history for the purpose of fostering confrontation and revanchism in global politics, efforts to revise the outcomes of World War II, and the minimization of the Soviet people’s contributions in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945.<sup>39</sup> Consequently, an immediate task for the state and society is to engage effectively in the realization of state policy of the Russian Federation pertaining to historical education.<sup>40</sup>

Currently, issues related to migration policy, the imperfections of the existing system of social



*An agreement establishing a ranking partnership was signed between the Civic Chamber of Russia and the ranking agency RAEX at the final forum “Community” held in Moscow. November 1, 2024. Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation*



and cultural adaptation of foreign citizens in the Russian Federation, and their integration into Russian society have not been fully resolved in the sphere of interethnic and interreligious relations.

The formation of closed ethnic enclaves is a consequence of this situation, which in turn becomes one of the factors contributing to the spread of extremist ideology among migrants.

### To address the existing issues in the sphere of interethnic and interreligious relations, proposals were formulated for the authorized state authorities at the Civic Chamber, including the following:

- *Development and approval of requirements, criteria, and content for measures aimed at ensuring the social and cultural adaptation and integration of foreign citizens;*
- *Development and improvement of the system of Russian language, history, and culture courses within the network of pre-immigration training centers;*
- *Creation of centers to facilitate the adaptation of foreign citizens in regions of the Russian Federation that experience high migration pressure;*
- *Establishment of a system for anti-extremist education;*
- *Implementation of a mechanism for testing foreign citizens upon their entry into the Russian Federation for temporary employment to identify their adherence to extremist ideology and/or their predisposition (taking into account their worldview and psychoemotional characteristics) towards involvement in extremist activities;*
- *Development of additional measures to improve the selection, placement, and training of personnel capable of ensuring the implementation of measures to combat illegal migration and extremism in federal government bodies, regional government bodies of the Russian Federation, and local self-government authorities;*
- *Ensuring the participation of civil society institutions in the development and implementation of regional and municipal programs for the prevention of extremism and combating extremism, as well as timely response to the emergence of conflict situations and the factors contributing to them.*

## 2024 — the Year of the Family

On January 23, 2024, during the All-Russian forum “Dear Loved Ones,” Vladimir Putin launched the Year of the Family in Russia. The announcement by the President of Russia declaring 2024 as the Year of the Family marks yet another important step aimed at promoting state policy in the area of family protection and preserving traditional family values.

On the same day, the President of Russia signed Decree No. 63 “On Measures for Social Support of Large Families,” which established a unified status for large families across the country. On February 29, 2024, in his Address to the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, the President reiterated the introduction of new measures aimed at supporting large families, emphasizing that a large family should become a norm, a philosophy of society’s life, and a guiding principle for all state strategies.<sup>41</sup>

Creating conditions for young families to have their first children, strengthening reproductive health, supporting large and multigenerational families, and forming a healthy trend towards large families became key tasks for implementing numerous initiatives that took place in 2024 under the aegis of the Year of the Family in Russia.

Throughout the year, the Civic Chamber of Russia held a series of events focused on developing proposals for regional social support measures for large families. In particular, possible measures for implementing Decree No. 63 in the territorial subjects of the Russian Federation were discussed,<sup>42</sup> along with issues related to providing large families with land plots<sup>43</sup> and other pressing concerns. As a result of these events, proposals were formulated and sent to the Government of the Russian Federation. These proposals aimed to stimulate regions that decided to introduce all the recommended support measures for large families outlined in Decree No. 63 without considering the criterion of need, as part of a new national project called “Family.” This included the introduction of a co-financing mechanism from the federal budget for specific priority social support measures, along with additional support measures for regions facing unfavorable demographic situations.

From March 2024, the Civic Chamber of Russia launched a new project coinciding with the declared Year of the Family — “The Year of the Family in Parks of Russia.” This project became a communication platform for regions in Russia to create comfortable family leisure opportunities and enhance public spaces and parks.

Among the project’s priorities were the popularization of family leisure and the creation of attraction points in cities not only for parents with children but also for young people and older generations. In addition to promoting family leisure, the project’s implementation also raised the need to develop, in collaboration with state universities, a methodology and educational program for training specialists in improving public spaces and enhancing the quality of urban environments.

Key results achieved during the project’s implementation in 2024 included the identification and unification of industry leaders in more than 50 regions of the country, including those territories currently regarded as the most attractive to tourists—such as the Altai Republic, Karelia, Krasnodar Krai, Vladimir, Volgograd, Yaroslavl, Kostroma regions, and many others.

Addressing demographic issues, preserving and strengthening public health, and increasing life expectancy—these and other matters concerning the improvement of the quality of life for Russians were the focus of discussions among participants at the all-Russian forum “Healthy Cities in the Year of the Family,” held at the Civic Chamber in April 2024.<sup>44</sup> The event featured productive discussions that brought together representatives of government authorities, civil society, the professional medical community, and relevant experts.

As part of the activities dedicated to the Year of the Family, the Civic Chamber of Russia actively collaborated with public organizations. An example of this cooperation was the interaction with the All-Russian public organization for family support “Union of Families of Russia.” On April 5, 2024, a congress of a public organization was held at the Civic Chamber of Russia, and on July 8, a large-scale forum titled “Big Family – Big Russia” took place on Family, Love, and Loyalty Day. During the forum, public awards were given to families who have raised their children with dignity, thereby





making a significant contribution to the preservation and strengthening of traditional values.

### The project “Year of the Family in the Parks of Russia” brought together over 2,000 leaders from various sectors.<sup>45</sup>

To develop targeted guidelines and proposals for improving the level and quality of life for families with children until 2030, the Civic Chamber conducted a public discussion in May 2024, which included representatives from relevant nonprofit

*Under the auspices of the Civic Chamber, a poetry competition called “My Big Family” was held in 2024. This competition provided an opportunity for young talents aged 14 to 18 from different regions of Russia to make their voices heard across the country. The works of the winners were published in a special edition presented at the “Community” forum in November 2024.*

organizations, the expert community, and government authorities. As part of the event, a study was initiated to prepare a special report by Rosstat and the Civic Chamber of Russia titled “Family and Children in Russia.” The publication of this report was included in the plan of key events by the Government of the Russian Federation for the Year of the Family in Russia. The corresponding report was published in November 2024.

In July 2024, the Civic Chamber conducted a public examination and supported the federal bill No. 638814-8 “On the annual payment to working parents with two or more children” (regarding the establishment of a family tax benefit).<sup>46</sup> According to experts from the Civic Chamber, the introduction of a family tax benefit has become a logical step in the systematic improvement of the tax system, responding to a legislative initiative that is in high demand, and is expected to yield a positive social and demographic effect

in the near future. At the same time, the experts noted that the experience gained from implementing previous social initiatives, particularly the provision of a unified allowance, revealed that some families resort to fictitious divorces to meet the established income per capita criteria. Additionally, in certain regions of the Russian Federation where the subsistence minimum is low, some families engage in fictitious registrations in areas with higher living standards. In this context, to prevent dishonest practices and enhance the social and demographic effects, the Civic Chamber proposed to extend the proposed regulation to all categories of families until their per capita income reaches 1.5 times the subsistence minimum, regardless of the number of children in the household.

Furthermore, the Civic Chamber believes it is sensible to allow for the application of reducing coefficients to the 6% income tax rate based on the marital status of the family, the number of children, the presence of dependents, and the number of employed family members. One of the recommendations from the Civic Chamber for further improving the tax system is to explore the possibility of establishing a family tax benefit for young families during their first three years of marriage, amounting to no less than 3% of the income tax paid.

In light of the successful implementation of the new national project, “Sustainable and Active Life,” which builds on the Presidential Decree of the Russian Federation “On the National Goals for the Development of the Russian Federation for the Period up to 2030 and for the Perspective up to 2036,” the project outlines targets to increase life expectancy to 78 years by 2030 and to 81 years by 2036. During the “Community” forums<sup>47</sup>, the Civic Chamber showcased successful community projects dedicated to promoting active longevity, such as the “Navigator of Community Health” and “Grandchildren’s Studies.”

Read the Special collection of reports “Family and Children in Russia.”



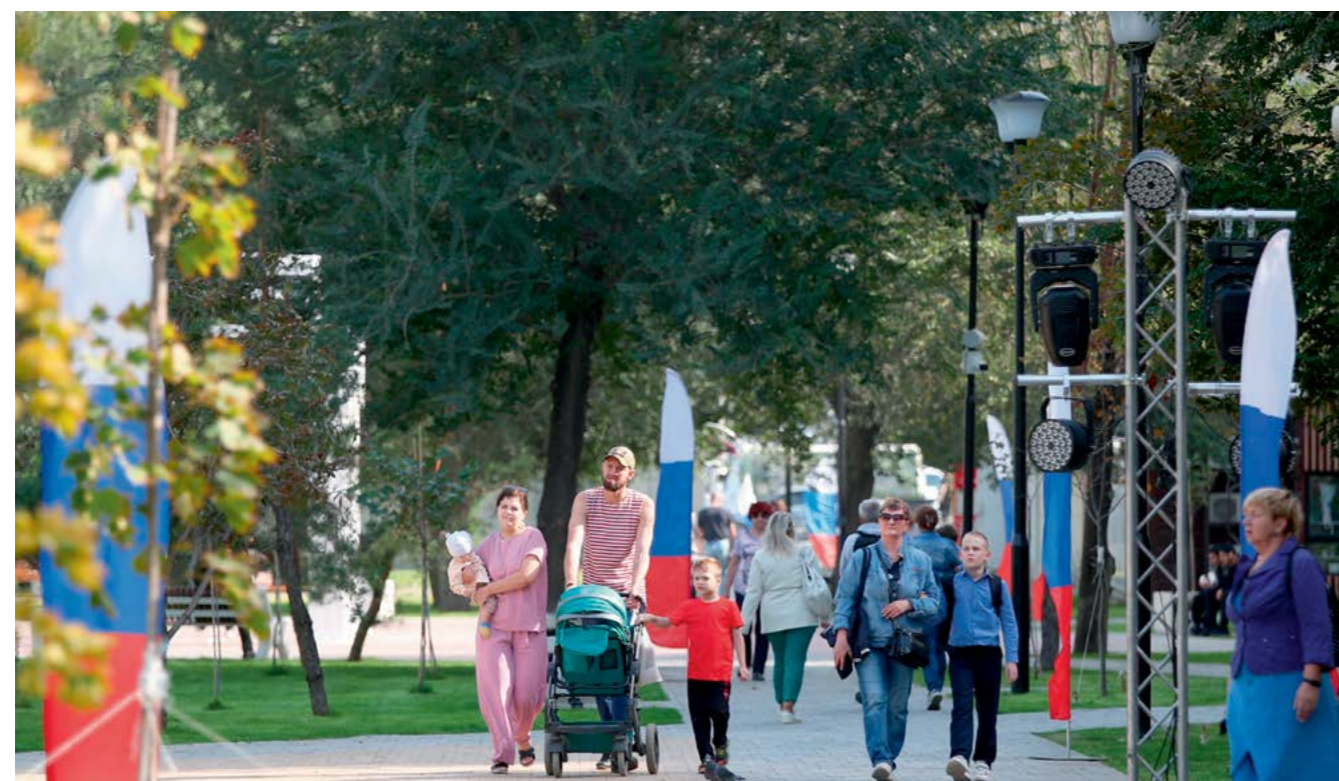
### Nonprofit organizations: a means for partnership between the state and society

Over the years, the nonprofit sector in the Russian Federation has undergone significant positive transformations. Becoming more influential and professional, it has substantially expanded its areas of activity, allowing it to play an increasingly significant role in shaping state policy.

Nonprofit organizations not only provide considerable support to various groups in need and tackle the most pressing and complex social issues; they also offer innovative solutions that are increasingly coming to the attention of the state. Whereas in the past nonprofit organizations primarily funded their projects through contributions and donations, today, in light of the growing contribution of nonprofit organizations to the public sector, the government provides substantial support to the nonprofit sector in the form of grants and subsidies.

Thanks to government support, both the scale and number of socially significant projects are increasing annually, along with the professionalization of nonprofit organizations. The level of development of nonprofit organizations has become one of the key indicators of the overall development of civil society, reflecting the maturity of civic initiatives and their role in the implementation of social policy.

*In 2024, the charitable foundation for the rescue of severely ill children, “Line of Life,” fully ensured the implementation of the CAR-T cell therapy project at the N. N. Blokhin National Medical Research Center of Oncology. The application of CAR-T cell therapy is expected to significantly increase rates of recovery and remission in the treatment of pediatric oncological and oncohematological diseases.<sup>48</sup>*



People are walking in a park in Volgograd, which was opened on the Day of the Reunification of the DPR, LPR, Zaporozhye, and Kherson regions with Russia. September 30, 2024. Kirill Braga / RIA Novosti



Each year, the number of nonprofit organizations (NPOs) that have become providers of budgetary services in the social sphere continues to grow. Positive dynamics in this area are demonstrated by certain subjects of the Russian Federation, such as Leningrad Oblast, the Republic of Bashkortostan, and the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug — Ugra. This is evidenced by the data from the Ministry of Economic Development of Russia's ranking for the year 2023.

A significant role in the emergence of new social services transferred to nongovernmental providers on a competitive basis is played by social ordering. The Civic Chamber has noted the positive results arising from the implementation of new social ordering mechanisms, which allow NPOs to develop as service providers in the social sphere. During the trial period of the Federal Law "On the State (Municipal) Social Order for the Provision of State (Municipal) Services in the

Social Sphere," the number of nongovernmental service providers increased by 8.47 times—from 55 nongovernmental organizations in 2021 to 466 in 2023.

The trial demonstrated that the social ordering tools are in demand and effective. Significant qualitative changes and positive effects, including an increase in consumer satisfaction, have been observed across all sectors of the social sphere that participated in the trial of the new mechanism (social services, employment, palliative medical care, sanatorium and resort treatment, sports training, and tourism).

Throughout 2024, the Civic Chamber has systematically engaged in activities aimed at supporting NPOs. Proposals have been developed and submitted to the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation regarding amendments to Federal Law No. 402-FZ of December 6, 2011, "On Accounting."

These proposed changes aim to allow nonprofit organizations (NPOs) that are subject to mandatory auditing to apply simplified accounting methods, which will facilitate the further enhancement of legislation concerning NPOs and the development of charitable organizations and the nonprofit sector as a whole.<sup>53</sup>

The federal bill No. 502104-8 "On Amendments to the Code of the Russian Federation on Administrative Offenses," which aims to increase liability for violations of personal data processing regulations<sup>54</sup>, has elicited mixed and contradictory reactions from experts of the Civic Chamber. The Civic Chamber expressed concerns that the proposed administrative fines for legal entities for failure to notify or for untimely notification of the authorized body are excessively high and disproportionate to the consequences of the offenses for small businesses and NPOs. According to the experts of the Civic Chamber, the adoption of this bill in its current form poses a risk of halting socially significant activities of NPOs and small businesses, as well as an increase in court proceedings related to potential bankruptcies of organizations. The Civic Chamber concluded that the reviewed bill requires significant revision.

According to a report on nongovernmental organizations published by the Ministry of Economic Development of Russia in October 2024, in 2023, 85 subjects of the Russian Federation implemented a phased approach to ensuring access for nongovernmental service providers in the social sphere to budgetary funds. This work is being carried out by the regions across five main areas: social protection and social services, education, culture, health care, and physical culture and sports. Additionally, more than half of the regions implemented supporting measures in areas such as youth policy and the provision of intersectoral services, which include organizing recreational activities for children and youth, offering services for sociocultural events, engaging in publishing activities, providing legal assistance, and more.

The Civic Chamber has supported a number of legislative initiatives aimed at improving the legal framework for nonprofit organizations (NPOs), including the following:

- 1 The federal bill "On Amendments to the Federal Law 'On the State (Municipal) Social Order for the Provision of State (Municipal) Services in the Social Sphere'" and Article 34.1 of the Federal Law "On Physical Culture and Sports in the Russian Federation."<sup>49</sup> This initiative is intended to extend the implementation of the Federal Law dated July 13, 2020 No. 189-FZ "On the State (Municipal) Social Order for the Provision of State (Municipal) Services in the Social Sphere" from January 1, 2025, across the entire territory of the Russian Federation. Over its years of piloting, the law has proven effective, particularly in increasing the engagement of nongovernmental service providers in social orders and enhancing citizen satisfaction with the quality of services rendered.
- 2 The federal bill "On Amendments to Article 73 of the Federal Law 'On State Control (Supervision) and Municipal Control in the Russian Federation'" is aimed at reducing the duration of various inspections of NPOs.<sup>50</sup>
- 3 The federal bill No. 653556-8 "On Amendments to Article 31.1 of the Federal Law 'On Nonprofit Organizations'" aims to include activities related to family support, motherhood, fatherhood, and childhood, as well as the organization and conduct of events designed to promote the development of child placement forms defined by Russian legislation for children left without parental care. It also covers the care of animals in shelters, participation in the prevention of juvenile neglect and offenses, the development of intermunicipal cooperation, and the improvement of public spaces in the list of socially oriented activities.<sup>51</sup>
- 4 The federal bill "On Amendments to Article 31.1 of the Federal Law 'On Nonprofit Organizations'" concerning the granting of preemptive rights to socially oriented nonprofit organizations (SONPOs) to enter into lease agreements for a new term with landlords at preferential rental rates regarding specific state and municipal properties, provided there is continuous use of such properties under lease.<sup>52</sup>

**The total amount of funds transferred by the entities of the Russian Federation to nongovernmental suppliers for the implementation of a set of measures to ensure phased access for nongovernmental suppliers in the social sphere to budgetary resources, across five main areas\* in 2023 amounted to**

**92.1 billion rubles**

(in 2022 – 70.1 billion rubles, in 2021 – 71.4 billion rubles).

\* Social protection and social services, education, culture, healthcare, physical culture, and sports.

The funds were distributed among

**7.5 thousand**

nongovernmental suppliers (in 2022 – 7.2 thousand, in 2021 – 6.2 thousand),

whose services were received by

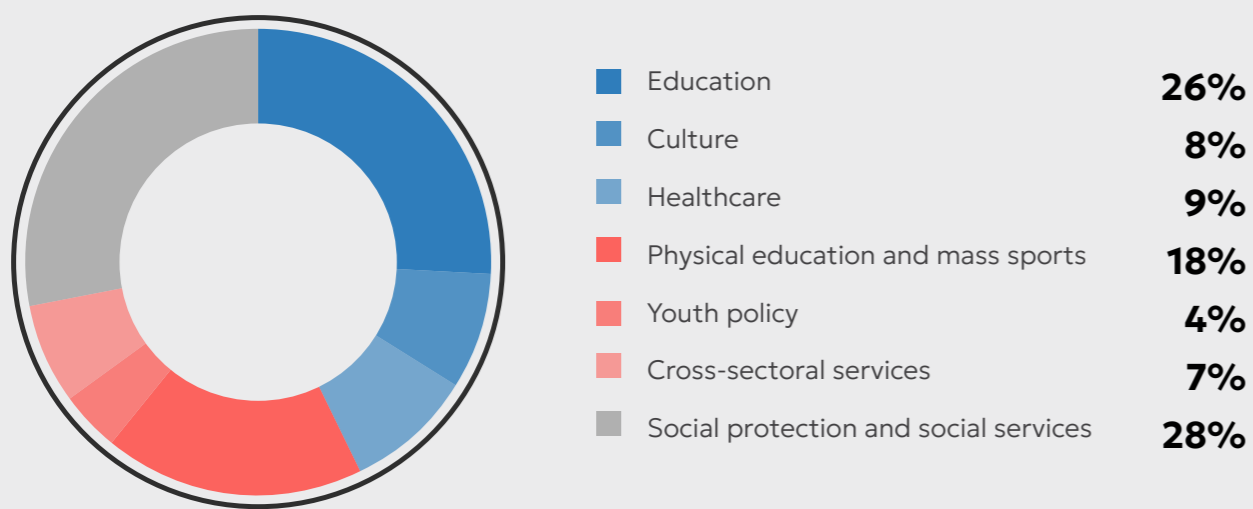
**~50.3 million**

people (in 2022 – 34.5 million people, in 2021 – 45 million people).





**The volume of funds from the budgets of the territorial entities of the Russian Federation in 2023, allocated to nongovernmental suppliers for the provision of services in the following sectors:**



**+98.4%**

is the increase in the volume of funds transferred from the budgets of the entities of the Russian Federation to nongovernmental social service providers in 2023 compared to 2019

**+15%**

is the increase in the number of nongovernmental suppliers providing services in the social sector to the population, funded by the budgets of the territorial entities of the Russian Federation, compared to 2019<sup>55</sup>

Currently, there are certain challenges in determining the actual number of active socially oriented nonprofit organizations (SONPO) in the Russian Federation. According to the Federal State Statistics Service, there are 130,000 SONPOs operating in Russia. However, the Presidential Grants Foundation and the RAEX ranking agency report different figures regarding the number of SONPOs. To develop a unified methodological approach to collecting and analyzing data on socially-oriented NPOs, various methodologies for accounting NPOs and SONPOs were discussed in 2024 at the Civic Chamber of Russia. Participants included representatives from the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Economic Development of Russia, Rosstat, and the Center for Civil Society and Nonprofit Sector Research of HSE

University. Experts from the Civic Chamber emphasized the importance of transitioning to digital forms of NPO reporting, including to obtain reliable statistics on the number of active SONPOs in Russia.<sup>56</sup>

Among the key areas of activity for Russian SONPOs, significant progress has been made in developing a long-term care system in the Russian Federation. In the Presidential Decree on May 7, 2024, “On the National Development Goals of the Russian Federation for the Period up to 2030 and the Prospect until 2036,” the President of Russia emphasized the need to improve the accessibility of this system for citizens most in need of help.<sup>57</sup>

Since 2011, the charitable foundation “Joy in Old Age” has been providing comprehensive psychological, informational-consultative, financial, medical-social, and domestic assistance to elderly people and people with disabilities in difficult life situations. Currently, the Fund’s activities cover 70 regions, providing assistance to more than 700 institutions, including nursing homes,

psychoneurological institutions, nursing care departments, and home service branches of comprehensive social service centers. On a regular basis, the Fund implements direct assistance programs for individuals: purchasing firewood and coal, covering the cost of food packages, organizing treatment for pressure sores, paying for medical nutrition, delivering medical beds, care products, rehabilitation equipment, paying for caregivers, eye surgeries, dental prosthetics, and much more. Volunteer assistance has been one of the most important directions of the Fund’s work since its inception.

The Fund has provided methodological support in developing a Standard Model for a Long-term Care System for elderly citizens and people with disabilities in need of care, the implementation of which is carried out under the federal project “Senior Generation” of the national project “Demography.” From September 1, 2023, the developed model has been implemented across the entire territory of the Russian Federation.<sup>58</sup>

In 2024, state authorities of the territorial subjects of the Russian Federation actively joined in the implementation of the Standard Model for the Long-term Care System<sup>59</sup>, ensuring its introduction in the regions<sup>60</sup> and involving both governmental and nongovernmental nonprofit organizations as providers of social services within the long-term care system.

**In 2024, 171,000 Russians have already been included in the long-term care system.**

**> 500,000 people, by order of the President of Russia, will be connected to the system by 2030.<sup>61</sup>**

An important area of joint work between the state and public institutions is providing assistance to homeless citizens and their rehabilitation.

As part of the implementation of Instruction Pr-64(5)<sup>62</sup> of the List of Instructions composed following the meeting of the Council under the President of the Russian Federation on the Development of Civil Society and Human Right on December 4, 2023, the Civic Chamber held a roundtable on February 27, 2024, titled “Presentation and Discussion of Tyumen Region’s Experience in Assisting the Homeless,”<sup>63</sup> resulting in effective recommendations for state and regional authorities. In particular, the assistance system for the homeless created in the Tyumen region has been recommended for study and replication in other regions.

In 2024, the system of supported living gained new momentum for development, functioning as a genuine alternative to psychoneurological institutions. The implementation of such a system will enable citizens with mental differences to live in a regular apartment, with support provided by specially trained social workers. Socially oriented NPOs will be extensively involved in the implementation of this model. On July 3, 2024, the Government of the Russian Federation approved regulations for organizing supported living for people with disabilities. According to experts from the Civic Chamber, establishing a unified state procedure for organizing this activity will improve the quality and accessibility of social support services and enhance opportunities for the socialization of people with disabilities.

In 2024, efforts to develop the third sector continued in the new territorial subjects of the Russian Federation. The number of registered NPOs is increasing, as is the number of NPOs participating in and winning grant competitions. Educational events on the development of socially oriented NPOs are being organized for employees of nonprofit organizations, civil activists, and government and municipal officials. In 2024, around 200 representatives from regional and local government bodies in the new regions of the Russian Federation became acquainted with the work of resource centers supporting NPOs in the Lugansk People’s Republic, the Donetsk People’s Republic, and the Zaporozhye region through participation in an advanced training program titled “Modern Technologies of Public-State Interaction,” organized by the Institute of Public Administration and Civil Service of RANEPA.<sup>64</sup>

Following the training, proposals were developed for enhancing interaction between socially oriented NPOs and business organizations in the new regions, expanding informational support and media presence for NPOs in these areas, and further developing NPOs within the municipalities of the Lugansk People’s Republic, the Donetsk People’s Republic, and the Zaporozhye region.



## Interaction of the Institution of Commissioners in the Russian Federation with civil society

The establishment of the institution of independent ombudspersons (commissioners), acting as state human rights defenders in the Russian Federation, is the result of years of improving human rights protection mechanisms at both federal and regional levels. A long-term development trend of the ombudsperson institution is the expansion of its functions and specialization, primarily based on the vulnerability of certain population categories and groups of citizens in our country.

Currently, in the Russian Federation, there are several types of commissioners covering significant problematic areas of public life and ensuring the implementation of one of the most important directions of public oversight—monitoring how the state fulfills its obligations in the sphere of human rights and freedoms. The oldest and fundamental institution in the system of independent state human rights protection is the **Commissioner for Human Rights of the Russian Federation**, established by the 1993 Constitution of the Russian Federation.

Tasked with resolving conflicts between state and individual interests and balancing the “power dynamics” between the state and society in the area of rights and freedoms, the institution of the Commissioner for Human Rights has undergone a challenging period of establishment and consolidation. Over the years, a legislative and legal framework has been developed for the participation of Russian ombudspersons in extensive and meticulous work on respecting and protecting human rights and freedoms within Russia and beyond. The institution of state human rights protection has been established in all territorial subjects of the Russian Federation, with the last region to adopt the law on the human rights commissioner being the Zaporozhye region in March 2024.<sup>65</sup>

In the past three years, the institution of human rights commissioners has faced new important tasks stemming from a complex environment related to sanctions pressure, the conduct of

a special military operation, and the necessity of legal support for participants of the special military operation and their families, as well as residents affected by military actions in regions bordering Ukraine.

On the international front, the Commissioner for Human Rights is actively involved in difficult negotiation processes concerning the exchange of Russian military personnel who have been captured during military operation.

One of the significant areas of activity for the human rights ombudsman institutions is collaboration with civil society institutions. Continuous interaction occurs with a broad range of public structures, including the institution of civic chambers, the Council under the President of the Russian Federation for the development of civil society and human rights, public supervisory commissions, charitable foundations, human rights-oriented organizations, and volunteer movements. Commissioners consider and incorporate into their work the ideas and initiatives of civil society activists, as well as information on current human rights cases, providing direct support to public institutions when necessary.

An example of such activity is the ongoing joint work of the Civic Chamber of Russia and the Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation on appeals from participants in the special military operation and their families. The result of this cooperation included the discovery and release from captivity of a wounded Russian Army serviceman, whose mother had filed an appeal with the Civic Chamber in mid-2024.

Beyond citizen appeals, there is active cooperation between the Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation and the Civic Chamber of Russia in several other areas. One of the largest projects is the citizen observation of voting processes. The Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation, Tatiana Moskalkova, is not only an invited expert to the Monitoring Center of the Civic Chamber of Russia for election observation but also conducts monitoring of citizen observation processes and the protection of citizens' rights.

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### Commissioners and advisers to the heads of regions on children's rights operate in 89 regions of the Russian Federation.

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The first specialized ombudsperson institution in the Russian Federation was the Commissioner for Children's Rights under the President of Russia, a position established by a presidential decree in 2009.<sup>66</sup> Prior to this, over 11 years, a new mechanism was designed and tested in five pilot regions of the Russian Federation,<sup>67</sup> leading to the introduction of the position of the Commissioner for Children's Rights.

The adoption of Federal Law No. 501-FZ “On the Commissioners for Children's Rights in the Russian Federation,” dated December 27, 2018, initiated by the President of Russia, marked a significant new phase in developing the children's rights institution. The federal law enabled a standardized approach to the activities of regional commissioners. Furthermore, the Commissioner under the President of Russia for Children's Rights was endowed with the authority to coordinate the activities of commissioners in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, aiming to implement a unified state policy in the protection of the rights and legitimate interests of children, ensuring effective human rights work.

Today, the development of the institution continues actively, and its activities are being progressively organized in the new regions of the Russian Federation: the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics, Zaporozhye and Kherson regions.

In recent years, the priority areas for the Children's Rights Commissioner have remained humanitarian issues and the

safety of children and families with children, especially in regions affected by military actions.

At the end of 2023, the President of Russia supported Maria Lvova-Belova's proposal for a one-time payment to children injured as a result of Ukrainian aggression and issued the corresponding decree.<sup>68</sup> By mid-2024, 241 children received the one-time payment, with the majority—128 children—being from the Donetsk People's Republic.<sup>69</sup>

Commissioners for Children's Rights in the regions are involved in providing assistance to families and children residing in temporary accommodation centers. The institution of commissioners for children's rights offers medical, psychological, legal, material, and educational assistance as needed and upon requests from citizens living in these centers.

Targeted aid to children and children's institutions is also provided in territories directly affected by military actions. Ongoing targeted assistance continues for families and children's institutions within the humanitarian initiative “Into the Hands of Children,” organized in early April 2022 by the Commissioner in collaboration with the Autonomous Noncommercial Organization “Russian Humanitarian Mission” and other partners. Currently, five humanitarian centers are operational (in Donetsk, Mariupol, Lugansk, Melitopol, and Genicheski), from which humanitarian aid is specifically delivered to families with children, needy minors, and children's institutions, including those in conflict zones.

An important direction in the work of the children's rights commissioners is organizing recreation for children from both new regions of the Russian Federation and those near the frontline. Separate efforts are dedicated to aiding the rehabilitation of children with disabilities and severe illnesses.

In addition to rehabilitation assistance, under the support of the Commissioner for Children's Rights under the President of Russia, the development of children's infrastructure for those requiring special care is advancing in the new regions of the Russian Federation. For instance, in December 2023, a day care center for children with disabilities opened in Lugansk. In June 2024, the Regional Center for Psychological, Pedagogical, Medical, and Social Assistance (Melitopol, Zaporozhye region) became one of 15 winners of the All-Russian grant competition “Centers of New Opportunities.” The center was allocated up to 2 million rubles to create a new comfortable space for children with disabilities.<sup>70</sup>





**In 2023 and the first half of 2024, 246 children received medical rehabilitation and health resort treatment through the office of the Commissioner for Children's Rights.**

To prepare personnel for working with children affected by military actions, the Commissioner is implementing additional education programs for those directly involved in working with children.

The Commissioner places special emphasis on finding guardianship and foster care for unsupervised children who have been left without parental care. This form of child protection is considered the preferred arrangement, taking into account the potential reunification of minors with their biological relatives, if found, and in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

With the Commissioner's involvement and by the order of the President of Russia, efforts continue to reunite children with parents who were separated from their families due to military conflict. This work is supported not only by Russian but also by international partners, including the International Committee of the Red Cross and the State of Qatar, among others.

**Through the direct involvement of the Commissioner's office, 70 children from 52 families have been reunited with their relatives living in Ukraine and other countries.<sup>71</sup>**

An important step in the development of the institution of specialized **ombudsmen was the establishment of a separate ombudsman position focused on protecting the rights of entrepreneurs.**

A directive for this was issued by the President of Russia in one of the May decrees of 2012, No. 596, "On Long-term State Economic Policy."<sup>72</sup>

On October 11, 2012, the President of Russia, at a meeting addressing the protection of entrepreneurs' rights, noted that the new ombudsman's office should be formed under the Civic Chamber of Russia. Thus, entrepreneurial activity, which not only contributes to economic growth and the implementation of innovations but also ensures social stability and the development of civic activity in the country, was officially recognized as an important component of civil society.

Over the years, the business protection institute, comprising a central office and regional representatives, has received tens of thousands of appeals from entrepreneurs regarding a wide range of issues and problems—ranging from minor administrative violations to unlawful criminal prosecution. Many of those who appealed have received tangible help and support as a result of their petitions being reviewed.

The most important factors for the successful operation of the business ombudsman institute include the consolidation of thousands of public assistants around it and a well-established mechanism for cooperation with business associations across the country and government agencies. This allows the business protection institute to effectively formulate solutions to identified issues and annually present relevant proposals to the President of the Russian Federation.<sup>73</sup>

*The Commissioner for Children's Rights under the President of the Russian Federation, Maria Lvova-Belova (on the right), at a meeting of children from new Russian regions with their relatives from Ukraine at the Qatar Embassy in Russia, March 21, 2024. Kristina Kormilitsyna / RIA Novosti*

## Social investments as a state contribution to developing the civic potential of the nation

### Development Institutions: Systemic Support for Social Change

Today, social investment, carried out through development institutions represented in our country by independent expert nonprofit organizations, has become a new, powerful, and flexible financial tool for the state in developing civil society. The practices of state social investment fundamentally transform traditional views on solving major social issues, integrating ideas of social impact with classical investment approaches to implement large-scale positive social changes and to preserve and enhance human capital.

The ideas of supporting civil society by the state through one of its key productive forces—nonprofit organizations—have been actively discussed by the public in Russia since the early 2000s. In July 2005, at a meeting of the Council under the President of the Russian Federation on the Development of Civil Society and Human Rights, the President of Russia supported the idea proposed by the expert community to create budgetary funds that would provide grant funding to Russian nonprofit organizations. This system of grant support for nonprofit organizations<sup>74</sup> was established in 2006.

Initially, the operator for the presidential grant contest was the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, which was later replaced by several grant operators. Significant changes in the grant distribution process occurred in 2017. On April 3rd, the President of Russia signed a decree to improve the grant system for NPOs<sup>75</sup> and issued an order transferring the administration of these functions to a single grant operator.<sup>76</sup> From that time, the Presidential Grants Foundation (PGF) became the sole operator of state support for nongovernmental nonprofit organizations in the Russian Federation.

Over the years, the Presidential Grants Foundation has become the largest development institution in the social sphere in Russia. Today, the Foundation organizes contests across 11 key socially significant areas, each reflecting the most in-demand public initiatives. Expert evaluation of projects is conducted based on transparent and comprehensible rules and procedures.

With each passing year, the scale of the Foundation's activities is expanding. In 2024, following two rounds of contests, the Foundation supported 2,916 socially significant projects with a total sum of 7.8 billion rubles and allocated 2 billion rubles to

**For the first time, the Presidential Grants competition took place in 2006. A total of 1,054 nonprofit organizations received funding amounting to 472.7 million rubles.**

80 regions of the country for co-financing their own contests for nonprofit organizations.

Since 2019, the Presidential Grants Foundation has conducted independent assessments of the outcomes of the supported projects. Independent evaluation helps the Foundation and nonprofit organizations understand the social impact achieved through project implementation and determine which initiatives were the most successful.

In 2024, for the first time in the history of state support for NPOs, the Foundation provided the general public with the opportunity to access project reports on its website and express their own opinions on the outcomes of each one.<sup>77</sup> Positive evaluations of project results by the public will enhance their chances of receiving a presidential grant in future contests.





## Presidential grants foundation

### Results of the First Presidential Grants competition of 2024<sup>78</sup>

# 10,827

community initiatives were submitted to the Foundation

There were

## 64

winning projects with grant financing volumes amounting to

## 428

 million rubles

allocated for projects in the new regions of Russia

# 1,559

nonprofit organizations became winners

# 458

receiving support from the Foundation for the first time

# 4.4

 billion rubles

was the total amount of allocated grants

# 3.9

 billion rubles

is the amount of additional resources that the winners will attract

### Results of the Second Presidential Grants competition of 2024<sup>79</sup>

# 10,539

community initiatives were submitted to the Foundation

For the first time in the 18 competitions conducted by the Foundation, the “family” direction took first place in the number of supported projects:

## 275

 projects

supported with a total funding volume of

## 643

 million rubles

# 1,357

nonprofit organizations became winners

# 414

of them received support from the Foundation for the first time

# 3.4

 billion rubles

were allocated by the Foundation for the implementation of all projects

# 3.3

 billion rubles

is the amount of additional resources that the winners will attract

*80.7% of the initiatives supported by the Foundation from 2017–2022 were deemed successfully implemented, 15.7% were satisfactory implemented, and 3.6% were unsatisfactory.*

*500 projects were identified as the best (100 projects for each annual evaluation cycle from 2019–2023).<sup>80</sup>*

*37% of the current funding for Russian NPOs\* comes from the Presidential Grants Foundation.<sup>81</sup> Previously, in 2013, the level of state support for the nonprofit sector was estimated at 5%\*\*.*

\* Data from the Center for Civil Society and Nonprofit Sector Research of HSE University.

\*\* Data from the Foundation for the Development of Civil Society.<sup>82</sup>

On April 21, 2021, during the Address to the Federal Assembly, the President of Russia announced an initiative to establish the Presidential Fund for Cultural Initiatives<sup>83</sup> to support projects in the fields of culture, arts, and creativity. **The Presidential Grants Foundation became the sole founder of this new fund.**<sup>84</sup>

Since its inception, the Presidential Fund for Cultural Initiatives has become the largest state fund encompassing all major areas of development for the creative industries in the country. The Fund provides comprehensive support on a competitive basis to nonprofit organizations in the implementation of projects in the fields of culture, arts, and creative industries. The first grant competition of the Presidential Fund for Cultural Initiatives began on June 15, 2021.

In addition to conducting competitions, the Presidential Fund for Cultural Initiatives implements educational programs. Fund employees conduct in-person seminars in various regions of Russia and hold remote events in the form of webinars, which significantly contribute to improving the quality of grant application processing by potential recipients. To date, the audience for the Fund’s educational

activities, both online and offline, exceeds one million people, and many of the winners are participants in the Fund’s training programs.

In 2024, the Presidential Fund for Cultural Initiatives concluded the results of two grant competitions, notable for the active participation of representatives from new regions of the Russian Federation. Creative teams from the Donetsk People’s Republic submitted 33 applications for the first competition and 77 applications for the second one, while the Lugansk People’s Republic submitted 4 and 18 applications respectively. Representatives from the Kherson region submitted 2 applications for the first 2024 competition and 12 for the second. For the first time, 18 applications for the second competition were submitted by creative teams from the Zaporozhye region.<sup>85</sup>

## Presidential Fund for Cultural Initiatives

# 85,043

applications for grant support were submitted by applicants as a result of 13 conducted competitions

# 8,391

projects received support from the Presidential Fund for Cultural Initiatives following the completion of 12 competitions since 2021

# 31.1

 billion rubles

is the total approved grant amount for winners

# 89%

is the average level of co-financing of projects by the winners (based on the results of 12 competitions)

# >27.7

 billion rubles

was the contribution of the winners in the implementation of their own projects (based on the results of 12 competitions)<sup>86</sup>

*The share of applications not admitted to independent assessment decreased from 6% to 3% in the 2025 application campaign compared to the first grant campaign in 2021.*

*In 2023–2024, 20 regional project offices of the Presidential Fund for Cultural Initiatives were opened in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation. These offices provide informational and consultative support to potential grant recipients. By the end of 2024, new branches of the fund are planned to be launched in Khabarovsk, Donetsk, and Saratov.<sup>87</sup>*





### Results of the first grant competition by the Presidential fund for cultural initiatives in 2024

**7,186**

applications for grant support were submitted to the Fund

**883**

projects from 85 regions were supported following an independent evaluation

**3.9 billion rubles**

was the total amount of support allocated for all projects

**95%**

of the supported projects are either regional or connect multiple entities

**55%**

of the winning teams had not previously participated in the competition and received a grant on their first attempt

**3.6 billion rubles**

is the amount winners will attract through co-financing

### Results of the second grant competition by the Presidential fund for cultural initiatives in 2024

**10,758**

applications for grant support were submitted to the Fund

**1,189**

projects were supported following an independent evaluation

**5.67 billion rubles**

was the total amount of support allocated for all projects

**~5.8 billion rubles**

(102%) represent the total amount of co-financing that winners are providing for their projects — a record figure in the history of the competitions

Representatives from all

**89 regions of Russia**

were included in the list of winners for the second competition for the first time in their history

In addition to grant competitions, since 2023, in collaboration with partners, the Presidential Fund for Cultural Initiatives has been implementing a charitable program for targeted support to cultural and sports institutions in the Donetsk People's Republic, Lugansk People's Republic, Zaporozhye and Kherson regions. During this period, assistance has been provided to 2,118 cultural and sports institutions in the specified regions. The volume of charitable assistance amounted to 2.5 billion rubles.

Thanks to a decision by the President of the Russian Federation, cultural and sports institutions in the new regions were able to restart their operations, update their infrastructure and basic resources. As a result of the program's implementation, a unique mechanism was also created for collecting the needs of beneficiaries from the new regions, assessing and monitoring the expenditure of funds. This includes an online system, aggregator operators on the ground, and a corps of expert consultants for direct interaction with cultural and sports institutions in need of assistance, their branches, and subdivisions.

In October 2024, a decision was made to allocate funds for the continuation of the targeted support program. Applications for participation in the second phase were submitted by 1,417 cultural and sports institutions. The total amount of funds allocated in 2024 will amount to 2.5 billion rubles. They will be directed towards the purchase of modern sound, lighting, and interactive equipment, musical instruments, furniture, computer equipment, sports equipment and inventory, uniforms, conducting repair work at cultural and sports facilities, and installing new sports facilities.<sup>88</sup>

Experts from the Civic Chamber of Russia note that over three years of operation, the Presidential Fund for Cultural Initiatives has become an effective institutional mechanism for discovering and supporting talents in the regions, and receiving grant support from the Fund has become a recognized mark of quality for the projects implemented.

Another large-scale development institution in the field of supporting creative industries in our country over recent years has been the **Internet Development Institute (IRI)**.

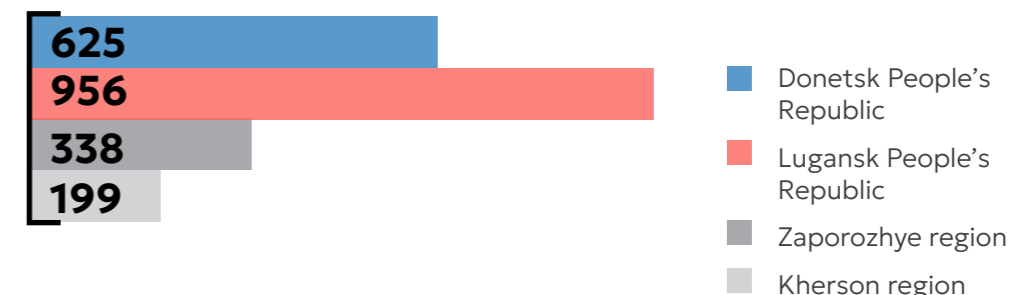
### Results of the first stage of the Presidential fund for Cultural Initiatives Charitable Program for targeted support of cultural and sports institutions in new regions

Within the framework of the first stage of the charitable program, assistance was provided to

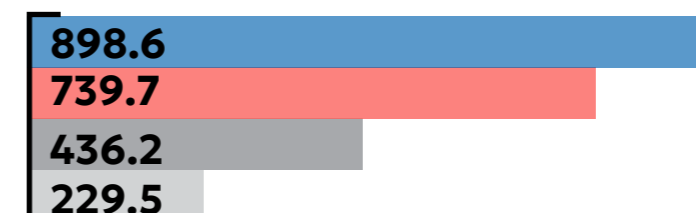
**2,118**

cultural and sports institutions in the new regions

Number of cultural and sports institutions



Amount of allocated funds, million rubles





Filming of the series “The Last Warrior: Legacy,” directed by Anton Maslov. The project was realized with the support of the Internet Development Institute. July 11, 2023. Alexey Filippov / RIA Novosti

In 2015, with the support of the Presidential Administration, the founders of the public organization became the Russian Association for Electronic Communications (RAEC), the Internet Initiatives Development Fund (IIDF), the Regional Public Organization “Center for Internet Technologies” (ROCIT), and the Media and Communications Union. The organization’s goals focused on regulating relationships between the internet industry and government representatives.

Significant changes in the scale and types of activities of the Internet Development Institute have occurred since 2019. Following a directive from the President of Russia, after a meeting of the Presidential Council on the implementation of state policy in the field of family and children’s protection, the Government of the Russian Federation was instructed to identify a nonprofit organization to create a “coordination center for the organization of content production aimed at the spiritual and moral education of youth, and its dissemination on the Internet.”<sup>89</sup> The Federal Agency for Youth Affairs (Rosmolodezh) proposed appointing the Internet Development Institute (IRI) as the coordination center responsible for organizing the production of socially significant content for youth. The proposal was accepted by the President of Russia,<sup>90</sup> and in early 2020, the Internet Development Institute became the key operator of a competition to create internet content for Russian youth. When it came to making decisions about subsidizing online projects, the state drew from the successful experiences of the Cinema Fund and the Presidential Grants Fund, both of which have supervisory and expert councils that are responsible for the approval and validation of applications.

By February 2020, IRI received more than 1,200 applications for the first competitive selection, totaling nearly 25 billion rubles, which significantly exceeded the allocated annual subsidy of 3 billion rubles at that time.

In 2024, the Internet Development Institute showcased over 80 supported projects that have already been released or are preparing for release in 2024–2025.

Apart from projects in the blogosphere, these include numerous series based on real historical events and figures who influenced the development of our country, series set in contemporary Russia, children’s, youth, and multi-format educational and entertainment content, as well as several documentary films aimed at a broad audience.

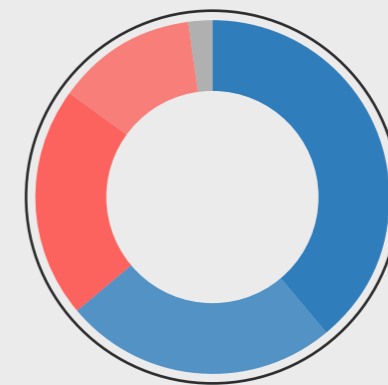
In March 2024, the IRI and the distribution company “Media-Telecom” launched the educational and entertainment channel “We”, which broadcasts in the packages of over 40 major operators and is available on major OTT platforms: Wink.ru, KION, Okko, Kinopoisk. The TV channel introduced viewers to more than 168 titles of original content, comprising 595 premiere hours or 1,411 episodes.

The viewer success and high professional evaluation of the projects supported by the Internet Development Institute confirm the success of the state-adopted model, where the state does not commission orders but co-finances creative projects through expert assessment. This financial support often provides the additional impetus necessary for creative teams to successfully implement their ideas.

## Internet development institute

**>600**  
projects

were released with the support of the Internet Development Institute in 2023–2024



- Blogosphere content **39%**
- Video content **25%**
- Multiformat content **21%**
- Special projects in media **13%**
- Games and software **2%**

**~50%**

of the projects consist of content in the blogosphere aimed at a young and teenage audience

**5.4 billion**

cumulative views were achieved by the institute’s projects on the internet

**24%**

was the institute’s share of projects in the segment of original projects in online cinemas in the first half of 2024

**>2 times**

the number of project releases on television occurred in 2024 compared to the previous year

The top five platforms where content supported by the institute was most viewed in 2023–2024 are Wink.ru, PREMIER, Kinopoisk, START, and Ivi.

**95 million**

people watched the institute’s projects on television, according to Mediascope

### Since 2022, projects supported by the institute have received

**187**

festival awards,

**48**

of which are international

The project “About People and About War,” based on eyewitness accounts of World War II, has garnered

**>100 million**

views on social media and is the absolute record holder in terms of awards.

By September 2024,

**30+ million**

subscribers formed the technical reach of the educational and entertainment channel “We,” as reported by Mediascope

**>1.5 million**

unique viewers per month were recorded by the platform<sup>91</sup>





### Social partnership in addressing public challenges

As a result of the constitutional reform of 2020, social partnership became one of the constitutional principles. The inclusion of this term in the country's Basic Law reflects the emerging demand in Russian society for active cooperation among the state, commercial organizations, and NPOs in addressing the most pressing social issues.

The "Circle of Kindness" Foundation, established in 2021 with the active participation of the Civic Chamber of Russia, has become an example of a unique model of social partnership that has completely transformed the system of aid for children with severe and rare diseases. The Foundation's funding is sourced through a mechanism of a "colored" targeted social tax, with deductions from the increased personal income tax rate of 13% to 15%. This approach allows for direct participation in its financing by the state, business, and society.

Thanks to the four-year work of the Foundation, Russia today has become one of the world leaders in providing therapy for children with severe and rare diseases. Whenever a new drug for an orphan disease with proven effectiveness and safety becomes available in the world, it can also be made accessible to Russian children.

*In October 2024, the Center for Civil Society and Nonprofit Sector Research at the HSE University conducted a sociological survey titled "Perception of the 'Circle of Kindness' Foundation and Other State Institutions." According to the survey results, among citizens informed about the Foundation's activities, 85% of respondents trust the "Circle of Kindness." The Foundation boasts one of the highest recognition and trust levels among institutions for the protection of citizens' rights and the development of civil society.*

Before the creation of the "Circle of Kindness" Foundation, not all regions could provide therapy for children with certain severe and rare diseases. Even though medications existed for these conditions, they were extremely expensive and generally not included in the State Program of Guaranteed Free Medical Assistance. As a result, charitable donations could only help a few individuals. The Foundation took on the responsibility of providing treatment for children, allowing nonprofit organizations, patient communities, and charitable foundations to redirect resources and efforts to other necessary activities to help sick children, such as targeted assistance, rehabilitation support, specialist training, and more.

In 2023, by decision of the President of Russia, the Foundation received the right to support its wards until they reach the age of 19, to give regions the opportunity for a smoother transition of the Foundation's wards into the adult healthcare system.

From 2023, in accordance with a previously adopted Presidential Decree of the Russian Federation and amendments to Federal Law 323-FZ, the "Circle of Kindness" Foundation became the source of funds for purchasing 39 types of medications for children from the state program "14 high-cost nosologies."

The availability of therapy through the Foundation stimulated the development of diagnostic programs. In 2023, an expanded neonatal screening program was launched, increasing the number of diseases in the screening program from 5 to 36 hereditary diseases and their groups. During 2023, 98% of newborns in the Russian Federation were examined as part of the expanded neonatal screening. For 633 children, a diagnosis of congenital and/or hereditary disease was confirmed: 103 children were diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), 175 children with primary immunodeficiency, and 355 children with hereditary metabolic disorders.



### Results of the "Circle of Kindness" (as of November 28, 2024)

Of these:

**26,719**

children have received or will shortly receive assistance based on approved applications

**11,750**

children have received or will soon receive assistance through other forms of support

**14,969**

children under the "14 high-cost nosologies" program

**10**

types of high-tech assistance are funded by the Foundation

#### SMA (Spinal Muscular Atrophy)

**1.500**

children with SMA have been approved for Foundation support since 2021

**>660**

children are receiving Risdiplam (trade name — Evrysdi)

Based on doctors' prescriptions:

**>250**

children have already received the drug Onasemnogene Apeparvovec (trade name — Zolgensma)

**>600**

children are receiving Nusinersen

**348.7** billion rubles

in contracts and agreements signed for medical care, and the purchase of pharmaceuticals and medical devices

**117**

medications, medical devices, and rehabilitation technical equipment listed in the Foundation's procurement lists

**99**

diseases are included in the Foundation's List of Diseases

Thanks to the “Circle of Kindness” Foundation, children with Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) now have access to several expensive pathogenic therapy drugs for this severe life-threatening condition that are not yet registered in Russia. More than 450 Russian children are currently receiving these medications funded by the Foundation. As of June 2024, Russia became one of the first countries where Delandistrogene Moxeparovec (trade name — Elevidys) became available. This is the first drug in the world for single administration that is not just pathogenic, but specifically a gene-replacement therapy for Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) that requires just a single administration. By the end of 2024, several dozen children will receive it. This drug is considered one of the most expensive in the world.

Establishing the most efficient collaboration between the Foundation and regions is a priority for “Circle of Kindness.” In 2023, cooperation agreements were signed with 24 regions. At the end of 2023, submitting applications directly to the Foundation became available through the Unified State Health Information System for health authorities in the Lugansk and Donetsk People’s Republics. In early 2024, a mechanism was launched to assist children with severe and rare diseases from Kherson and Zaporozhye regions. Previously, aid to children from these new

Federation subjects was provided through other regions of Russia.

It’s also noteworthy that thanks to the support of the Federal Antimonopoly Service in negotiations with pharmaceutical manufacturers, the Foundation achieved a significant reduction in the drug prices, averaging a 40% discount from the offered price and 49% from prices in purchases conducted before the Foundation’s establishment.

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**At the start of 2024, the “Circle of Kindness” Foundation saved 12.5 billion rubles by reducing drug costs. The saved funds are also allocated for providing medicines to children.**

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The Foundation operates openly and transparently, reporting publicly on its activities annually through annual reports. In mid-2024, auditors from the Accounts Chamber reviewed the prudent use of the “people’s budget.”<sup>92</sup>

Prudence in the use of the “people’s budget” was verified by auditors from the Accounts Chamber

The “Circle of Kindness” Foundation operates within the segment of the Unified State Health Information System, integrated with the Unified Portal of Public Services. This allows for a unified digital process:

- *Parents can apply for Foundation assistance on the Public Services portal;*

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- *Health authorities of the Federation subjects, expert council members, and the Foundation work with applications in a digital environment;*

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- *Health authorities, the Foundation, suppliers, and recipients exchange electronic documents;*

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- *Monitoring processes in the “Knowledge Base” allows for overseeing operations, quickly addressing issues, and responding to parents’ inquiries/requests;*

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- *All inquiries and requests received through any feedback channel are logged, analyzed, and used to identify and resolve issues.*



*Meeting of the leadership with its wards at the Morozovskaya Children’s City Clinical Hospital State Autonomous Healthcare Institution of Moscow’s Department of Health (GBOU “Morozovskaya DGB DZHM”). April 18, 2024. “Circle of Kindness” Foundation*

in mid-2024, confirming at the end of their inspection the absence of any misallocation of funds. Successfully developing and scaling its activities, the “Circle of Kindness” Foundation demonstrated with its own example the potential of developing social partnership practices as an effective mechanism for solving key issues of social development.

One of the most important topics in developing the mechanism of social partnership in the healthcare sector is the collaboration between government bodies and specialized public and patient organizations.

Patient organizations, the first of which appeared in Russia

about 30 years ago to protect the rights and interests of patients under the care of foundations, are now involved in a wide range of issues: from providing informational, educational, and expert support to patients and doctors to establishing a direct and continuous dialog with authorities to improve medical care, ensure the necessary quality of medical services, and access to modern drug therapy.

The establishment of the All-Russian Union of Patients in 2010 marked a new stage in the development of this movement—the public organization started to perform coordinating and unifying functions for the patient community throughout the country.

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**The All-Russian Union of Patients unites 17 national and interregional organizations and over 80 of their branches: regional NPOs representing the interests of patients of more than 5 million citizens of the Russian Federation—patients with severe debilitating diseases.<sup>93</sup>**

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The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, acknowledging the high social significance and effectiveness of patient organizations, serves as a constant expert platform for conducting thematic events of patient communities. These events ensure a multilateral dialog among all interested parties on the development of the healthcare system in Russia and the improvement of service quality.

One example of such interaction in 2024 is the collaboration with the Cancer Patients Association “Hello”. This collaboration included a series of joint events at the Civic Chamber’s venue, including thematic roundtables dedicated to the issues and prospects of developing rehabilitation programs, protecting children and adults from vaccine-preventable diseases,<sup>94</sup> as well as the large-scale annual All-Russian Cancer Patients Congress. This congress focused on the development of the oncology service and enhancing the accessibility and quality of oncology care across the Russian Federation.<sup>95</sup>

Another example of such constructive cooperation is the partnership with the All-Russian Society of Oncohematology “Support”. In 2024, the Civic Chamber, together with the public organization, held the 19th All-Russian Forum for Patients with Oncohematological Diseases “New Horizons - 2024”. At the forum, experts, patient and medical community representatives, and executive and legislative authorities discussed the accessibility and quality of medical care, the interaction of medical and patient communities, the functioning of public councils at federal and regional levels in healthcare, the organization of a public oversight system, and current legal regulation issues in healthcare.

For more than 10 years, the Civic Chamber of Russia has been a platform for uniting the efforts of

the state, public, and patient organizations in addressing the development of blood donation and its components. To this end, a Coordinating Council for Blood Donation was established at the Russian Civic Chamber, with the participation of the National Health Development Fund. This council unites representatives of healthcare science and practice, regional authorities, public institutions, initiative groups, and nonprofit organizations working in the promotion and development of unpaid blood donation and its components.

Since 2022, national donor campaigns have been conducted annually with the participation of the Coordinating Council, covering more than 60 regions of the Russian Federation and bringing together thousands of people of different ages.

In February 2024, the National Health Development Fund, in association with the Coordinating Council at the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on Blood and Bone Marrow Donation, the Federal Medical-Biological Agency, and the All-Russian public organization “Russian Red Cross,” launched the third national campaign “Donor Family Code.” In 2024, it was dedicated to the Year of the Family, as announced by the President of Russia.



## All-Russian Action-contest “Donor Family Code”

### Duration of the Action

February — November 2024

### Participants

Blood service institutions, government representatives, organizations promoting corporate blood donation, nonprofit organizations, foundations, and individual participants carry out various activities across Russian regions aimed at involving families in donation, promoting donation among youth, and developing donation as a family tradition.

### Activities

Educational online conferences, seminars, and other formats aimed at the systematic development of blood and bone marrow donation.

### Outcomes

During the action’s implementation period, 5.7 thousand events were held, with over 436 thousand participants from 69 regions of Russia, as well as from Kazakhstan. More than 220 thousand people donated blood, and over 45 thousand people joined the Federal Bone Marrow Donor Registry.

*Donor Day at VDNH as part of the All-Russian Action “Donor Family Code”. July 23, 2024. Yuri Kochetkov / TASS*

Successful practices in healthcare have shown that a significant result of implementing the social partnership model is not only an increase in trust in the healthcare system as a whole but also an enhancement of its transparency and openness to society. Informed citizens and patients become full participants in the process of improving and developing the healthcare system, which undoubtedly impacts its effectiveness.

Today, numerous vivid and interesting projects are being implemented across the regions of the Russian Federation within the framework of social partnership, aimed at addressing pressing social issues. Selected projects can be found in the Special Report of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation “Social Partnership in Modern Russian Society,” which initiates a discussion at the Civic Chamber platform about the very concept of “social partnership,” the role of nonprofit organizations in society, and the development of a new relationship system in the social sphere.

*Read the Special Report “Social Partnership in Modern Russian Society.”*





# Citizen Observation

The press briefing zone and call center of the Monitoring Center of the Civic Chamber of Russia for voting observation. Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation



## 3

Citizen observation of voting today is a comprehensive legal mechanism and a large-scale ecosystem that includes a system of norms and institutions, organizations, and values, as well as established practices aimed at ensuring the integrity, transparency, and legitimacy of electoral processes in the Russian Federation.

A comprehensive methodology for citizen observation, developed by experts from the Civic Chamber, includes provisions for the appointment of observers to elections, the so-called “Gold Standard” of citizen observation, which allowed for the evaluation of the voting process at all its stages, from the opening to the closing of polling stations, as well as a code of ethics for citizen observers, reflecting the main principles of public oversight. This methodology systematized and standardized the citizen observation process, laying the foundations for one of the most successful practices of public oversight in the Russian Federation.

## Development of the citizen observation institution in Russia

*The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation and the civic chambers of the regions of the Russian Federation have been performing public monitoring of citizens’ electoral compliance since 2012.*

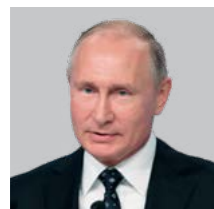
Thanks to the efforts of the Civic Chamber of Russia, supported by the civic chambers of the regions of the Russian Federation, legislative formalization of the institution of citizen observation has been occurring since 2018, and the Civic Chamber of Russia and the civic chambers of the regions of the Russian Federation have been granted the right to appoint nonpartisan observers to elections at all levels throughout the country.

The institution of civic chambers has been granted the right to appoint observers to election commissions during the elections of the President of the Russian Federation, deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, as well as elections for the state authorities of the subjects of the Federation and local governance bodies. From that moment, with the direct participation of the Civic Chamber, the system of citizen observation in the country has consistently expanded and improved, and innovations aimed at enhancing the role of civil society institutions in ensuring voting oversight have been reflected in legislative acts.



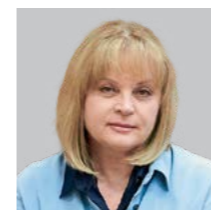


## The Institution of citizen election observation in the Russian Federation



“Public oversight at all stages of the electoral process is in demand—this will make the election process more transparent, and, therefore, the results will be more trusted by our citizens.”<sup>96</sup>

— *V.V. Putin*  
President of the Russian Federation



“Citizen observers at polling stations have significantly strengthened independent oversight in recent elections. They operate in conditions of absolute transparency and support the proper functioning of electoral commissions.”

— *E.A. Pamfilova*  
Chairperson of the Central Election Commission of Russia



“Citizen observation has become the norm; no other country has such a system. I believe that this institution is well-established and effective.”

— *V.A. Fadeev*  
Chairperson of the Presidential Council for the Development of Civil Society and Human Rights of the Russian Federation

## Citizen observation: a chronology

**Launch of public monitoring of citizen electoral rights**

2012

**For the first time in the country, a comprehensive infrastructure for citizen observation was implemented**

150,000 citizen observers were deployed to polling stations on the day of the presidential election in Russia. The experience gained during the 2018 presidential campaign was successfully replicated in regional elections.

2017

2018

**Implementation of the “Gold Standard” for election observation**

The Civic Chamber of Russia developed a “Gold Standard” for citizen observation — a comprehensive checklist covering all topics in the organization and procedures of voting, as well as vote counting at polling stations.

2020

**Ecosystem of citizen observation encompasses elections at all levels nationwide**

In 2024, legislative amendments were introduced, establishing a direct action norm that allows the Civic Chamber of Russia to deploy observers to any elections and polling stations across the country. Thanks to the efforts of civil society institutions and corresponding regulatory adjustments, independent oversight is now ensured at all stages of the electoral process and in all forms of voting.

2023

2024

**Completion of the legal framework for the institution of citizen observation**

On November 24, 2017, amendments were made to the Federal Law “On the Election of the President of the Russian Federation.” These amendments secured the rights of public chambers to send observers, independent of political parties, to polling stations.

In 2018, amendments were made to the Federal Law “On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right to Participate in a Referendum for Citizens of the Russian Federation” and the Federal Law “On the Election of Deputies to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation.” These changes secured the rights of public oversight entities to appoint observers to electoral commissions during elections to state bodies and local self-government bodies.



## The Monitoring Center of the Civic Chamber of Russia for election observation

Since its establishment in 2012, the Monitoring Center of the Civic Chamber of Russia for election observation has played an essential role in the rapid deployment of the citizen observation system, maintaining communication with observers, and coordinating continuous monitoring and analysis of voting progress across the regions of Russia.

The Monitoring Center for election observation usually begins its work the day before elections start, ensuring round-the-clock monitoring of the voting process and concludes its activities by summarizing the observations made the day after the elections end.

By 2024, the Monitoring Center of the Civic Chamber had become not only a powerful information and analytical hub that collects and provides expert evaluations of potential issues and violations reported by observers and voters across all regions of the Russian Federation in real-time, but also an open platform demonstrating the capabilities of the institution of citizen observation to all interested parties.

Thanks to years of effective operation, the Monitoring Center has turned citizen observation into an independent and recognizable brand trusted by voters and election commissions alike.

### Today, the basic structure of the Monitoring Center of the Civic Chamber for election observation consists of:

- *Call Center: Staffed by volunteers from the Civic Chamber's volunteer corps, it facilitates communication with observers and conducts initial verification of reports concerning possible issues during the voting process.*
- *Hotline of the Civic Chamber of Russia: This service receives calls from observers and citizens, processes messages received through the Civic Chamber's digital feedback channels.*
- *Analytical Center: Conducts monitoring of open sources on the internet, social media channels, and messengers for messages about possible violations in the organization and conduct of voting.*
- *Response Group: Transfers received problem reports to regional citizen election observation headquarters for further verification and processing, and records information on the outcomes of these processes.*
- *Press Center: Organizes press briefings and liaises with speakers and media representatives.*
- *Media Support Group: Covers the activities of the Monitoring Center on the Civic Chamber of Russia's information resources.*
- *Expert Group for Technical Monitoring of Remote Electronic Voting: Composed of IT specialists, this group oversees the technical aspects of remote voting.*
- *International Group: Works with international observers and experts arriving in Russia and with citizen observers at polling stations outside the Russian Federation.*

## The Monitoring Center for the Russian Presidential elections, March 15–17, 2024

The pivotal event in the sociopolitical life of Russia in 2024, which effectively determines the country's development path for the next six years, was the election of the President of the Russian Federation.

By the presidential elections, the Civic Chamber of Russia had amassed a wealth of experience in public monitoring and carried out extensive preparatory work, a crucial part of which involved training citizen observers. With the support of regional civic chambers, specialized public organizations, and political parties that joined the cooperation agreement for election monitoring, a corps of citizen observers was formed and trained. Methodological materials were significantly updated, with the Civic Chamber's continually advancing "Gold Standard" of public monitoring serving as the foundation for observer preparation. Seventeen political parties and 64 nonprofit organizations signed an agreement with the Civic Chamber of Russia to participate in monitoring the presidential election voting process.

**71 delegations, representatives of seven political parties, and over 1,500 citizens visited the Civic Chamber's Monitoring Center during the election days.**

From March 14 to 18, the Monitoring Center for public monitoring of the Russian presidential elections was deployed within the Civic Chamber. For the first time in the history of citizen observation, the center operated in a new format: round-the-clock broadcasting took place in the Monitoring Center's studio, where public figures, experts, opinion leaders, and on-ground observers provided objective assessments and reliable information about the voting process.

In response to attempts to discredit the elections, speakers from the Monitoring Center regularly shared key data on the election monitoring process with representatives of Russian and international media, addressed pressing questions, and presented vivid case studies, clearly illustrating the voting process at polling stations across Russia's regions.

**17 political parties and 64 nonprofit organizations signed an agreement with the Civic Chamber of Russia to participate in monitoring the voting process during the presidential elections of the Russian Federation.**

During the election period, the Monitoring Center opened its doors not only to experts and media representatives but also to anyone interested in learning about the public monitoring system's operations, garnering considerable interest within Russian society.

In 2024, the work of the Monitoring Center's group responsible for overseeing remote electronic voting was reformatted. For the first time, students from Russian technical universities were appointed as observers of the remote electronic voting from the Civic Chamber of Russia, which, on one hand, significantly expanded the monitoring coverage and, on the other, increased the number of remote electronic voting experts. This initiative provided students the opportunity to enhance their knowledge of electronic voting infrastructure.

On March 18, the final press briefing of the Civic Chamber of Russia's Monitoring Center on public oversight of the presidential election voting concluded the three-day observation.

Experts noted the unprecedented historic voter turnout, reflecting a high level of consolidation in Russian society, and the minimal number of deviations from the "Gold Standard" of public monitoring, which covered all stages of the electoral process during the presidential election.

Experts highlighted the crucial role of citizen observers in ensuring the transparency and openness of the electoral process.

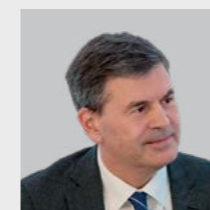
Based on the compilation of all information received by the Monitoring Center during public monitoring of the presidential campaign, the Coordinating Council under the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation for public oversight of voting presented a draft of recommendations for the upcoming elections.





# Monitoring Center of the Civic Chamber for the Russian Presidential elections, March 15–17, 2024

From March 14 to 17, a Monitoring Center for citizen observation of the Russian Presidential elections operated around the clock at the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation venue. The Monitoring Center of the Civic Chamber served not only as an information-analytical hub that collected and assessed all reports from observers and voters, but it also functioned in a renewed format — an open platform that promoted transparency in the voting process.



“One of the strongest impressions from the work of the Monitoring Center of the Civic Chamber of Russia is the clarity and coordination of the entire team’s actions. Here, everyone is in their place, with a well-established system of interchangeability, and yet a very productive and comfortable atmosphere. With such a center, there can be no doubt about the level of public oversight of the elections.”

— *Alexey Komissarov*  
Rector of RANEPa, General Director of Autonomous Nonprofit Organization “Russia — Land of Opportunity”



“Each year, the Monitoring Center of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation is equipped with new tools and, of course, is quite impressive. It’s crucial that there is a well-established connection between public demand and government agencies. We can immediately, firsthand, gather insights into the regional situation and receive information about potential violations right here.”

— *Tatiana Moskalkova*  
Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation

## Areas of work of the Monitoring Center

### PREPARATION OF CITIZEN OBSERVERS

In collaboration with regional civic chambers, public organizations, and political parties, a corps of citizen observers was formed and trained.

Collaboration agreements for voting observation were signed:

with **17** political parties and **64** nationwide nonprofit organizations

**156,000** observers were deployed to polling stations from the system of civic chambers

### MONITORING OF THE VOTING PROCESS

The Monitoring Center collected and assessed reports received from observers and voters, and assisted in addressing identified issues.

**828** inquiries were received on the hotline

**508** reports of issues

**481** reports were unconfirmed

**7** deviations were confirmed

### CALL CENTER

Volunteers from the call center contacted observers on site, asked questions about the situation in accordance with the “Gold Standard” of citizen observation.

**25,400** calls to observers were made by the call center

**> 250** volunteers worked in the call center on election days

### VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

Broadcasts from cameras located in voting premises were conducted on the official portal and were accessible to employees and visitors of the Monitoring Center, as well as representatives of citizen observation headquarters in the regions.

**> 40,000** video surveillance objects

**10,541** monitoring operations of precinct election commissions were conducted by the Monitoring Center

**89** centers of citizen observation were established in the regions of the Russian Federation



## Operation of the Monitoring Center on the Unified Voting Day — 2024

On the Unified Voting Day, September 8, 2024, in the Russian Federation, four thousand electoral campaigns of various levels took place, including by-elections to the State Duma, regional heads' elections, elections of deputies to legislative bodies of state power, and numerous elections at the municipal level.

As part of the preparation for a massive citizen observation procedure on the Unified Voting Day -2024, the Civic Chamber, in collaboration with specialized organizations, launched a wide educational campaign. Observer training was conducted using updated methodologies, taking into account the experience from the presidential election campaign in Russia in March 2024 and legislative innovations. The Civic Chamber, together with specialized organizations, continued the successful practice of joint training for observers from the institute of civic chambers, political parties, and candidates. According to experts, this practice contributes to the formation of stable horizontal ties among observers.

**Over 65,000 observers had undergone training for the Unified Voting Day — 2024 across 893 seminars.**

A fundamentally new tool for observers was specially developed checklists, helping to monitor key electoral procedures and containing concentrated information on the most important procedural topics in voting.

*In all 83 regions where elections were held, independent platforms for interaction between candidates and parties, exchange of opinions, and discussions on the electoral campaign's progress were opened based on the civic chambers of the regions of the Russian Federation — citizen election observation headquarters. These platforms were also venues for sociologists, political scientists, and other experts.*

The Monitoring Center was opened in the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on September 5 and traditionally operated around the clock until September 9, 2024. The Monitoring Center became a platform that accumulated the most current information on the three-day voting process in the regions of Russia.

During a series of press briefings, observers, representatives of regional citizen election observation headquarters, experts, and public opinion leaders reported on the voting process, sharing reliable information, photos, and video materials.

On September 9, at the final press conference held at the Monitoring Center of the Civic Chamber for public voting control, experts and public representatives summed up the citizen observation of the Unified Voting Day elections — 2024.

*Citizen Observation Center for Elections in Chelyabinsk, September 8, 2024. Alexander Kondratyuk / RIA Novosti*



Social activists noted that the results of the Monitoring Center's operations during the presidential elections and the Unified Voting Day in 2024 once again demonstrated that the presence

of independent citizen observers at polling stations, who have direct and consolidated support from civil society institutions, has become a powerful factor in preventing most potential violations.

## Monitoring Center of the Civic Chamber on the Unified Voting Day — 2024

### PREPARATION OF CITIZEN OBSERVERS

# 51,900

citizen observers were trained and sent by the public chambers system to polling stations

### PRESS BRIEFINGS

# 10

thematic press briefings were held in the Monitoring Center

### Topics included:

- Debunking voting-related fake news;
- Youth and elections;
- Progress, features, and results of remote electronic voting;
- Cooperation with nationwide public organizations in observation;
- Voting in closed institutions.

### CALL CENTER

# 64

volunteers were working in the call center

## Results of the Monitoring Center's activities from September 5 to 8, 2024:

# 9,752

calls were made by call center volunteers to observers

# 87

inquiries to the hotline

# 47

reports of issues at polling stations

# 45

of them were not confirmed

# 2

were confirmed and promptly resolved



# Public Oversight

## 4

In 2024, it marked a decade since the adoption of a fundamental federal law in the Russian Federation setting the legal framework for organizing and exercising public oversight over the activities of authorities at all levels and other bodies and organizations exerting separate public powers.<sup>97</sup>

The adoption of the Public Oversight Law in 2014 was a significant step forward in the development of civil society in the Russian Federation and, in a sense, an act of trust by the state authorities in the Russian civil society.

## Public oversight — a new standard of state-civil society relations

Over the past ten years, significant progress has been achieved in the development of the institution of public oversight in the Russian Federation. Currently, public oversight is not only one of the key instruments ensuring transparency and openness of the activities of state authorities, local self-government bodies, and other bodies and organizations in the exercise of their public powers, but also effectively a new standard of state-civil society

relations and an actual mechanism of direct democracy consistently evolving in our country.

Additionally, public oversight has become one of the important tools for fostering international dialog with civil society organizations from foreign countries. For example, on March 27, 2017, a model law “On the Basics of Public Oversight” was adopted by resolution N° 46-19 of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS member states in Saint Petersburg.

However, the decade of practical application of the Law on Public Oversight has revealed certain gaps and legal contradictions, which dictate the need for its further improvement.

*Public inspection of urban infrastructure objects in the Republic of Ingushetia within the framework of the Zero-day of the “Community” forum. August 21, 2024. Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation*

Particularly noteworthy are the following points:

- Establishment of a concrete mechanism for implementing the provision mandating authorities and other bodies and organizations to consider the proposals, recommendations, and conclusions of public oversight subjects, along with the legal consequences of failing to do so;
- More detailed regulation of the forms and mechanisms of interaction between public oversight subjects and the authorities, other bodies, and organizations, including the legal implications of such interaction;
- Establishment of administrative liability for noncompliance with the legislation of the Russian Federation on public oversight, including obstructing the lawful activities of public oversight entities;
- Reduction in the timeframe for consideration of inquiries (appeals) and the final documents from public oversight subjects by the authorities, other bodies, and organizations;
- Resolution of issues and specification of particular cases in which public oversight subjects can exercise their right to approach the court to protect the rights of an indefinite circle of individuals, as well as the rights and legitimate interests of public associations and other nongovernmental nonprofit organizations.

The application practice of the Federal Law on Basic Principles of Public Oversight in the Russian Federation also highlighted the issue of the training and enhancement of the qualifications and legal literacy level of public inspectors.<sup>98</sup> Public oversight serves not merely as an observation of the activities of authorities at all levels and other bodies and organizations vested with distinct public powers but as a mechanism for protecting the rights and freedoms of individuals and citizens, and the rights and legitimate interests of public associations and other nongovernmental nonprofit organizations. Consequently,

**Public oversight is not so much an observation of the activities of authorities at all levels, as it is a mechanism for protecting the rights and freedoms of individuals and citizens.**

public inspectors cannot substitute for controlling and law enforcement agencies with their actions, but should become real assistants to authorities, other bodies, and organizations through conducting public oversight activities, identifying systemic socially important issues, and formulating recommendations and proposals for their prompt resolution in close cooperation and constructive dialog with authorities, other bodies, and organizations.

This situation underscores the necessity of developing educational programs and qualification enhancement for public inspectors which include practical tasks related to initiating and performing various forms of public oversight, terms for citizen participation in public oversight events, rights and obligations of public inspectors, interaction procedures between public oversight subjects and authorities, other bodies, and organizations, and other significant provisions.

The organization and conduct of various forums and conferences at the all-Russian, interregional, and inter-municipal levels are seen as a promising direction, contributing to the legal literacy of public inspectors, whereby public oversight subjects can share best practices, discuss specific aspects of public oversight implementation, and receive practical skills.

Efforts to popularize the institution of public oversight and engage more active citizens, including youth, fostering their interest in public activity, and developing skills necessary for implementing public oversight will also be facilitated by:

- Organization and conduct of various informational campaigns, including those based in higher education institutions, aimed at increasing citizens’ awareness of the goals, tasks, and forms of public oversight, and the possibilities for citizen participation in it;
- Holding contests to identify best practices of public oversight implementation in various spheres of public relations and recognizing the most active and effective public inspectors;<sup>99</sup>
- Development and implementation of nonmaterial incentives for public inspectors<sup>100</sup> directed at enhancing their motivation and acknowledging their achievements.





## Institute of public councils at government bodies

The legal regulation regarding the formation of public councils within federal executive bodies traces back to August 2005, when the Government of the Russian Federation adopted Decree No. 481. This decree regulated the formation of public councils at federal ministries, for which the Government of the Russian Federation exercises leadership, as well as at federal services and agencies subordinate to these ministries, and other federal services and agencies managed by the Government of the Russian Federation.

A year later, the President of the Russian Federation issued Decree No. 842, which governs the formation of public councils at federal ministries, federal services, and federal agencies, whose operations are directed by the President of the Russian Federation, including those that are subordinate to these federal ministries.

While public councils at federal executive bodies do not possess any authoritative powers, they have actively facilitated the participation of citizens in addressing socially significant issues within the scope of competence of government bodies and organizations.

Since 2014, public councils have been legally classified as subjects of public oversight. This means that, in addition to their advisory and consultative functions as specified institutions of civil society, they have also been given the role of monitoring the activities and decisions of government bodies and organizations.

A prime example of active collaboration between government bodies and civil society institutions is the establishment of public councils at federal executive bodies.

In 2024, there were 49 public councils<sup>101</sup> functioning at federal executive bodies managed by the Government of the Russian Federation. Of these, 16 were at federal ministries, 20 at federal services, and 13 at federal agencies.<sup>102</sup> Additionally, 11 public councils were established at federal executive bodies under the President of the Russian Federation.<sup>103</sup>

In total, the public councils at federal executive bodies, managed by the Government of the Russian Federation, include over 1,200 members.<sup>104</sup> The formation of public councils at government bodies is conducted on a competitive basis, with the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation organizing the selection process.

**In 2024, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, as the organizer of the competition for public councils at federal executive bodies, conducted 51 competitions.**

These included 27 primary selection competitions for candidates to become members of public councils, and 24 competitions to replace outgoing members and for the additional recruitment of candidates.

The activities of public councils become particularly significant at regional and especially municipal levels, where it is crucial to quickly communicate citizens' well-reasoned positions on proposed or existing socially significant decisions to the authorities.

The effectiveness of public councils at regional and municipal government bodies remains a traditional topic of discussion across various platforms, including the Civic Chamber of Russia. Wide powers of public councils, secured at the legislative level, and the extensive involvement of the population in the work of public councils, combined with the absence of a unified system and approaches to organizing the activities of public councils in the regions of the Russian Federation, have generated considerable interest among those involved in ensuring public oversight and those interested in this area of activity. This has created

## Public Councils under federal executive authorities, subordinate to the government of the Russian Federation

### General information

**48**

public councils under federal executive authorities, (there were 49 until June 2024)

**1,287**

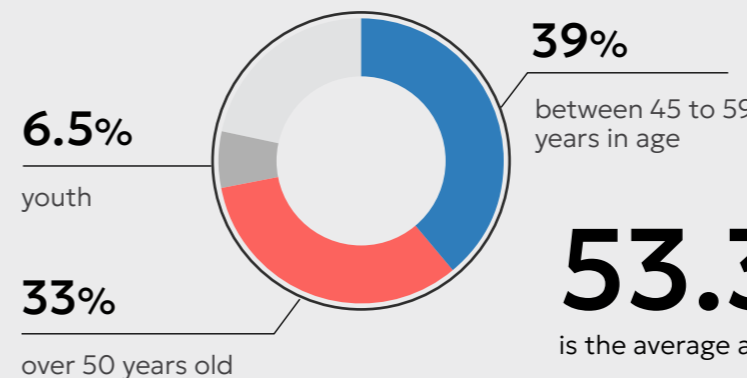
members are part of the current compositions of public councils under federal executive authorities

**35**

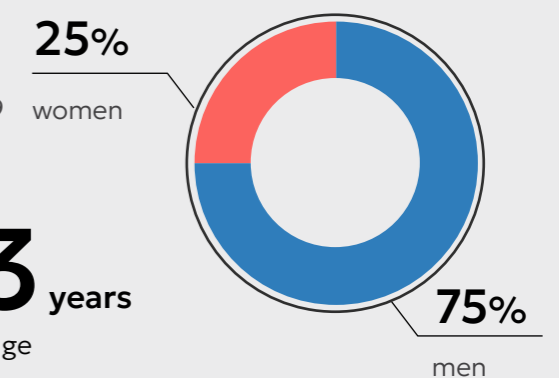
members of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation serve on 22 public councils under federal executive authorities

### Profile of a public council member under federal executive authorities

#### AGE COMPOSITION OF THE PUBLIC COUNCIL



#### GENDER COMPOSITION OF THE PUBLIC COUNCIL



### Procedure for forming public councils under federal executive authorities



**COMPOSITION OF THE PUBLIC COUNCIL**  
from 16 to 40 individuals





a demand for both the most basic materials (on the formation of councils, on organizing their activities) and unique practices (approaches to quantitative and qualitative composition of councils, features of presenting the results of councils' work in the public space, etc.) regarding the activities of public councils at the regional and municipal government levels.

In 2024, the Civic Chamber of Russia conducted a large-scale study of the practices of forming and organizing the activities of public councils at regional and municipal government levels, resulting in the preparation of a Special Report "On the State of Public Councils under Regional and Municipal Authorities."

The Special Report reflects various topics in the practical formation and organization of public councils at regional and municipal levels: legal regulation of the creation and functioning of public councils, approaches to forming the composition of public councils, a profile of public councils was formed, addressing issues of providing methodological support to public councils and evaluating the effectiveness of their activities, and summarizing and forming the most relevant proposals to improve the efficiency of public councils.

The study identified a number of systemic issues in the activities of public councils under regional authorities and local governments:

- The majority of the Russian Federation's entities have adopted processes for forming public council memberships, assessment methods, and selection criteria for candidates that lack transparent and understandable procedures to ensure the objectivity of public council formation, and to guarantee its autonomy, impartiality, and independence from the authority under which it is created.

## Profile of Public Councils in regions of the Russian Federation

### Quantitative composition

Ranging

from **66** to **>600**

(minimum value for a region)

members is the total number of members of public councils under regional authorities per region

**10**

people is the average number of members in a single public council under regional authorities in the regions of the Russian Federation

Ranging

from **33** to **>1,900**

(minimum value for a region)

members is the total number of members of public councils under local governance bodies per region

**13**

people is the average number of members in a single public council under local governance bodies in a region

### Age and gender composition

**~ 52 years**

is the average age of members of public councils at all levels

24–26 years is the average age of the youngest members, and 83–86 years is the age of the oldest members within the composition of public councils in the regions.

**6%**

is the representation of youth in the composition of public councils at all levels

In public councils under regional executive authorities, more men are present — 58%, while the opposite situation is found in public councils under local governance bodies, where more than half of the average composition is made up of women — 57%.



Presentation of the Special Report by the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation "Public Councils under Federal and Regional Executive Authorities: Problems and Prospects" within the framework of the final forum "Community" in Moscow. November 2, 2024. Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

- In the overwhelming majority of cases, the procedure for forming public councils under local governments is not transparent. Decisions on the inclusion of certain candidates in the public council are most often made directly by the head of the local administration without any competitive procedures and without the involvement of the regional or municipal civic chamber.
- The legislative status of public councils as entities of public oversight under local governments and territorial branches of federal executive authorities, operating in several Russian Federation entities, is not defined.
- The publicity and openness of public council activities are not properly ensured.
- Generally, there is no unified methodological basis for the activities of public councils in the regions, and existing successful practices of public council activities are not scalable.
- The assessment of the effectiveness of public councils under regional authorities and local governments is also not systematic. A unified methodology for conducting such an assessment at the regional and municipal levels is absent.

The current situation necessitates improving the legislation of the Russian Federation to establish uniform legal regulation throughout the entire territory of Russia concerning the creation and functioning of public councils under state authorities of the regions of the Russian Federation, public councils under local governments, and civic chambers (councils) of municipal entities.

Read the special report "On the state of public councils under regional and municipal authorities."







## Public inspections as an effective tool of public oversight



Public inspection of transport infrastructure in the city of Kaluga within the Zero-day of the “Community” forum. July 17, 2024. Press service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

One form of public oversight that allows for on-site evaluation of compliance by authorized bodies and organizations with the requirements of Russian Federation legislation, identifying not only existing problematic issues but also the best practices for further dissemination, is public inspection.<sup>105</sup>

This year, the Civic Chamber has intensified its activities in this area: by the decision of the Civic Chamber Council, a series of public inspections were conducted across various public relations fields.

For the first time in 2024, within the framework of the “Community” forums, initiated by the Civic Chamber’s Commission on Physical Culture, Sports, and Healthy Lifestyles, a series of public inspections were conducted on street sports infrastructure objects such as skate parks, workout, and parkour sites in Irkutsk, Kaluga, and Magas. To create

a new system for evaluating and monitoring the quality of newly created sports facilities, dozens of experts were involved in assessing various parameters of specialized infrastructure oriented towards street sports.

The inspections resulted in serious concerns regarding several sports facilities, and recommendations were made for the executive authorities to address the identified deficiencies. However, despite detailed analysis and expert recommendations from the Civic Chamber of Russia, most facilities continue to operate in their original state, posing dangers to children, teenagers, and athletes who use them. Some facilities are under investigation by the investigative committee or the prosecutor’s office.

According to experts from the Civic Chamber, addressing such issues systematically requires considering the creation of a new public structure responsible for the access and acceptance of specialized sports infrastructure facilities. This initiative would involve the communities for whom these facilities are designed.

At the initiative of the Civic Chamber Commission on Safety and Cooperation with the Public Supervisory

Commission, in partnership with the Main Directorate for Road Traffic Safety of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia and the Information Center for Motor Roads “Informatodor,” a nationwide informational project called “Road Traps” is being implemented in the Civic Chamber.<sup>106</sup> This project aims to identify sections of Russian roads where conditions have been artificially created that encourage motorists to violate traffic rules and to facilitate the prompt resolution of these problematic zones. Any resident of the country can report problematic road sections by filling out a special form<sup>107</sup>. The submissions received under the “Road Traps” project provide the basis for initiating and conducting public inspections<sup>108</sup>, after which information about identified violations and recommendations for their elimination and road situation improvement are sent to the authorized bodies. For instance, during public inspections in the cities of Tula<sup>109</sup>, Smolensk<sup>110</sup>, Tver<sup>111</sup>, and Voronezh, over 20 road sections were examined in total to analyze the current state of organization and regulation of road traffic in these cities, assess compliance with the requirements of the Traffic Rules in the Russian Federation and other regulatory legal acts in the field of road safety, and identify instances of violations (“Road Traps”).

In August of this year, the civic chambers of the regions of the Russian Federation, with the assistance of the Civic Chamber, conducted an inspection of the work of medico-psychological consultation offices in state medical organizations, including their equipment according to approved standards<sup>112</sup>. In total, the public inspection covered more than 230 state medical organizations in 36 regions of the Russian Federation<sup>113</sup>.

The results of the inspection showed that practically in all medical organizations (98%) where the public inspection took place, medico-psychological consultation offices have already been established. In most of these, the recommended

Traditionally, during the Zero-day of the “Community” forums, members of the relevant Civic Chamber commissions evaluate:

- *The quality of roads, social and communal infrastructure objects improved under the federal project “Formation of a Comfortable Urban Environment”; the operation of sewage and heating facilities, as well as the progress of the program for the relocation of citizens from unsafe housing.*<sup>114</sup>
- *The condition of sports facilities and the development of sports infrastructure.*<sup>115</sup>
- *The operation of transport and the development of transport infrastructure, including the territorial connectivity of regions.*<sup>116</sup>

The results of the inspections are subsequently discussed at thematic sessions of the “Community” forums with government authorities, regional residents, and the professional community.

Based on the public inspections conducted, reports have been prepared containing recommendations for the authorized government bodies of the respective subjects of the Russian Federation, aimed at increasing the efficiency of the existing regulatory system in these areas.<sup>117</sup>

staffing standards (one medical psychologist position per 25,000 population) were fulfilled, and the equipment standards, including an automated workplace with Internet access and a voice recorder, were met (74%). At the time of the inspection, in 83% of cases, the medico-psychological consultation offices were open for patient visits. In 69% of medical organizations, in addition to appointments made through the “doctor-to-doctor” system (i.e., appointments scheduled via a primary care physician based on medical indications), patients could independently make electronic appointments with a medical psychologist through the medical organization’s information kiosk or the Unified Portal of State and Municipal Services. In all medical organizations, assistance by a medical psychologist in the medico-psychological consultation office was provided free of charge.





During a public review, medical psychologists noted an increase in requests for professional medico-psychological assistance from participants of the special military operation and their family members. This underscores the need for enhanced methodological support for the work of medical psychologists dealing with combat participants and their families.

The examples provided above, along with many others, demonstrate the effectiveness of the mechanism of public reviews aimed at identifying current issues of genuine concern to the population, developing measures to address them, and reducing social tension in society.

To enhance the effectiveness of public reviews in various areas of social relations, develop a unified approach to their conduct, improve the legislation of the Russian Federation in this sphere, and

attract public attention to the conduct and popularization of public reviews, it is crucial to ensure the consolidation of positive experiences, systematize them, and subsequently spread and implement their best practices in the activities of entities engaged in public oversight throughout the Russian Federation.

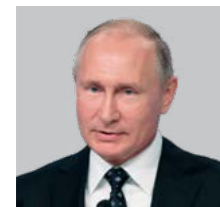
This year, on the initiative of the Civic Chamber’s Commission on Public Oversight and Work with Citizens’ Appeals, the Civic Chamber developed methodological recommendations for conducting public oversight in the healthcare sector. These recommendations focus on public reviews of the activities of medical organizations within the state and municipal healthcare systems, as well as other medical organizations providing healthcare services under the program of state guarantees for the free provision of medical care to citizens, in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation.

## Public review of draft regulatory legal acts

One significant form of public oversight, which allows for public access to the legislative process, is the public review of bills and other regulatory legal acts with particular social significance.

Representatives of the Civic Chamber of Russia, as one of the key institutions of civil society, are actively involved in the legislative process, effectively interacting with government authorities.

An example of such interaction is the public review of the federal bill No. 639663-8 “On Amendments to Parts One and Two of the Tax Code of the Russian Federation and Certain Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation.”



“Today’s Russia requires broad public debate that would yield practical results, when public initiatives become part of public policy, while society monitors their execution.

I think that all bills, key government decisions, and strategic plans should pass a so-called initial public hearings involving NPOs and other civil society institutions.”<sup>118</sup>

– V.V. Putin

President of the Russian Federation

Civic Chamber participated in the discussions of this bill starting from the stage of developing the legislative initiative. On May 20, 2024, during a meeting of the Expert Council of the State Duma Committee on Budget and Taxes, representatives of the Civic Chamber actively participated in the discussion of the proposals of the Government of the Russian Federation to improve tax legislation,<sup>119</sup> along with representatives of the legislative and executive authorities. Later, with the participation of representatives from all 89 regions (both in person and via video conference), members of the Civic Chamber delivered speeches at the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation during parliamentary hearings.<sup>120</sup>

Following the parliamentary hearings, recommendations were prepared<sup>121</sup>, which the authors of the federal bill No. 639663-8 “On Amendments to Parts One and Two of the Tax Code of the Russian Federation and Certain Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation”<sup>122</sup> relied upon during the drafting process.

Prior to the public discussions held in the Civic Chamber on June 10, 2024, the bill was discussed by civic chambers in the regions of the Russian Federation. The Civic Chamber of Russia consolidated and presented the positions of 45 regional civic chambers during the public review.

Participants in the public discussion supported the federal bill, emphasizing that the proposed innovations are citizen-oriented and aimed at Russia’s development. In discussing provisions of the bill that provide for the introduction of a progressive taxation scale, participants in the public hearings expressed confidence that a progressive scale would contribute to reducing inequality and income redistribution.

However, experts highlighted the importance of considering the specific labor conditions in the Far North regions and equivalent localities, where salaries are calculated with the so-called northern allowances and regional coefficients.

Later, the President of the Russian Federation noted that in the new progressive personal income tax scale, the allowances for work in the Far North should not be considered.<sup>123</sup>

Additionally, participants in the public review proposed ensuring the possibility of applying a reduced insurance contribution rate (7.6%) for charitable nonprofit organizations, similar to the measures provided in the bills for insurance contribution payers recognized as small or medium-sized enterprises engaged in certain types of economic activities.

During the public discussion, it was noted that, given the increase in state revenue, it is important to ensure the effectiveness of its expenditure. For this purpose, there is currently relevant instrumentation available. The Government of the Russian Federation has built a digital control system that allows real-time monitoring of delays in deadlines and deviations from target values.<sup>124</sup>

Summarizing the results of the public review, the participants unanimously agreed that the proposed federal bill is the result of constructive dialog and detailed discussion of the proposed amendments by civil society in cooperation with government authorities. The proposed changes aim to determine long-term sustainable sources of financing for budgetary obligations, which, in turn, will help achieve national development goals and ensure well-being and decent living conditions for every citizen.

Overall, the Civic Chamber conducts public reviews on up to 30 draft regulatory legal acts annually.



# Key public examinations of normative legal acts in 2024

Date	Bill	Proposals of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation	Date	Bill	Proposals of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation
January 22	On creative industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is important to maintain the open list of powers of state authorities of the regions of the Russian Federation in the field of creative industries as provided in the bill.</li> <li>The order of creation, features, and conditions of operation of creative clusters should be detailed in the bill.</li> <li>The proposed types of creative industries in the bill should be supplemented to include areas like public relations, public opinion research, conference and exhibition organization, and other communication industries.</li> </ul>	June 10	On the adjustment of the tax system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The legislative initiative is the result of a constructive dialog and detailed discussions of the proposed amendments by civil society together with state authorities, and the proposed changes are aimed at defining long-term sustainable sources of funding for budgetary obligations, which, in turn, will allow achieving national development goals, ensuring the well-being and decent living conditions for every citizen.</li> </ul>
May 20	On the notarial certification of real estate gift agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The notarization requirement for mandatory certification of real estate gift agreements is intended to strengthen civil transactions.</li> <li>The exception that does not require mandatory notarization if the transaction is between close relatives raises concerns. Marriage or close kinship does not exclude the possibility of violating property interests.</li> <li>The term “close relatives” lacks a universal definition.</li> </ul> <p>Not all types of real estate should be covered by the disposition of the designed norm. In practice, there could be cases of gifting industrial or other nonresidential real estate. Considering that the bill does not limit the range of subjects who can be parties to the transactions, further elaboration on this issue is necessary.</p>	June 17	On the extension of the state (municipal) social order and its expansion to the entire territory of the Russian Federation	Monitoring and research into the implementation of the state (municipal) social order have demonstrated the demand and positive social impact of the participation of nongovernmental organizations in the state (municipal) social order. It is important to continue this activity.
June 10	On the adjustment of the tax system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposed changes are focused on citizens and aimed at the development of Russia.</li> <li>A progressive taxation system will contribute to reducing inequality and redistributing income.</li> <li>It is important to consider the labor specifics in the Far North and equivalent areas. Later, the President of the Russian Federation noted that the new progressive income tax scale should not take into account the extra payments for work in the Far North.</li> <li>The possibility of applying a reduced insurance contribution rate (7.6%) for charitable nonprofit organizations.</li> </ul>	September 3	On the establishment of the concept of “Genocide of the Soviet People”	Amend the Russian Federation’s Criminal Code to ensure criminal protection for the memory of Soviet genocide victims during the Great Patriotic War.
			September 11	On the harvesting of wildlife listed in the Red Book of the Russian Federation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Species of wildlife included in the Red Book should not be considered as hunting resources.</li> <li>The possibility of harvesting for the purpose of alleviating the suffering of sick or injured animals capable of recovery is debatable. Diseases in wild animals are a natural biological process. It is necessary to establish conditions and grounds for making decisions about the lethal harvesting of injured animals to end their suffering, in ways that exclude risks of possible abuse, including the harvesting of healthy specimens or injured animals capable of independent recovery and survival in the wild.</li> <li>The clarification is required that the capture of wildlife is permitted only for their conservation purposes, specifically for keeping and breeding in captivity, semi-wild conditions, and artificially created habitats for the preservation of the gene pool, as well as for treatment, rehabilitation, and return to their natural habitat.</li> </ul>





# Citizen Appeals

# 5

The Constitution of the Russian Federation guarantees the right of citizens to address governmental and local governance bodies personally, as well as to send individual and collective appeals. This right includes the ability to make requests, complaints, or proposals not only to any government body but also to any official, up to the President of Russia.

*The importance of this feedback mechanism cannot be overstated, as it directly influences the quality of governance and the level of trust citizens have in governmental bodies, fostering the establishment of an open and transparent dialog between state structures and society.*

*For the Civic Chamber of Russia, working with citizen appeals is a crucial tool for direct interaction with civil society. Detailed examination and comprehensive analysis of these appeals allow for assessing the effectiveness of state and public institutions, identifying problematic issues in public relations, and finding the most effective mechanisms for resolving them.*

## Review of citizen appeals to the Civic Chamber in 2024

The Civic Chamber of Russia conducts daily analyses and promptly addresses appeals that contain socially significant initiatives and issues affecting the interests of a wide range of people, as well as issues of civic unity.

The questions, problems, and proposals from citizens and organizations

presented in these appeals not only serve as informational occasions for clarifying legislation on Civic Chamber platforms but also, after thorough review and discussion, become legislative initiatives and grounds for public oversight activities, and inspections by law enforcement and regulatory authorities.

*Operation of the Call Center for the Direct Line of the President of the Russian Federation V. V. Putin. December 13, 2023. Sergey Savostyanov / TASS*

## Appeals from citizens and organizations to the Civic Chamber of Russia in 2024\*

Received and reviewed

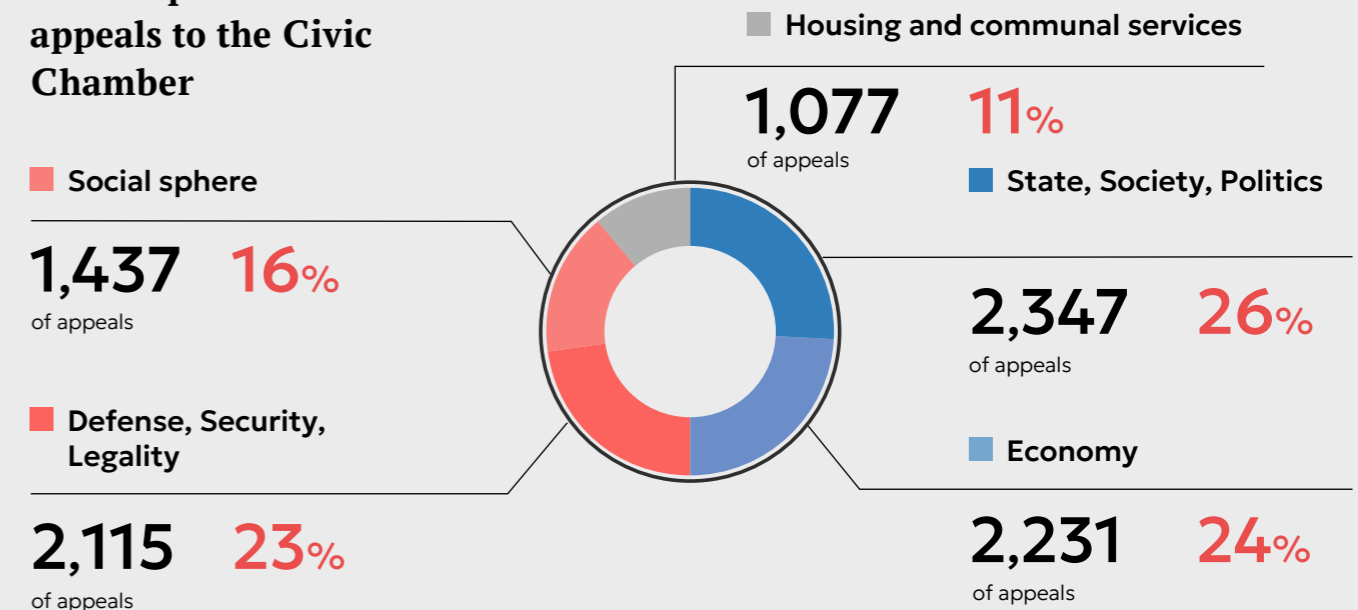
**9,207**

appeals

**3,306**

calls to the hotline

### Main topics of citizen appeals to the Civic Chamber



#### State, society, politics:

- Functioning of government bodies (federal and regional level, as well as local governance bodies);
- Significant events in societal life;
- Personal evaluation of the sociopolitical structure of the country.

#### Economy:

- Natural resources and environmental protection;
- Economic activities;
- Information and digital transformation;
- Finance and banking.

#### Defense, security, legality:

- Protection of the rights of special military operation veterans;
- Security and maintenance of public order;
- Justice.

#### Social sphere:

- Education, science, culture, media;
- Healthcare, physical education and sports, tourism;
- Social security and social insurance;
- Family;
- Labor.

#### Housing and utilities sector:

- Provision of housing to citizens, use of the housing stock, social guarantees in the housing sector;
- Public utilities;
- General provisions of housing legislation.

\* As of December 2, 2024.



Special attention is given to appeals concerning issues with significant public resonance, as well as collective complaints and grievances submitted by socially vulnerable groups, such as families with many children, veterans, persons with disabilities, minors, and low-income citizens whose rights and freedoms have been violated and not restored by contacting local authorities and institutions.

When reviewing such appeals, the Civic Chamber adheres to the principle of providing targeted assistance to citizens and aims for an objective and definitive resolution of each appeal. This is achieved through legal consultation with the

applicant, sending inquiries to authorized agencies, involving socially-oriented nonprofit organizations that provide free qualified legal assistance, and, if necessary, organizing on-site visits by members of the Civic Chamber.

In its work with appeals from citizens and organizations, the Civic Chamber utilizes and develops a communication platform that engages and involves various institutions, including regional ombudsmen in key areas, public chambers of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, public councils at federal and regional executive authorities, prosecutor's offices, and other federal and regional

oversight bodies, professional legal communities, and public organizations in the field of promoting the protection of civil rights, including trade unions.

In addition to the familiar tools for handling citizen appeals, such as hotlines and direct lines, conducting surveys, and receiving submissions through the electronic reception office on the Civic Chamber's website, new tools are being employed. For example, Telegram chats are now used to involve both applicants and representatives of public organizations and government bodies, significantly enhancing the responsiveness and effectiveness in solving citizens' problems.

digital services for the prompt resolution of issues, enhancing the legal and medical literacy of the population, and activating public oversight activities in social sphere. To date, the project is represented by 251 medical chats in 50 regions of the country, engaging over 650,000 citizens who are users of the state healthcare system. Significant advantages of the medical chat system within the federal project "Health Control" include the ability to respond promptly to citizens' inquiries online without unnecessary bureaucratic procedures, which consequently reduces the administrative burden on medical organizations concerning the review of citizens' inquiries and complaints.

### Citizen appeals offices at "Community" forums

In 2024, citizen appeals offices were launched at the "Community" forums of the Civic Chamber of Russia, becoming new venues for addressing the most pressing issues of citizens. These citizen appeals offices operated in Irkutsk, Kaluga, and Magas. Members of the Civic Chamber of Russia, staff from the Department for Working with Citizens' Appeals of the Civic Chamber, employees from the offices handling citizens' appeals in the administrations of higher officials of the Russian Federation's regions, consulting lawyers from the Association of Lawyers of Russia, as well as a volunteer corps of lawyers consisting of senior law students and practicing lawyers participating as volunteers, were actively involved in the work of these citizen appeals offices.

All visitors to the citizen appeals offices could file and submit appeals directly to the Civic Chamber of Russia, receive general advice on the procedures for submitting appeals to other authorized agencies, get free legal consultations, and in some cases, receive on-the-spot assistance if the issue could be resolved quickly. During the operation of the citizen appeals offices, members of the Civic Chamber of Russia traveled with representatives of local



*Opening of the citizens appeals offices at the "Community" Forum, Irkutsk, May 30, 2024. Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation*

administrations to the locations for prompt review of appeals, examined the situations, and proposed solutions to the issues raised by applicants.

## New approaches to handling citizens' appeals in the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

### Digital tools for interaction with citizens

New digital feedback tools with citizens are currently gaining significant traction: chatbots on social media, virtual assistants, and feedback platforms.

These new formats for working with citizens' appeals contribute to improving the availability and quality of government services for the country's citizens, enhance forms of public oversight and independent evaluation of service quality, and create digital tools for solving citizens' problems while facilitating direct dialog between society and the government.

**The use of digital technologies in handling citizens' appeals elevates this work to a qualitatively new level.**

With the support of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, medical and legal chats and psychological support chats for veterans of the special military operation and their families are operational, and patient webinars and broadcasts with doctors are being conducted.

Since 2022, under the auspices of the Civic Chamber of Russia, the federal project "Health Control" has been implemented,<sup>125</sup> aiming to improve the quality and accessibility of state medical care for citizens by creating

A notable example of this work involved a resident of Kaluga addressing the "Community" forum's citizen appeals offices with two issues. The first issue concerned a playground situated above thermal networks, which the applicant believed posed a potential threat to children in the event of an accident. The second problem highlighted by the applicant involved unauthorized parking, in his view, on the city's central square, causing hazardous situations and detracting from its appearance.

Representatives of the Civic Chamber of Russia's Commission on Demography, Family, Children, and Traditional Family Values Protection promptly organized a site visit to the playground location and, alongside city administration representatives, conducted an inspection. The inspection revealed that the networks passed through secure reinforced concrete channels, posing no threat to children. Additionally, parking areas were inspected with the assistance of traffic police staff and city officials. The issue of unauthorized parking was attributed to the absence of appropriate traffic signs, which was swiftly remedied.





# Public Diplomacy



## 6

In 2024, the international relations system continued to undergo a period of transformation. Amid their systemic crisis, a new dimension of principles for international cooperation began to take shape, based on considerations of national interests, multipolarity, and equitable approaches to interstate interaction. The commitment of the world majority of countries to multilateralism and adherence to international law, including the goals and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the establishment of intergovernmental relations on a democratic, transparent, and equitable basis, have been solidified as the foundation for the formation of a future global polycentric order.

## Enhancing interaction with the countries of the Global South

In light of current events, Russia has proposed a fundamentally different vision of the world order's architecture compared to the positions of other players on the international stage. This vision not only involves joint efforts to build a new international security system within the framework of today's existing institutions and negotiation platforms of the multipolar world (such as BRICS, SCO, EAEU, and others) but also emphasizes establishing a new balance of power based on traditional values and coordinating the efforts of the world majority in a post-globalism environment. Throughout 2024, a coordinated policy was implemented to promote the Russian cultural code —

norms and principles based on the decree issued by the President of the Russian Federation on November 9, 2022, No. 809, "On Approval of the Fundamentals of State Policy for the Preservation and Strengthening of Traditional Russian Spiritual and Moral Values."

*XVI BRICS Summit.  
Plenary Session of the  
XVI BRICS Summit  
in the "Outreach" /  
"BRICS Plus" format.  
October 24, 2024.  
Alexey Danichev /  
Photo Hosting Agency  
brics-russia2024.ru*

**The formation of a polycentric international architecture, especially highlighted by the expansion of BRICS during Russia's chairmanship, played a positive role in establishing and strengthening social dialog.**

**Against the backdrop of changes in the global world architecture, the role of public diplomacy continued to grow.**

In the context of increasingly unconstructive and deadlocked policies of unfriendly governments towards Russia, alongside the persistent efforts of Western political elites and media to create a negative image of our country and demonize Russia, several public institutions in foreign countries have generally maintained, and often intensified, their contacts with Russian partners.

An important focus for representatives of the third sector, in general, and the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, in particular, has been systematic efforts to provide truthful information to representatives of the nonprofit sector and citizens of foreign countries about the reasons, progress, and objectives of the special military operation of the Russian Federation in Ukraine. With the assistance of Russian diplomatic missions abroad, relevant informational and explanatory work has been carried out.

A significant role as an instrument of soft power was played by the World Festival of Youth held in March 2024 in Sochi. Organized in accordance with a Decree of President Vladimir Putin for the purpose of developing international youth cooperation, the large-scale event brought together over 20,000 youth leaders from 190 countries. It elevated the dialog on youth policy implementation to a qualitatively new level while showcasing Russia's openness, hospitality, and cultural and national diversity to future generations of world leaders. The festival served as a platform for consolidating views and positions on a wide array of issues, and it demonstrated the youth's commitment to jointly building a fair multipolar world based on cooperation and a balance of interests, rather than on the concept of hegemony of a Western unipolar world.

Vladimir Putin's decisive victory in the March 2024 presidential elections in Russia demonstrated to the international community the unconditional support of the Russian leader and his foreign policy course by the country's population. The openness and transparency of the electoral processes in Russia were clearly confirmed through the organization of independent international election observation.





## Election observation

### International election observers and experts at the Presidential elections of the Russian Federation

As one of the key institutions of public oversight, the Civic Chamber is actively involved in observing electoral processes both within Russia and abroad. In cooperation with the Central Election Commission, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, the State Duma, and the Council of Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, the Civic Chamber organizes international election observation of national electoral procedures, inviting experts from around the world.

**During the observation of the 2024 presidential elections in Russia, 1,115 observers and experts from 129 countries took part, underscoring the significant interest of the international community in the Russian electoral system.**

Among them, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation invited 185 observers from 58 countries. The invited experts included specialists in electoral processes, representing both national and international organizations engaged in election observation.

One of the key elements of the work of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation was the Monitoring Center for citizen election observation, which operated from March 14 to 18. Visiting the center was part of the program for all international observers working in Moscow. From March 15 to 17, the Monitoring Center hosted over 200 representatives from more than 50 countries.<sup>126</sup> This center provided a clear demonstration to international observers of the quality of the electoral

process organization in Russia, showcasing its reliability, transparency, and high level of digitalization, serving as a significant example for foreign colleagues.

### International election observation

In 2024, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation continued its active involvement in the field of international election observation, aimed at strengthening international cooperation, promoting Russian standards in electoral monitoring, and studying electoral practices in various countries around the world.

Traditionally, a wide range of members of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation participate in observation missions, predominantly those with experience in electoral monitoring or organization of elections.

In 2024, observation missions of the Civic Chamber were accredited at general elections in Pakistan, South Africa, Mexico, Uruguay, and Namibia, and presidential elections in Venezuela and Sri Lanka. Strengthening relations with foreign NPOs and CSOs specializing in election observation allows for the organization of joint international missions, as was the case in the Uruguayan elections, where a member of the Civic Chamber was invited as an expert to a joint observation mission by the Electoral and Political Institutional Studies Center of the Faculty of Legal and Social Sciences of the National University of La Plata (Argentina) and the South American University Institute of Uruguay (ISUR).

**The observation missions of the Civic Chamber abroad serve as an effective tool of Russian public diplomacy.**

Within the framework of observation missions, members of the Civic Chamber delegations meet with representatives of local bodies responsible for organizing elections, political parties, and public movements. During these meetings, they discuss issues related to ensuring electoral transparency, security measures, as well as the specific features of electoral systems. They study technical and technological mechanisms for information transmission and vote counting, as well as approaches to the digitalization of the electoral process.

Observers note active political competition, the loss of positions by parties that have dominated politics for decades (like in South Africa), the coming to power of the opposition (as in Sri Lanka), and even attempts to organize a “color revolution” (such as in Venezuela). Despite experiencing a rather turbulent situation in the country’s capital, Caracas, which the authorities managed to calm, the Civic Chamber’s observation mission did not record any major violations and issued a communiqué stating that the elections complied with local laws.

The current geopolitical realities increasingly demonstrate the significance and relevance of the work being carried out, which objectively contributes to the expansion of Russian humanitarian influence worldwide. The observation missions of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation allow for the activation of dialog with partner structures, establishing lively dialog with political forces and key stakeholders in the electoral process in the countries of deployment.



*Members of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation’s observation mission at a polling station. Elections of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia. July 23, 2023. Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation*

Since 2022, the work of the Civic Chamber’s observation missions has been documented in special reports summarizing the results of election monitoring. The report analyzes various approaches practiced worldwide both in the organization of the electoral process and electoral legislation.

The special report, also translated into English, serves as a kind of business card in meetings with foreign partners and representatives of international election observation missions, enhancing the effectiveness of establishing connections with national, regional, interstate, and international organizations specializing in election issues and electoral monitoring, and demonstrating the status of the Civic Chamber as a center of electoral expertise. This comparative analysis is unique in the Russian-language journalistic and academic literature.

The report for the year 2023 included reviews of the results of the Civic Chamber’s missions in the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Zimbabwe, the Kingdom of Eswatini, and the Argentine Republic. The foreword to the report was authored by Valentina Matvienko, Chairperson of the Council of Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, Chairperson of the Council of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS Member Nations, and Pavel Andreev, a member of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

*Read the Special Report of the Civic Chamber on the deployment of observation missions during elections abroad in 2023.*







## Formats of cultural and humanitarian cooperation

*In its current composition, the Civic Chamber has resumed the work of the **Coordination Council for International Cooperation**. Established in 2020, it aims to unite the efforts of civil society representatives on international issues and become a platform for open exchange of opinions on key questions of Russian public diplomacy.*

### BRICS Civil Forum

With the participation of the Civic Chamber, the IX BRICS Civil Forum was held in Moscow in July 2024. It brought together over 450 civil society representatives from more than 20 countries, including both current and potential members of the interstate group. Over two days, participants from the member-states discussed the goals and principles of fair development and an equitable world order, sovereign economic and financial development, and

issues of education, healthcare, ethics of new technologies, human wellbeing, and more. The discussions resulted in proposals on the priorities of the BRICS agenda, as well as several civil initiatives within this agenda.

A member of the Civic Chamber of Russia moderated the session “Cultural Bridges of BRICS Countries.” Among the consolidated proposals developed by the session participants was the idea of unifying symbols, such as the creation of a BRICS anthem and the implementation of the “National Cultural Seasons” project, which will allow BRICS countries to regularly represent each other in partner countries of the union. Other suggestions included the unification of standards for the exchange of mobile cultural objects between BRICS countries and more. The forum’s outcomes led to recommendations developed by civil society, which were summarized in the declaration of the XVI BRICS Summit held from October 22–24 in Kazan.



*Members of the Civic Chamber of Russia with representatives of foreign delegations at the session “Cultural Bridges of BRICS Countries,” held within the framework of the “Culture, Sports, Tourism” Working Group of the BRICS Civil Forum. July 4, 2024. Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation*

### “Cancel Culture” Report

In 2024, work continued on the doctrinal understanding of the contemporary Western ideology known as cancel culture, conducted by a member of the Civic Chamber of Russia for two years.

On September 14, 2023, the report ‘Modern Russophobia: “Cancel Culture” as a Totalitarian Cult’ was presented at the site of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation. Maria Zakharova from the Russian Foreign Ministry participated in the presentation.

The report thoroughly examined the reasons and prerequisites for the emergence of the “Cancel Culture” phenomenon and Russophobia as one of its specific manifestations, as well as the “new ethics”—a new iteration of the ideology of Western imperialism, which justifies the West’s right to interfere in the internal affairs of other states from a position of moral superiority.

Agents of the “new ethics” indoctrinate the youth and humanitarian elites of non-Western societies, imposing on them a holistic Western-centric view of current processes. Under the ideological guise, through globalization mechanisms, the West conducts a neo-colonial policy of resource extraction and maintaining the economic and political status quo. The West applies “cancel culture” to those who disagree with the existing dynamics—a set of measures aimed at erasing historical heritage and prominent figures from the global cultural and humanitarian space, as well as excluding states from international political-economic institutions and imposing restrictions on business relations with them. Regarding Russia, the West increasingly attempts to reconsider the outcomes of the Great Patriotic War.

As a result of the discussion of the report by the expert community within the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, an expanded, refined, and supplemented edition of the report was prepared. It was presented at the Civic Chamber on May 21, 2024, and translated into English for dissemination through the Russian foreign missions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The final version of the report was also presented to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Sergey Lavrov, and participants of the BRICS Civil Forum.

### Project on the development of public diplomacy with Latin American countries

In an era of global uncertainty, Latin America is becoming one of the vital vectors of our country’s international interaction, occupying a special place in Russia’s foreign relations as a friendly region open to mutually beneficial cooperation. The growing role of the Latin American region as one of the centers of new multipolarity fully aligns with Russian interests. Multilateral and constructive interaction between Russia and Latin American partners unveils new facets, success stories, and joint projects and initiatives initiated at the start of the new composition of the Civic Chamber since June 2023 and realized in 2024.

To strengthen the traditions of friendship and development of relations between the people of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Cuba, supporting cooperation in healthcare, culture, education, history, and other fields, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation and the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP), represented by its president, Hero of Cuba Fernando González Llorca, signed a memorandum of understanding and cooperation.

Contacts have been strengthened with Cuba’s largest public organization, the Committee for the Defense of the Revolution, led by Hero of Cuba Gerardo Hernández Nordelo. Over the year, a pilot project for establishing cultural dialog through organizing photo exhibitions by the Civic Chamber was successfully implemented. In particular, the “Wives of Heroes” exhibition was displayed for several months in various regions of the Republic of Cuba, informing the Cuban public about the humanitarian topics in the special military operation. Another exhibition showcasing the modern development of our country under sanctions—“Russia’s Successes and Achievements”—was also presented to the residents of six other Latin American countries besides Cuba.

In August 2024, with support from the Russian House in Mexico, the Civic Chamber’s exhibition “Children of Russia,” dedicated to the ethnic and cultural diversity of our country, was presented at the Cultural Festival of Cities, whose sites are included in the UNESCO World Heritage List, in Durango, Mexico.



An important format of public diplomacy in general and the Latin American project of the Civic Chamber in particular has become meetings in university auditoriums. Meetings with students studying the Russian language at the University of Havana and responses to their challenging questions, presentations before those interested in learning new information about Russia in three universities in Mexico City and the states of Mexico and Puebla, and organizing competitions about our country have provided an opportunity to assess the high demand for studying Russia and the desire to obtain information from reliable sources. A vivid testament to this thesis is the immediate response

## Cooperation at bilateral and multilateral levels

### International association of economic and social councils and similar institutions

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation is actively engaged on international platforms, representing Russian civil society and promoting its interests on a global scale. Participation in international forums and conferences allows the Chamber to effectively establish connections with partner institutions, exchange views on key issues of the global agenda. The work on international platforms covers important areas such as the protection of human rights, support for civic initiatives, and the development of public institutions.

In 2024, efforts continued in line with the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (AICESIS). After handing over the chairmanship to the Economic and Social Council of Curaçao, the Civic Chamber retained its status as a member of the governing Board of the Association. In addition to participating in the meetings of AICESIS's governing bodies, members of the Civic Chamber take part in drafting common documents of the Association to present on major international platforms.

In November 2024, a delegation from the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation participated in the annual meeting of the AICESIS General Assembly in Shanghai, China. On the sidelines of the meeting of the Association's highest

to the Civic Chamber's initiative to hold an international conference on preserving historical truth and cultural heritage from the leading university in Latin America — the University of São Paulo. In November 2024, a delegation from the Civic Chamber is invited to speak in various university auditoriums on this topic, which is very relevant, including for Brazil. Additionally, as part of the conference, a photo exhibition dedicated to the 80th anniversary of Victory will be held.

governing body, Russian civil society representatives held a series of meetings with representatives of the economic and social councils of AICESIS member countries, including Chinese partners, thereby strengthening the foundations of bilateral strategic interaction.

During these meetings, prospects for the development of bilateral cooperation and joint work within the framework of established partnership roadmaps in the field of social and economic development, sustainable development, and ecology were discussed. Special attention was paid to exchanging experiences in the field of social programs and the development of national civil society structures.

### Bilateral interaction

The Civic Chamber is establishing cooperation with civil society organizations in countries where there are no equivalents to the Civic Chamber in the form of economic and social councils, or where these councils are not members of AICESIS. During the year, meetings were held with

representatives of the Mexican movement "Antorcha", the National Economic Development and Labor Council of South Africa, and the National Commission of Social Organizations of Uruguay.

The round table "Ways and Opportunities to Preserve and Strengthen Trust Between Public Representatives and NPOs of Russia and Germany in Modern Conditions," held in October 2024 at the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation at the initiative of the International Public Fund "Russian Peace Foundation" and the Society "Russia — Germany," confirmed the commitment of constructively minded organizations from unfriendly states to build horizontal connections with Russian civil society institutions. The event provided an opportunity to discuss the establishment of connections between civil society representatives from Russia and Germany, the implementation of joint sociohumanitarian projects, as well as the search for new areas and formats of cooperation between Russian and German NPOs.

The visit of the Civic Chamber delegation to Greece in December 2024 and the signing of a memorandum with the Economic and Social Council of Greece once again refutes the attempt by Western political elites to isolate Russia and highlights the public's disagreement with the course set by these elites.

The steady development of bilateral contacts continued with a significant visit by the delegation of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation to



*Signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation and Interaction between the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation and the Economic and Social Council of the Hellenic Republic. Athens (Greece), December 1, 2024. Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation*

Vietnam in September 2024, during which a memorandum was renewed for another five-year term between the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation and the Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front.

The "Community" Forum has become a traditional meeting place for representatives of Russian NPOs and those from post-Soviet countries. The participation of the Civil Alliance of Kazakhstan delegation has become regular at the forum, and, for the first time, representatives of the National Association of Nongovernmental and Nonprofit Organizations of Uzbekistan attended.

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### The bilateral contacts developed by the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation in 2024 contributed to strengthening international cooperation, the development of civil institutions, and the advancement of social initiatives globally.

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Bilateral cooperation is one of the key areas of activity for the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation. Establishing contacts with foreign civil society institutions allows for the exchange of experiences and best practices, which fosters cooperation on important issues of the sociopolitical agenda.

The Civic Chamber is actively building partnerships with organizations from the Global South, enhancing coordination on a range of important themes. In the context of bilateral relations, topics such as sovereignty protection, the preservation of national traditions, cultural exchange, and ensuring transparency are discussed.



# Conclusion. Public initiatives for a New Era



# 7

In the coming year, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation will celebrate its anniversary—20 years since the law on the “Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation” came into force and its first composition was formed.

*The upcoming anniversary year will also be a year of summarizing activities over the two decades for the public institution, a year of deep analysis and reflection on the results that have been achieved, and the socially significant problems for which optimal solutions have not yet been found.*

*As we begin to summarize the development of this public institution, we would like to highlight the key events, trends, decisions, and initiatives that have become defining milestones impacting the development of civil society and its institutions over this time.*

*Plenary session of the final forum “Community” Russia 2030: “Public Initiatives for a New Era.” November 1, 2024. Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation.*

## 2007 #Establishment of the institution of Public Councils

The creation of public councils under federal executive bodies, the bodies of power of Federation subjects, and local governance provided civil society with another important mechanism for public participation in the exercise of public authority. The Civic Chamber played a significant role in the formation of public councils, and its members joined the majority of the established advisory bodies.



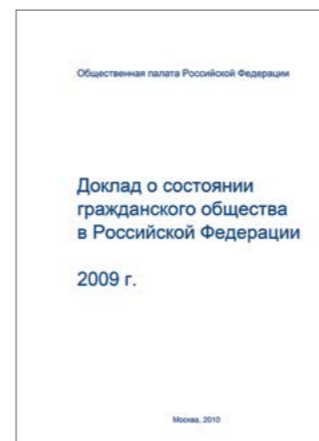
## 2008 #Systemic changes in the development of civil society

The Civic Chamber published the first results of new studies of key social practices of civil society that form its foundation: volunteering and charitable activities, participation in the activities of nonprofit organizations and initiatives of informal citizen associations, among others. A comprehensive expert assessment of civil society’s impact on governmental and public life was presented.



## 2009 #Russia, forward!

Civil society actively participated in the discussion and resolution of problems related to the international economic crisis, which also affected Russia. Throughout the year, public organizations conducted monitoring of the development of crisis phenomena by industry and region. Based on independent monitoring, reports and analytical notes were prepared for the general public and the country’s leadership. The 2009 Annual Report of the Civic Chamber was no exception.



## 2006 #The start of state support for nongovernmental organizations

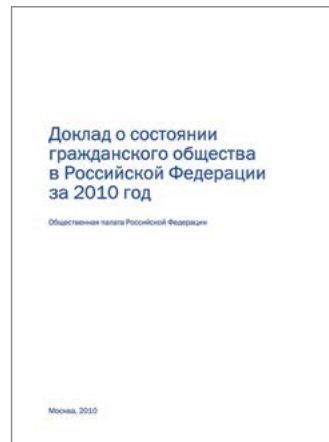
The possibility of state funding for nongovernmental projects through grant distribution based on open competitions, which were also conducted with the assistance of the Civic Chamber of Russia, marked a significant shift in the development of civic initiatives in the country.





### 2010 #Public diplomacy

Public diplomacy has become one of the most dynamically developing and influential areas of policy. In 2010, the Concept of International Activities of the Civic Chamber of Russia was developed and approved. From this year onwards, the Civic Chamber has continued to systematically expand constructive interaction with foreign public and civil organizations.



### 2013 #Public oversight

The participation of civil society in the sociopolitical process takes on various forms, ranging from public oversight to various public procedures. At the level of public institutions, active discussions on legislative initiatives for regulating this activity are underway. Following the meeting of the Council for Civil Society and Human Rights Development in September 2013, the President of Russia instructed to prepare a draft federal law “On the Foundations of Public Oversight in the Russian Federation” for submission to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly. The adoption of the Public Oversight Law in 2014 marked a significant step towards the development of civil society in the Russian Federation.

### 2011 #Social networks and the blogosphere

Civil society has become more “tenacious,” technologically advanced, and information literate. The use of new technological capabilities allows for problems to be quickly communicated to a wide audience, facilitates the mobilization of public opinion, and supports the development of consolidated positions. The Internet and social networks are gradually becoming the most significant tools for civic self-organization. Public institutions, including the Civic Chamber, actively contribute to the institutionalization of public initiatives.



### 2014 #Crimean spring

The challenges faced by Russia in 2014—such as the Ukrainian crisis, the reunification with Crimea, attempts at international isolation, and economic pressure—became factors of unprecedented patriotic upsurge and public consolidation among citizens. In 2014, for the first time, the composition of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation included representatives from all subjects of the Russian Federation, including the Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, as per the federal laws signed by the President of Russia.

### 2012 #Citizen self-organization

The relationship between authorities and society became the focus of civil society discussions in 2012. During this period, the Civic Chamber of Russia noted the formation of a pronounced public demand for justice within society. The relevance of problems such as the establishment of inequitable relations with officials, the low degree of information provision, and the lack of participation of interested citizens in the process of making and implementing management decisions indicated the need to develop and apply new social technologies for reconciling public interests.



### 2015 #Community forums

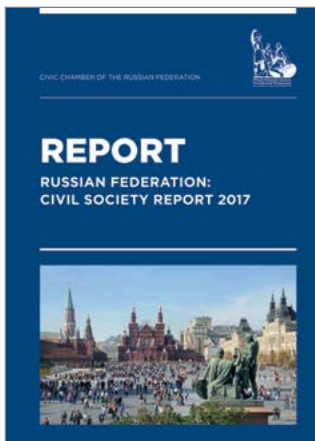
Since 2015, the Civil Forums “Community” have become a new long-term format for the Civic Chamber of Russia’s work with civil society. In 2015, nine “Community” forums were held in various regions of Russia, including the city of Sevastopol. Over the years, the “Community” forums have established themselves as one of the leading platforms for discussing crucial issues of the country’s socioeconomic development.





## 2016 #Development of the third sector

The Civic Chamber of Russia notes the progressive development of the nonprofit sector in the Russian Federation, the growth of its economic stability, the formation of skills for working with government authorities, benefactors, and the media, as well as the involvement of various social strata in the initiatives promoted by NPOs.



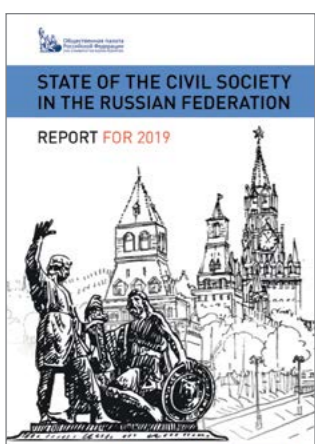
## 2017 #Active patriotism

Against the backdrop of the dynamic growth of civic activity, the content of patriotism fills a wide variety of public movements and projects oriented towards joint meaningful actions and the realization of common goals. Solidarity is becoming a new practice and value for Russian civil society. Volunteering in various areas of public life is becoming truly widespread.



## 2018 #May decrees

Achieving the goals of national projects outlined in the May decree of the President of Russia has become the main national sociopolitical task. The Civic Chamber of Russia, together with the civic chambers of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, has engaged in monitoring the implementation of national projects, helping civil society articulate its interests and shape them into concrete, actionable proposals for the authorities.



## 2019 #Public-state partnership

The increase in the state's trust towards public institutions has significantly expanded the role and participation of civil society in the country's development. On this foundation, a new standard of civil society participation is gradually being formed, which implies a transition from control to involving society in the preparation of major governance decisions based on mutually responsible partnership with the state.



## 2020 #Constitution

The President of Russia proposed a series of amendments to the Constitution of the Russian Federation through a nationwide vote, aimed at further developing the country. The active participation of civil society in the preparation and discussion of the constitutional amendments and the subsequent nationwide voting became the basis for a national consensus around the updated Fundamental Law of the country.



## 2021 #WEARETOGETHER

The COVID-19 pandemic dealt a treacherous blow to all spheres of public life without exception, and in one way or another, every citizen in our country faced its consequences. Under these conditions, civil society was able to consolidate and join forces with the state to mitigate and eliminate the consequences of this global biological catastrophe.



## 2022 #Support for special military operation

Since the beginning of the special military operation, the primary task for Russian civil society institutions has been to form a unified humanitarian space, creating conditions for public, project-based, and socially beneficial activities across the territories of the new regions. The Civic Chamber of Russia became one of the central platforms for implementing humanitarian projects, providing systematic assistance, and fostering interaction at the level of public institutions and nonprofit organizations.



## 2023 #Integration of new territories

Throughout 2023, under the coordination of the responsible ministries and agencies, comprehensive work was deployed to ensure the security, restoration, and socioeconomic development of the new territories. Russian civil society made a significant contribution to the integration of the new regions into the all-Russian socioeconomic and cultural space during 2023. Alongside other institutions, the Civic Chamber focused its efforts on assisting with the implementation of civil initiatives in the new regions.



Taking into account the national development goals of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2030 and looking ahead to 2036, defined by the President of Russia in May 2024, the Civic Chamber of Russia will continue in 2025 to monitor civil society regarding the satisfaction with the progress of implementing national projects and achieving national development goals. It will provide its platform for extensive consultations with representatives of the nonprofit sector, business, expert, and professional communities to gather proposals for adjusting national projects to ensure the achievement of planned indicators. An equally important part of the work will be coordinating public initiatives with key government bodies, coordination and advisory bodies, and relevant associations (unions).

Among the key challenges of 2025 noted in the national development goals, the Civic Chamber plans to focus its efforts on the following areas within its authority: ensuring demographic growth, achieving technological leadership and environmental well-being, strengthening human resources, modernizing the education system, creating conditions for fostering a patriotic and

socially responsible personality, economic growth, and comprehensive territorial development.

In this context, further improvement of forms and methods of public control appears relevant, including modern challenges and threats. It is also significant to increase the effectiveness of public oversight and popularize such forms as public verification and public examination, which are effective tools for promptly identifying problematic issues in various areas of public relations, developing proposals for their resolution, and involving citizens in state affairs management.

One of the main priorities of state social policy today is the support of veterans of the special military operation and their families. The Civic Chamber, along with other public institutions, will continue active and multifaceted work to create a sustainable support network for SMO veterans and their families. Social adaptation of former military personnel, combat participants, and providing them with psychological, medical, and legal assistance are all becoming part of the new social reality, in the harmonization of which civil society plays a key role.

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A team of undergraduate and graduate students from the Federal State Budget Educational Institution of Higher Education "DONSCA" began working within the framework of the All-Russian Marathon of Participatory Design "School of Dreams" // Telegram channel of the All-Russian marathon "School of Dreams" / [https://t.me/marafon\\_shkola\\_mechty/257](https://t.me/marafon_shkola_mechty/257)
15. The final forum "Community" summed up the results and identified the leaders of the marathon of participatory design "School of Dreams" // Telegram channel of the Russian Civic Chamber / [https://t.me/oprf\\_official/35401](https://t.me/oprf_official/35401)
16. Point 11 of the List of Instructions of the President of the Russian Federation dated December 23, 2023, No. Pr-2570 following a meeting of the President of the Russian Federation with members of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation and chairpersons of the civic chambers of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation on November 3, 2023.





17. Coordinating Council for the Integration of New Subjects of the Russian Federation // Civic Chamber of Russia / [https://www.oprf.ru/structure\\_list/161?lang=en](https://www.oprf.ru/structure_list/161?lang=en)
18. Vyacheslav Volodin and Anna Tsvileva discussed legislative support issues for veterans of the special military operation // The State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation / <http://duma.gov.ru/news/59214/>
19. Subparagraph “g” of paragraph 7 of the List of Instructions of the President of the Russian Federation No. Pr-1395 dated September 1, 2020, based on the meeting with members of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on June 25, 2020.
20. Plenary session of the Eighth Eastern Economic Forum // Official website of the President of Russia / <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/72259>
21. Protocol of the joint meeting of the State Council of the Russian Federation Commission on “Energy” and the Coordinating Council at the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on national projects and people conservation “On the development program of the electric power industry in the Far Eastern Federal District until 2050, aimed at revealing the economic potential of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation included in it, and mechanisms of project financing for creating energy infrastructure” // Kristall Rosta / <https://crystalbook.ru/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Протокол-от-12.02.2024.pdf>
22. No. ЮТ-П51-7731 dated March 15, 2024 / [https://t.me/oprf\\_official/30583](https://t.me/oprf_official/30583)
23. Decree of the President of the Russian Federation No. 309 dated May 7, 2024, “On the national development goals of the Russian Federation for the period until 2030 and beyond until 2036.”
24. Order of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 2233-r dated August 17, 2024, (On the Strategy for the Implementation of Youth Policy in the Russian Federation until 2030) // Government of Russia / <http://static.government.ru/media/files/jBrmuJi7WMLGBOftXWMrMlzKFCglqO7.pdf>
25. Report of the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation on the results of the 2023/2024 academic year.
26. Decree of the President of the Russian Federation No. 309 dated May 7, 2024, “On the national development goals of the Russian Federation for the period until 2030 and beyond until 2036”; Decree of the President of the Russian Federation No. 529 dated June 18, 2024, “On the approval of priority directions of scientific and technological development and the list of key high-tech technologies.”
27. Decree of the President of the Russian Federation No. 343 dated May 12, 2023, “On certain issues of improving the higher education system.”
28. On improving the higher education system // Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation / <http://council.gov.ru/activity/legislation/decisions/157746/>
29. International Forum “Russia - A Sporting Power” // Official website of the President of Russia / <http://www.en.kremlin.ru/events/president/transcripts/72543>
30. Elena Sharoikina joined the State Council’s Commission on Ecological Well-being // Civic Chamber of Russia / <https://www.oprf.ru/news/elena-sharoykina-voshla-v-komissiyu-gossoveta-po-ekoblagopoluchiyu>
31. Business contribution to sustainable development to be certified by the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation // Civic Chamber of Russia / <https://www.oprf.ru/news/vklad-biznesa-v-ustoychivoe-razvitie-budut-zaveryat-v-obshchestvennoy-palate-rf>
32. Coordinating Council for Environmental Well-being and the Development of Nonfinancial Public Reporting Practices // Civic Chamber of Russia / [https://www.oprf.ru/structure\\_list/165?lang=en](https://www.oprf.ru/structure_list/165?lang=en)
33. Point 5 of the State National Policy Strategy of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2025, approved by the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation No. 1666 dated December 19, 2012.
34. “Religion and Power in Russia Are Ready to Jointly Confront Sociocultural Threats” // Civic Chamber of Russia / <https://www.oprf.ru/news/religiya-i-vlast-v-rossii-gotovy-sovmestno-protivostoyat-sotsialnokulturnym-ugrozam>
35. “National Policy: How to Ensure Interethnic Peace and Harmony?” // Civic Chamber of Russia / <https://www.oprf.ru/news/natsionalnaya-politika-kak-obespechit-mezhnatsionalnyy-mir-i-soglasie>
36. “When All Together: How to Strengthen Civic Awareness and Preserve Cultural Diversity?” // Civic Chamber of Russia / <https://www.oprf.ru/news/kogda-vse-vmeste-kak-ukrepit-grazhdanskoe-samosoznanie-i-sokhranit-kulturnoe-mnogoobrazie>
37. “Religious Media as Transmitters of the Spiritual and Moral Values of Russians” // Civic Chamber of Russia / <https://www.oprf.ru/news/religioznye-media-kak-translyatory-dukhovnonravstvennykh-tsennostey-rossiyan>
38. “Vladimir Zorin: The Fight Against Extremism is the Fight for Our Values” // Civic Chamber of Russia / <https://www.oprf.ru/news/vladimir-zorin-borba-s-ekstremizmom--eto-borba-za-nashi-tsennosti>
39. Subparagraph “l” of Clause 21.1 of the State National Policy Strategy of the Russian Federation for the period until 2025, approved by the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation dated December 19, 2012, No. 1666.
40. Decree of the President of the Russian Federation dated May 8, 2024, No. 314 “On Approval of the Fundamentals of the State Policy of the Russian Federation in the Field of Historical Enlightenment.”
41. Message from the President to the Federal Assembly // Official Website of the President of Russia / <http://www.en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/73585>
42. Implementation of the Presidential Decree “On Measures of Social Support for Large Families” // Civic Chamber of Russia / [https://www.oprf.ru/live\\_stream/2406](https://www.oprf.ru/live_stream/2406)
43. Provision of Land Plots to Preferential Categories of Citizens: Problems and Solutions // Civic Chamber of Russia / [https://www.oprf.ru/live\\_stream/2441](https://www.oprf.ru/live_stream/2441)
44. “Healthy Cities: How to Improve the Quality of Life of Russian Families?” // Civic Chamber of Russia / <https://www.oprf.ru/news/zdorovye-goroda-kak-povysit-kachestvo-zhizni-rossiyskikh-semey>
45. “Year of the Family in Russian Parks”: New Communities and Development Vector of the Project // Parks of Russia / <https://parkirussia.ru/tpost/deskdfoty1-god-semi-v-parkah-rossii-novie-soobsches?ysclid=m2u42ktxzd540131259>
46. Letter from the Civic Chamber dated July 3, 2024, No. 8OP-2/1271.
47. At the “Community” Forum in Irkutsk.
48. CAR-T Cell Therapy Approved by the FDA as a Standard Treatment for Certain Forms of Aggressive, Refractory Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphomas and Patients with Relapsed or Refractory Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. By the end of the year, after obtaining the necessary documentation for the operation of CAR-T therapy in Russia, this method is planned to be used for treating children with oncological diseases for whom standard chemotherapy methods have been ineffective.
49. Letter from the Civic Chamber dated July 19, 2024, No. 8OP-1/1381.
50. Letter from the Civic Chamber dated August 12, 2024, No. 8OP-1/1581.
51. Letter from the Civic Chamber dated July 15, 2024, No. 8OPK-9/1360.
52. Letter from the Civic Chamber dated January 15, 2024, No. 8OP-1/24.
53. Letter from the Civic Chamber dated July 29, 2024, No. 8OPK-9/1454.
54. Letter from the Civic Chamber dated September 5, 2024, No. 8OP-4/1737.



55. “Report on the Implementation of Measures to Ensure Phased Access of Nongovernmental Organizations Engaged in Social Spheres to Budgetary Funds Allocated for Providing Social Services to the Population for 2023” // Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation / <https://nko.economy.gov.ru/upload/docs/km-2023.pdf?ysclid=m2szohwa9n624724322>
56. “How to Calculate How Many Socially Oriented NPOs Operate in Russia?” // Civic Chamber of Russia / <https://www.oprf.ru/news/kak-poschitat-skolko-sotsialno-orientirovannykh-nko-rabotaet-v-rossii>
57. “Decree of the President of the Russian Federation dated May 7, 2024, No. 309 ‘On National Development Goals of the Russian Federation for the Period until 2030 and for the Perspective until 2036.’”
58. “Order of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Russian Federation dated August 25, 2023, No. 681 ‘On the Implementation in 2023 in the Russian Federation of a Standard Model of the Long-Term Care System for Elderly Citizens and Disabled Persons in Need of Care, and Amendments to the Order of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Russian Federation dated December 27, 2022, No. 821 ‘On the Implementation in Certain Subjects of the Russian Federation in 2023 of a Pilot Project to Create a Long-Term Care System for Elderly Citizens and Disabled Persons in Need of Care, Implemented as Part of the Federal Project ‘Senior Generation’ of the National Project ‘Demography.’”
59. “Order of the Ministry of Labor of Russia dated December 29, 2023, No. 902 ‘On the Implementation in the Russian Federation in 2024 of a Pilot Project to Create a Long-Term Care System for Elderly Citizens and Disabled Persons in Need of Care, within the Framework of the Federal Project ‘Senior Generation’ of the National Project ‘Demography.’”
60. For example, Vladimir Region: <https://vladimir.social33.ru/sotsialnoe-obslyuzhivanie/sistemadolgovremennogo-ukhoda/sistema-dolgovremennogo-ukhoda/>; Omsk Region <https://penatyomsk.ru/pages/otdelenie-dolgovremennogo-uhoda>
61. “The Long-Term Care System for the Elderly Will Be Expanded” // Parliamentary Newspaper / <https://www.pnp.ru/social/sistemu-dolgovremennogo-ukhoda-za-pozhilymi-lyudmi-budut-rasshiryat.html>
62. “List of Instructions Following the Meeting of the Council for the Development of Civil Society and Human Rights” // Official Website of the President of Russia / <http://www.en.kremlin.ru/acts/assignments/orders/73277>
63. “Recommendations of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation Following the Round Table ‘Presentation and Discussion of the Experience of the Tyumen Region in Providing Medical Assistance to the Homeless’” // Civic Chamber of Russia / <https://files.oprf.ru/storage/documents/rekomen-pomosh-bezdomnim27022024.pdf>
64. “Additional Professional Program of Advanced Training ‘Modern Technologies of Public-State Interaction’ Organized by the Institute for Public Administration and Governance of RANEPa from July to August 2024 within the Framework of the Implementation of the State Program of the Russian Federation No. 15 ‘Economic Development and Innovative Economy’ (approved by the Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation dated April 15, 2014, No. 316), as well as the State Assignment of the FGBOU VO RANEPa and the Socioeconomic Development Program of the Donetsk People’s Republic, Lugansk People’s Republic, Zaporozhye region, and Kherson region (approved by the Order of the Government of the Russian Federation dated April 21, 2023, No. 1019-r).”
65. “In the Zaporozhye region, a Law on the Ombudsman for Human Rights Has Been Adopted” // Tatiana Moskalkova’s Telegram Channel / <https://t.me/ombudsmanrf/3790>
66. “Decree of the President of the Russian Federation dated September 1, 2009, No. 986 ‘On the Commissioner under the President of the Russian Federation for Children’s Rights.’”
67. In the Volgograd, Kaluga, Novgorod, Sverdlovsk Regions and St. Petersburg.
68. “Decree of the President of the Russian Federation dated December 21, 2023, No. 975 ‘On Measures of Social Support for Families with Children Affected by Ukraine’s Aggression.’”
69. Bulletin “Activities of the Commissioner for Children’s Rights under the President of the Russian Federation Maria Lvova-Belova on the Protection of Children During the Special Military Operation”. Issue No. 3 / June 19, 2024 // Commissioner for Children’s Rights under the President of the Russian Federation / <https://deti.gov.ru/uploads/magic/ru-RU/Document-0-307-src-1718871066.5662.pdf>
70. The Winners of the All-Russian Grant Competition “Centers of New Opportunities” Have Been Determined // Commissioner for Children’s Rights under the President of the Russian Federation / <https://deti.gov.ru/Press-Centr/news/1380?ysclid=m2t2qrgeb374798009>
71. Bulletin “Activities of the Commissioner for Children’s Rights under the President of the Russian Federation Maria Lvova-Belova on the Protection of Children During the Special Military Operation”. Issue No. 3 / June 19, 2024 // Commissioner for Children’s Rights under the President of the Russian Federation / <https://deti.gov.ru/uploads/magic/ru-RU/Document-0-307-src-1718871066.5662.pdf>
72. Vladimir Putin Signed the Decree “On Long-Term State Economic Policy” // Official Website of the President of Russia / <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/15232>
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74. Stenographic Report on the Meeting of the Council for the Promotion of the Development of Civil Society Institutions and Human Rights // Official Website of the President of Russia / <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/transcripts/23097>
75. Decree of the President of the Russian Federation dated April 3, 2017, No. 137 “On the Coordination Committee for Conducting Competitions for Presidential Grants for the Development of Civil Society”.
76. Order of the President of the Russian Federation dated April 3, 2017, No. 93-rp “On Ensuring State Support in 2017 for Nonprofit Nongovernmental Organizations Participating in the Development of Civil Society Institutions, Implementing Socially Significant Projects, and Projects in the Field of Protection of Rights and Freedoms of Man and Citizen”.
77. The Results of the Evaluation of Projects Implemented with the Use of Presidential Grants Until the End of 2023 // Presidential Grants Foundation / <https://xn--80ajpld2c.xn--80af5akm8c.xn--p1ai/>
78. 1,559 Nonprofit Organizations Became Winners of the First 2024 Competition of the Presidential Grants Foundation // Presidential Grants Foundation / <https://xn--80afcdbalict6afooklqi5o.xn--p1ai/public/news/1-559-nekommercheskikh-organizatsiy-stali-pobeditelyami-pervogo-v-2024-godu-konkursa-fonda-prezidentskikh-grantov>
79. The Winners of the Second 2024 Competition of the Presidential Grants Foundation Have Been Announced // Presidential Grants Foundation / <https://xn--80afcdbalict6afooklqi5o.xn--p1ai/public/news/ob%22yavleniy-pobediteli-vtorogo-v-2024-godu-konkursa-fonda-prezidentskikh-grantov>
80. Best Projects of the Presidential Grants Foundation // Presidential Grants Foundation / <https://xn--n1ach.xn--80af5akm8c.xn--p1ai/>
81. Fundraising in 2024: What Will Change in the Practice of Collecting Donations? // Agency for Social Information (ASI) / <https://asi.org.ru/2024/02/26/fandrajzing-v-2024-godu-chto-menyaetsya-v-praktike-sbora-chastnyh-pozhertvovaniy/>
82. Report on the Development of Civil Society Institutions in Russia — 2013 // Civil Society Development Foundation / <http://civilfund.ru/mat/20>
83. Presidential Address to the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on April 21, 2021 // Official Website of the President of Russia / <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/65418>
84. Decree of the President of the Russian Federation dated May 17, 2021, No. 287 “On the Creation of the Presidential Fund for Cultural Initiatives”.





85. Trust Fund for Culture and Arts will support 1,189 projects with a total amount of 5.67 billion rubles based on the results of the second competition // TASS / <https://tass.ru/kultura/21071527>
86. For the first time, all regions of the country are represented in the list of winners of the Presidential Fund for Cultural Initiatives grant competition // Trust Fund for Culture and Arts / <https://xn--80aeeqaabljrdbg6a3ahhcl4ay9hsa.xn--p1ai/news/v-spiske-pobediteley-grantovogo-konkursa-prezidentskogo-fonda-kulturnykh-initsiativ-vperve-predstav>
87. General Director of the Trust Fund for Culture and Arts Karmanov announced the opening of new branches of the fund // Kultura Newspaper / <https://portal-kultura.ru/articles/news/366168-gendirektor-pfki-karmanov-soobshchil-ob-otkrytii-novykh-filialov-fonda/>
88. 2.5 billion rubles will be allocated to cultural and sports institutions as part of the Presidential Fund for Cultural Initiatives' charitable program in 2024 // Trust Fund for Culture and Arts / <https://xn--80aeeqaabljrdbg6a3ahhcl4ay9hsa.xn--p1ai/news/2-5-mlrd-rublej-poluchat-uchrezhdeniya-kultury-i-sporta-v-ramkakh-blagotvoritelnoy-programmy-prezide>
89. List of instructions following the meeting of the Council on the Implementation of State Policy in the Sphere of Family and Children's Protection // Official Website of the President of Russia / <http://www.en.kremlin.ru/acts/assignments/orders/61841>
90. List of instructions following the visit to the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) // Official Website of the President of Russia / <http://www.en.kremlin.ru/acts/assignments/orders/75167#assignment-14>
91. Presentation of IRI: Results of Work and the Main Premieres of the 2024/25 Season // IRI / <https://xn--h1aax.xn--p1ai/news/prezentatsiya-iri-itogi-raboty-i-glavnye-premyery-sezona-2024-25/>
92. The Audit Chamber reviewed the effectiveness of the use of funds by the "Circle of Kindness" foundation // Lenta.ru / <https://lenta.ru/news/2024/06/19/effektivnost/>
93. History of the All-Russian Patient Union // ARPU / <https://vspru.ru/association/istoriia-vserossiyskogo-soiuza-patsientov>
94. How to Protect Children and Adults from Vaccine-Preventable Infections? // Civic Chamber of Russia / <https://oprfru/announcement/2266>
95. All-Russian Congress of Oncology Patients // Civic Chamber of Russia / [https://www.oprf.ru/live\\_stream/2880](https://www.oprf.ru/live_stream/2880)
96. Putin supported the idea of extending public observation to all stages of elections // Rossiyskaya Gazeta / <https://rg.ru/2022/12/07/putin-podderzhal-ideiu-rasprostranit-obshchestvennoe-nabliudenie-na-vse-stadii-vyborov.html>
97. Federal Law of July 21, 2014 No. 212-FZ "On the Basics of Public Control in the Russian Federation" (hereinafter referred to in this section as the Law on Public Control).
98. Here, public inspectors are understood as members of civic chambers, public councils, public inspections, groups of public control, and public inspectors involved in public control activities, whenever mentioned together.
99. For example, the Public Council at the Federal Service for Supervision of Natural Resource Usage organizes the "Best Public Environmental Inspector" competition, which aims to identify and reward public inspectors for environmental protection who are most successful and effective in their activities // Public Council at the Federal Service for Supervision of Natural Resource Usage / <https://osrpn.ru/news/1176/>
100. For example, by analogy with the measures of nonmaterial encouragement of volunteers.
101. As of June 2024 - 48 public councils at federal executive authorities directed by the Government of the Russian Federation.
102. As of June 2024 - 12 public councils at federal agencies directed by the Government of the Russian Federation.
103. In accordance with the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation dated June 17, 2024, No. 522 "On the Federal Medical-Biological Agency," the President of the Russian Federation manages the activities of the Federal Medical-Biological Agency. As a result, the Public Council under the FMBA of Russia has joined the public councils under the federal executive bodies, whose activities are managed by the President of the Russian Federation, since June 2024.
104. As of the beginning of 2024, the number of members of the public councils under the federal executive bodies, managed by the Government of the Russian Federation, amounted to 1,287 people.
105. Articles 20, 21 of the Federal Law No. 212-FZ "On the Fundamentals of Public Control in the Russian Federation" dated July 21, 2014.
106. "Road Traps": a nationwide information project for drivers has been launched // Civic Chamber of Russia / <https://www.oprf.ru/news/dorozhnye-lovushki-zapushchen-v-serossiyskiy-informatsionnyy-proekt-dlya-voditeley>
107. Feedback form for the "Road Traps" project / <https://forms.yandex.ru/u/61697006dee61dac67bd6610/>
108. Article 20 of the Federal Law No. 212-FZ.
109. "No Place for Road Traps in Tula!" // Civic Chamber of Russia / <https://www.oprf.ru/news/dorozhnyim-lovushkam-v-tule-ne-mesto>
110. Smolensk against "Road Traps" // Civic Chamber of Russia / <https://www.oprf.ru/news/smolensk-protiv-dorozhnykh-lovushkek>
111. Tver eliminates road traps // Civic Chamber of Russia / <https://www.oprf.ru/news/tver-izbavlyatsya-ot-dorozhnykh-lovushkek>
112. Appendices No. 13-15 to the Procedure for Providing Medical Assistance for Mental Disorders and Behavioral Disorders, approved by the Order of the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation dated October 14, 2022, No. 668n (order registered with the Ministry of Justice of Russia on November 14, 2022, registration No. 70940).
113. Results of the inspection of medico-psychological assistance offices in the regions have been summarized // Civic Chamber of Russia / <https://www.oprf.ru/news/podvedeny-itogi-proverka-kabinetov-medikopsikhologicheskoy-pomoshchi-v-regionakh>
114. Apartment buildings and roads: what is lacking for a comfortable life for citizens? // Civic Chamber of Russia / <https://www.oprf.ru/news/mnogokvartirnye-doma-i-dorogi-chego-ne-khvataet-dokomfortnoy-zhizni-grazhdan>; Old Sarepta and Builders' Square: inspection of landscaped areas took place in Volgograd // Civic Chamber of Russia / <https://www.oprf.ru/news/staraya-sarepta-i-skver-stroiteley-proverka-blagoustroennykh-territoriy-proshla-v-volgograde>
115. Sports infrastructure in Ingushetia: the quality of the facilities is high, but there are few // Civic Chamber of Russia / <https://www.oprf.ru/news/sportivnaya-infrastruktura-ingushetii-kachestvo-obektov-na-vysote-no-ikh-malo>; A modern sports complex will appear in Irkutsk on the initiative of the Civic Chamber of Russia // Civic Chamber of Russia / <https://www.oprf.ru/news/v-irkutske-poyavitsya-sovremennyy-sportivnyy-kompleks-po-initsiative-oprf>; Sports facilities in Kaluga: following appeals // Civic Chamber of Russia / <https://www.oprf.ru/news/sportivnye-obekty-kalugi-po-sledam-obrashcheniy>
116. Transport in Ingushetia: help is needed // Civic Chamber of Russia / <https://www.oprf.ru/news/transport-v-ingushetii-trebuetsya-pomoshch>
117. Act of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation based on the results of a public inspection in Tula // Civic Chamber of Russia / <https://files.oprf.ru/storage/documents/akt-dorogi-tula18052024.pdf>; Act of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation based on the results of a public inspection in Smolensk // Civic Chamber of Russia / <https://files.oprf.ru/storage/documents/akt-dorogi-smolensk23052024.pdf>
118. Presidential Address to the Federal Assembly // Official website of the President of Russia / <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/19825>



119. The State Duma discussed improvements to tax legislation // State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation / <http://duma.gov.ru/news/59328/>
120. The State Duma held parliamentary hearings on issues of improving tax legislation // State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation / <http://duma.gov.ru/news/59359/>
121. The Budget and Taxes Committee approved recommendations based on parliamentary hearings dedicated to improving tax legislation // State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation / <http://duma.gov.ru/news/59369/>
122. Bill “On Amendments to Parts One and Two of the Tax Code of the Russian Federation, Certain Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation and Recognition of Certain Provisions of Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation as Invalid” // СОЗД / <https://sozd.duma.gov.ru/bill/639663-8>
123. Putin announced the timeline for adopting changes in the tax system // RBC / <https://www.rbc.ru/economics/18/06/2024/667159619a794719b90d5398>
124. In 2023, the execution of the federal budget was 98.2% — the highest rate in modern history.
125. “Health Control” — digital services for patients and public health oversight // Civic Chamber of Russia / [https://www.oprf.ru/detail\\_project/53](https://www.oprf.ru/detail_project/53)
126. Elections through the eyes of foreigners: 200 international observers visited the Monitoring Center of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation // Telegram channel of the Civic Chamber of Russia / [https://t.me/oprf\\_official/30403](https://t.me/oprf_official/30403)