



XX лет
ОБЩЕСТВЕННАЯ
ПАЛАТА
РОССИЙСКОЙ
ФЕДЕРАЦИИ

CIVIC CHAMBER OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

REPORT

ON THE STATE OF CIVIL SOCIETY
IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
2025



YEARS

OF THE CIVIC CHAMBER
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION



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The Dialog That Took Place

The establishment of the **Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation** was the result of a new type of dialog that began to take shape between society and the state in the 21st century.

The starting point of this process was the first All-Russian Civil Forum in 2001, when representatives of the state and the nonprofit sector gathered in the Kremlin to openly discuss the development of civil society for the very first time. It was then that the thesis was proclaimed: civil society in Russia not only exists but is also developing rapidly. Addressing the forum participants, President of Russia Vladimir Putin emphasized:

“I consider it utterly unproductive, in principle impossible, and even dangerous to attempt to create civil society ‘from above.’ It must become self-sufficient, possess its own grassroots foundation, and be nourished by the spirit of freedom.”

The next step was the idea of public oversight over the activities of state authorities. In particular, in his Address to the Federal Assembly on May 26, 2004, the President of Russia proposed gradually transferring functions that the state should not or cannot perform efficiently to the nongovernmental sector. The Head of State underscored the advisability of utilizing the experience accumulated by civic chambers in a number of Russian regions in providing independent expertise on the most important regulatory legal acts that directly affect the interests of citizens.



At a September 2004 meeting of the Government of the Russian Federation, the President of Russia *outlined the necessity of establishing a unique institution. This body was envisioned to occupy a central place in the system of public oversight and serve as the principal platform for dialog between society and the state — the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation.*

As early as December 2004, the draft law on the Civic Chamber was submitted to the State Duma, and in the spring of 2005, the corresponding law was adopted and signed. Rossiyskaya Gazeta wrote at the time that this was an example of a new state-public model being launched in a remarkably short time.

The first composition of the Civic Chamber proved to be vibrant and diverse: it included scientists, lawyers, journalists, entrepreneurs, cultural figures, and representatives of religious organizations of Russia’s traditional faiths. The world-renowned nuclear physicist and eminent public figure, Evgeny Velikhov, was elected as the President of the Civic Chamber. Skepticism about the Civic Chamber’s effectiveness was voiced immediately, yet within its very first year, it reviewed dozens of draft laws, provided expert opinions, and developed its initial proposals for the state. Over two decades, this dialog has transformed into a stable practice. Today, the Civic Chamber represents not only an independent discussion platform but also a mechanism for harmonizing the interests of citizens and the state, an instrument for seeking solutions that strengthen public trust. It is through this practice of dialog and trust that the unique Russian model of civil society has been shaped, its history dating back to 2005. Evgeny Velikhov remained at the helm of the Civic Chamber until 2014 and served as its Honorary President until his passing in 2024.

In recognition of his service to the Civic Chamber, the Council Hall in the Civic Chamber building on Miusskaya Square in Moscow has been named in his honor.

Article 2. Objectives and Goals of the Civic Chamber

The Civic Chamber is established to ensure the harmonization of socially significant interests of citizens of the Russian Federation, public associations, state authorities, and local self-government bodies. This is done for the purpose of addressing the most important issues of economic and social development, ensuring national security, protecting the rights and freedoms of citizens of the Russian Federation, upholding the constitutional order of the Russian Federation, and promoting the democratic principles of civil society development in the Russian Federation, through the following means:

- 1) Involving citizens and public associations in the implementation of state policy;
- 2) Proposing and supporting civil initiatives of nationwide significance, aimed at realizing the constitutional rights, freedoms, and lawful interests of citizens, as well as the rights and interests of public associations;

- 3) Conducting public expert review (examination) of draft federal laws, draft laws of constituent entities of the Russian Federation, as well as draft regulatory legal acts of executive authorities of the Russian Federation and draft legal acts of local self-government bodies;
- 4) Exercising public oversight (control) over the activities of the Government of the Russian Federation, federal executive authorities, executive authorities of constituent entities of the Russian Federation, and local self-government bodies in accordance with this Federal Law;
- 5) Developing recommendations for state authorities of the Russian Federation in determining priorities for state support of public associations of citizens of the Russian Federation, whose activities are aimed at developing civil society in the Russian Federation;
- 6) Providing informational, methodological, and other support to civic chambers established in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation.

2006

The Beginning of State Support for Nonprofit Organizations

The first year of the Civic Chamber's work was marked by the formation of basic mechanisms for interaction between the state and society. The focus was on establishing an institution of grant support for nonprofit organizations, improving legislation in the sphere of charitable activities, and strengthening the dialog between citizens and state authorities. The Civic Chamber actively developed the practice of public expert review of draft laws and participated in addressing significant social issues, shaping new models of citizen participation in the country's political and public life.

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State Support for Nonprofit Organizations

The idea of creating a system of grant support for NPOs in Russia was voiced in July 2005 at a meeting of the Presidential Council for Civil Society and Human Rights. The expert community proposed establishing special budgetary funds to allocate grants among nonprofit organizations. The President of Russia supported the initiative, and by 2006 the new funding system was operational. The Civic Chamber became the first operator of the presidential grants competition. The competition immediately garnered significant interest. In 2006, applications were submitted by 2,035 organizations, of which 545 received state support. The total funding amounted to 472.7 million rubles, distributed across 1,054 projects. On December 15, 2006, the President of Russia signed an order approving the list of NPOs and the allocation of funds for their state support.

In subsequent years, the model of state support for the nonprofit sector continued to evolve. As early as 2007, the functions of the

sole operator of presidential grants, previously performed by the Civic Chamber, were transferred to several specialized NPOs. Six thematic competitions were held with a total funding pool of 1.25 billion rubles, attracting nearly 4,200 applications; support was granted to 1,225 organizations.

A significant milestone was reached in 2017, when, by Decree of the President of Russia, the Presidential Grants Foundation was designated as the unified operator for grant competitions.

Today, the Foundation stands as the largest institution supporting the social sphere in Russia, fostering a sustainable funding system for tens of thousands of NPOs across the country. Moreover, in recent years, new development institutions have emerged: the Presidential Foundation for Cultural Initiatives, the Internet Development Institute, the Presidential Foundation for Nature, among others. Regions and socially responsible businesses have also begun implementing their own grant programs.

Improvement of Legislation in the Sphere of Charity

An equally important focus of work in 2006 was the improvement of the regulatory and legal framework for the development of charitable activities. During the first plenary session of the Civic Chamber, the President of Russia emphasized that *patronage and charity in the country were undervalued and in need of substantial support*. In this regard, the Civic Chamber identified the preparation of a draft law on endowment (target capital) as one of its priorities. As early as June 2006, a round table was held at the Civic Chamber's platform, where the concept of the future law was publicly discussed for the first time. In the autumn, the discussions continued in the format of public hearings and expert consultations. To involve as many participants as possible in the dialog, a broad information campaign was organized, and, in collaboration with the "Donors Forum" Association, a series of working meetings were held between representatives of NPOs, businesses, and the leadership of the Russian Ministry of Economic Development. The result of this work was the adoption in December 2006 of Federal Law No. 275-FZ "On the Procedure for the Formation and Use of Endowment Capital of Nonprofit

Organizations." This law, for the first time, established a comprehensive mechanism for managing endowment funds, allowing

nonprofit organizations to utilize the generated income to finance their core statutory activities.



First Plenary Session of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation. Moscow. The Kremlin. January 22, 2006 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

Public Debates of the Draft Law on the Procedure for Considering Citizens' Appeals

During the draft law's review stage in the State Duma, the Civic Chamber conducted wide-ranging public debates. Materials were disseminated

A landmark step in the development of state-society relations was the establishment of legal regulation governing the consideration of citizens' appeals.

to various nonprofit organizations across the country, primarily those directly working with citizens' appeals, assisting in problem-solving, and interacting with state authorities.

The collected comments and proposals formed the basis of a conclusion prepared by the Civic Chamber and submitted to the State Duma. Practically all amendments proposed by the Civic Chamber were taken into account by

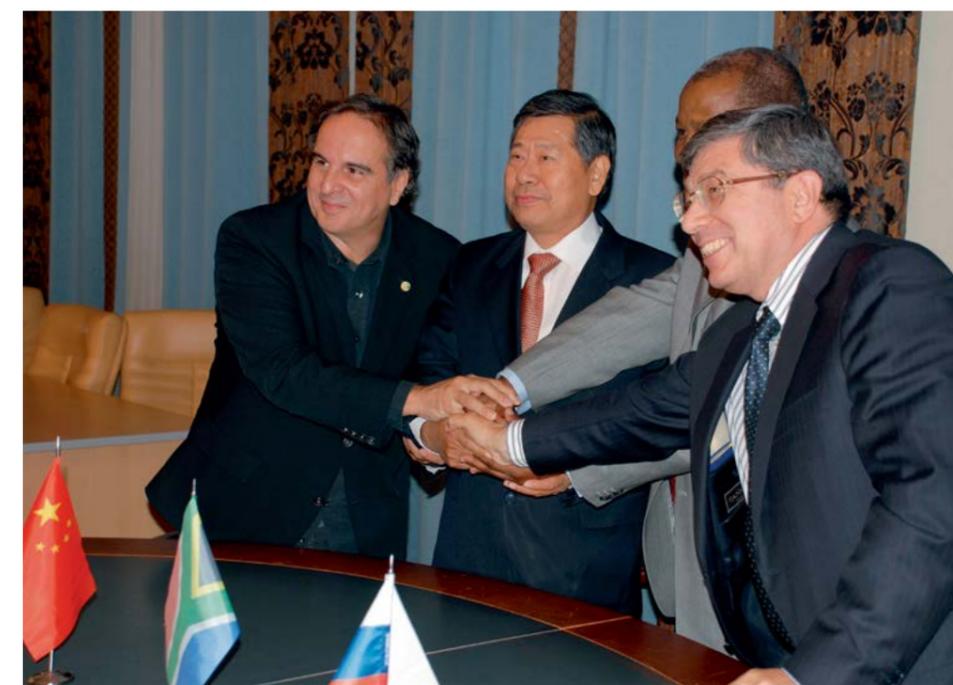
the deputies during the adoption of the law.

As a result, on May 2, 2006, the President of Russia signed Federal Law No. 59-FZ "On the Procedure for Considering Appeals of Citizens of the Russian Federation." This law became a crucial instrument for protecting citizens' rights and enshrining the procedure for official dialog between society and the state.

Membership in the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (AICESIS)

From its very first years, the Civic Chamber has sought to develop international cooperation and exchange experience with foreign civil society institutions.

Thus, in 2006, the Civic Chamber joined the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (AICESIS), founded in 1999 on the initiative of the presidents of the Economic and Social Councils of France and Côte d'Ivoire. Russia became part of a global civil society structure united by a common mission: to develop democratic institutions, strengthen peace, protect human rights, and promote public diplomacy. As part of its activities within the AICESIS, the Civic Chamber participated in establishing and supporting national economic and social councils in other countries, sharing experience based on the principles of the Charters of the United Nations and the International Labor Organization, their key documents, as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



Signing of the Agreement between the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, the Council for Economic and Social Development of Brazil, the Economic and Social Council of China, the National Economic Development and Labour Council of South Africa, and the Observer Research Foundation of India. 2006 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation



Meeting of the Chairman of the Government of Russia and Key Deputy Prime Ministers with Members of the Civic Chamber. Moscow. April 12, 2006. Sergey Subbotin / RIA Novosti



Alexandra Ochirova, Chair of the Commission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on Social Issues (in the foreground), at a meeting of the Presidium of the Council under the President of the Russian Federation for the Implementation of Priority National Projects and Demographic Policy. October 24, 2006. Vladimir Fedorenko / RIA Novosti



Minister of Transport of the Russian Federation Igor Levitin and Chair of the Commission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on Public Oversight of Law Enforcement Agencies, Security Forces, and Reform of the Judicial-Legal System, Chairperson of the Moscow Chamber of Advocates Anatoly Kucherena during a presentation of a pilot project for an automated system to enforce speed limit compliance by drivers. July 20, 2006. Sergey Pyatakov / RIA Novosti

Relocation of the Oil Pipeline Route Away from Lake Baikal

In 2006, the construction of the Eastern Siberia - Pacific Ocean oil pipeline became a highly resonant issue, as the initial plan was to lay it just 800 meters from Lake Baikal, in a seismically hazardous zone. The Civic Chamber, together with environmental organizations and the expert community, opposed this route.

In its statement of March 28, 2006, the Civic Chamber acknowledged the project's strategic importance for the country but simultaneously insisted on an objective assessment of environmental risks and the search for alternative solutions that would eliminate the threat to Baikal. On April 26, 2006, the President of Russia, at a meeting in Tomsk, supported the

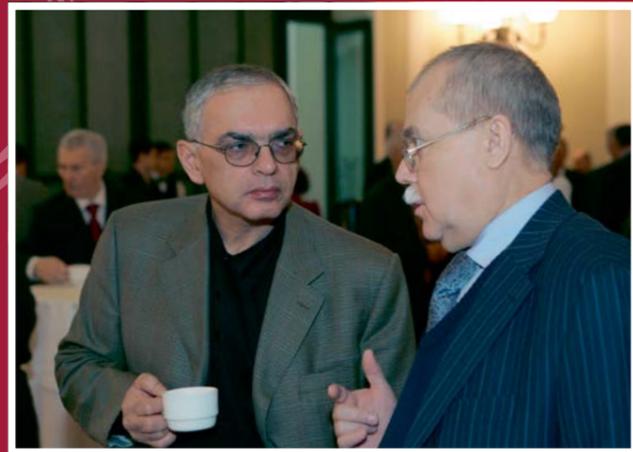
Civic Chamber's position. *He stated the impermissibility of routing the pipeline near the lake and ordered the route to be moved outside its watershed basin.* The President's decision was perceived by the members of the Civic Chamber as evidence that the state is prepared to consider public opinion and treat it as a priority in key decision-making.

Construction of the underwater section of the Eastern Siberia - Pacific Ocean oil pipeline across the Angara River. May 2006. Alexey Babushkin / RIA Novosti





Plenary Session of the Civic Chamber.
December 2006 / Press Service of the Civic
Chamber of the Russian Federation





Protection of the Rights of Equity Construction Participants

In 2006, the protection of the rights of equity participants in shared-construction housing projects, who had suffered from unscrupulous developers, emerged as one of the most pressing social issues. The Civic Chamber engaged in addressing this problem by organizing consultations with the State Duma, the Russian Ministry of Regional Development, and civil initiative groups.

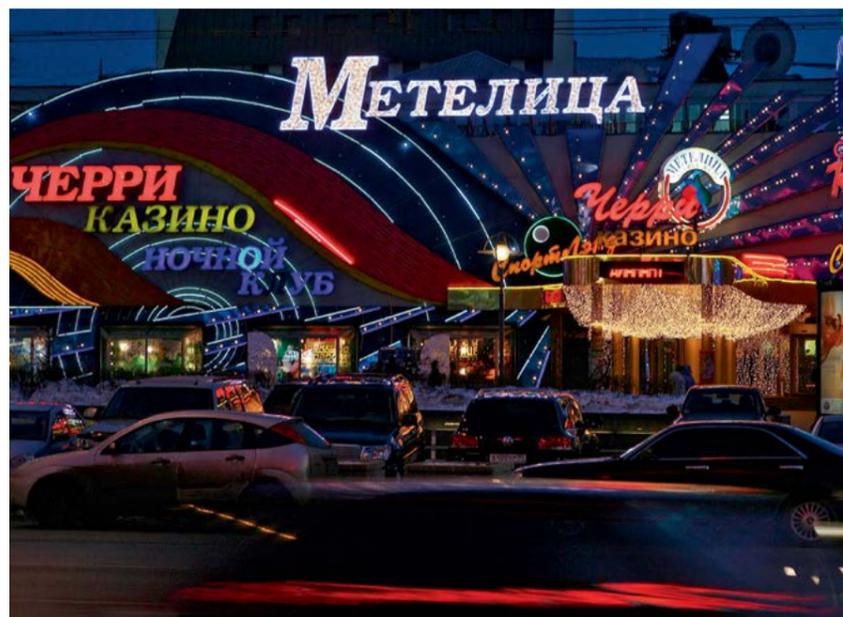
Following this work, a concept for a draft law on the restructuring of construction organizations was prepared, developed by a corresponding working group of the Civic Chamber. This document outlined measures to protect the rights of defrauded equity holders and undoubtedly became an important step in establishing legislative guarantees for upholding the rights of co-investors in residential construction.

A Game Under New Rules

In 2006, the Civic Chamber conducted a public examination of a draft law on regulating the gambling business. It should be noted that the initial version of the draft law essentially only squeezed small gambling establishments out of the market, failing to address the broader problem of gambling addiction and merely strengthening the positions of large gambling operators.

In September 2006, members of the Civic Chamber proposed relocating gambling facilities outside city limits. This position formed the basis of a draft law submitted to parliament by the President of Russia in October 2006.

Federal Law No. 244-FZ of December 29, 2006, "On State Regulation of Activities Related to the Organization and Conduct of Gambling and on Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation," established the rule of



Gambling establishments on Novy Arbat in Moscow. 2006. Ruslan Krivobok / RIA Novosti

creating special gambling zones. By 2009, the entire country's gambling business was relocated to these zones. Thus, the proposals of the Civic Chamber effectively defined the strategy for legal regulation in this sphere. Across the

country, casinos and gaming machines of "easy access" ceased to exist. This helped prevent, and subsequently completely eradicate, the phenomenon of gambling addiction—a cause of hundreds and thousands of human tragedies.

2007

New Mechanisms for Partnership Between Society and the State

The second year of the Civic Chamber's work was marked by the search for instruments that would enable society to influence state policy — not through protest activity, but via effective mechanisms for citizen participation in the country's socio-political life.

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Public Expert Examination of Draft Regulatory Legal Acts



Over the course of two years, the Civic Chamber developed a structured methodology for working with legislative drafts.

This methodology encompassed comprehensive information campaigns and public debates. As a result, civil society gained the opportunity not only to react to decisions already made but to actively participate in the decision-making process itself.

President of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, Academician Evgeny Velikhov / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

From Consultations to Influence: The Growing Role of Public Councils

A new milestone in the development of the public oversight system in the country was the creation in 2007 of the first public councils under federal executive authorities, as well as at the level of constituent entities of the Russian Federation and municipalities.

Initially, many public councils included members of the Civic Chamber. This helped other council members—ordinary civil activists—feel more confident in voicing and defending their positions before the leadership of ministries and agencies. The practice of involving members of the Civic Chamber in the work of public councils remains widespread to this day. Furthermore, by tradition, their membership includes public opinion leaders, celebrities, renowned scientists, athletes, and cultural figures.



Members of the Civic Chamber Nikolai Svanidze and Pavel Gusev during the first meeting of the Public Council under the Ministry of Civil Defence, Emergencies and Disaster Relief of the Russian Federation. February 16, 2007. Mikhail Fomichyov / ITAR-TASS

The Country's Green Choice: Why Ecology Matters More Than Ever

Sustainable Development emerged as a crucial focus in 2007.

Thus, the Civic Chamber appealed to the President of Russia, the Federal Assembly, and the business community to integrate the principles of sustainable development into state policy and their activities. In particular, it emphasized that issues of environmental protection and rational resource use should not be confined to discussions among a narrow circle of specialists but become a subject of nationwide dialog.



Meeting of the President of Russia with members of the Civic Chamber. May 16, 2007. Mikhail Klimentyev / ITAR-TASS

Lessons on Religious Culture in Schools



An Orthodox Christianity lesson at Secondary School No. 30 in Nizhny Novgorod. March 29, 2008. Mikhail Bezsonov / RIA Novosti

In 2007, a debate began on teaching the fundamentals of religious culture in schools.

The Civic Chamber supported this initiative while stressing the necessity of voluntariness and respect for the rights of the nonreligious part of the population in such instruction. As a result, this was implemented through the course "Fundamentals of Religious Cultures and Secular Ethics," introduced in schools starting in 2012. Later, the course "Fundamentals of the Spiritual and Moral Culture of the Peoples of Russia" was added to it.

Ensuring Every Voice is Heard

During the elections to the State Duma, the Civic Chamber, for the first time, launched a hotline across 45 constituent entities of the Russian Federation.

This allowed citizens to directly report electoral violations and receive informational and advisory support regarding the observance of their voting rights. The work of the Civic Chamber during those elections laid the foundation for public observation, which subsequently developed into a systematic practice.

At one of Moscow's polling stations on election day for deputies of the State Duma of the Russian Federation of the fifth composition. December 2, 2007. Vladimir Fedorenko / RIA Novosti



Ecology as a Priority

The Baikal Pulp and Paper Mill two years before its closure, March 2013.
Alexey Kudenko / RIA Novosti



2008

Expertise and Human Rights

By 2008, the Civic Chamber had ceased to be a new institution and was increasingly acting as an expert platform capable of influencing legislative processes and protecting the interests of citizens.

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2008

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Refining the Institution of Public Expertise



Karen Shakhnazarov and Valery Fadeev at a meeting between the President of Russia Dmitry Medvedev and members of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation in the Kremlin. March 19, 2008. Dmitry Astakhov / RIA Novosti

During the meeting with President of Russia Dmitry Medvedev, members of the Civic Chamber discussed improving the mechanisms for civil society's participation in the legislative process.

The President of Russia supported the initiative to develop the institution of public expert review of draft laws. Subsequently, the Rules of Procedure of the State Duma enshrined a provision mandating that draft federal laws,

federal constitutional laws, and laws on amendments to the Constitution of the Russian Federation, along with all accompanying documents and materials, be forwarded to the Civic Chamber after their submission to the State Duma.

This decision strengthened the role of the Civic Chamber in the legislative process by ensuring its timely notification and enabling a more comprehensive public expert review of draft regulatory acts.



Public Supervisory Commissions

A priority for the Civic Chamber in 2008 also became participation in improving tools for protecting human rights within the penal system.

It should be noted that complaints about conditions in places of forced detention were received regularly, and the problem required an institutional solution.

At the initiative of the Civic Chamber, Federal Law No. 76-FZ of June 10, 2008, "On Public Oversight of the Observance of Human Rights in Places of Forced Detention," was prepared and adopted.

The law laid the groundwork for establishing Public supervisory commissions (PSCs) in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation. The Civic Chamber became the coordinator of this work, conducting public debates, forming the commissions, and training activists. By the autumn of 2009, PSCs were operating in 70 regions of the Russian



In the "Pechatniki" women's pre-trial detention center. January 30, 2008. Ruslan Krivobok / RIA Novosti

Federation, enabling the human rights community to obtain, for the first time, a legal instrument for the systematic monitoring of human rights observance in places of forced detention.

Thus, 2008 cemented the status of the Civic Chamber as a mediator between society and the state—an entity that, on the one hand, monitors the adoption of socially significant decisions and, on the other, directly ensures the observance of human and civil rights.

Member of the Civic Chamber's Commission on Public Oversight of Law Enforcement Agencies and Reform of the Judicial-Legal System, Chairperson of the Presidium of the All-Russian Public Organization "Council of Public Supervisory Commissions" Maria Kannabikh during a visit to one of the women's correctional colonies. 2008 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation



2009

New Horizons of Public Oversight

The systemic crisis that gripped foreign markets also impacted the macroeconomic situation in our country. In 2009, effective communication between the state and society became particularly vital. The Civic Chamber not only expanded its mandate but also proposed new monitoring and regulatory tools in key spheres.

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20 Public Monitoring of Crisis Phenomena

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Youth Policy



The Youth Agenda Took a Prominent Place in 2009.

The Civic Chamber developed its own vision for the priorities of state youth policy, which included: engaging young people in addressing national challenges, developing volunteerism, and creating conditions for professional careers. Members of the Civic Chamber emphasized fostering a culture of innovation, intercultural dialog, and healthy lifestyles. In this way, the Civic Chamber sought to build a long-term strategy for working with the generations that would define the country's future.

At the All-Russian Youth Educational Forum "Seliger-2009". July 2, 2009. Ilya Pitaylov / RIA Novosti

Public Monitoring of Crisis Phenomena

The Civic Chamber's Flagship Project in 2009 was Public Monitoring of Crisis Phenomena.

For this purpose, a working group was established within the Civic Chamber, uniting civic chambers from a number of constituent entities of the Russian Federation, public councils under federal executive authorities, as well as representatives from the offices of the Plenipotentiary Representatives of the President of the Russian Federation in the federal districts.

The conducted monitoring provided an independent assessment of the socio-economic situation, enabled the evaluation of crisis development scenarios, and proposed measures to mitigate its consequences. The results were included in the Civic Chamber's annual report on the state of civil society and proved valuable not only for society but also for the country's leadership.

Law on Socially Oriented NPOs

In 2009, the Civic Chamber initiated the preparation of a concept for a draft law amending Federal Law No. 7-FZ of January 12, 1996 "On Nonprofit

Organizations." The amendments aimed to define mechanisms and measures for supporting socially oriented nonprofit organizations.

The core idea was to establish for the first time in Russian legislation a special status for those NPOs whose activities are aimed at solving social problems and developing civil society. This status would grant them access to new resources and improve the regulatory framework for cooperation with the state.

The corresponding federal law was adopted and signed in 2010, but it was the groundwork laid in 2009 that made it possible

A Sober Policy: Regulating the Alcohol Beverage Market

Another prominent initiative of the Civic Chamber was its concept for state regulation of the alcohol market.

Specifically, in this sphere, the Civic Chamber proposed reinstating the state monopoly on the retail sale of alcohol and increasing excise duties.

The goals of this proposal were to reduce excessive consumption and enhance the fight against counterfeit products. These proposals received support from both

relevant state authorities and market experts.



A storefront with alcohol products in one of the shops of the Primorsky Krai following a joint inspection by civic activists, police, and representatives of Rospotrebnadzor to check compliance with the rules for selling alcoholic beverages. January 28, 2010. Vitaly Ankov / RIA Novosti

On National Unity Day in Sochi.
November 4, 2009. Mikhail Mordasov / RIA Novosti

2009

Year of Youth

2010

Mediation and New Avenues of Work

For the Civic Chamber, 2010 was a year when it increasingly engaged in social mediation while simultaneously expanding the horizons of its activities—from international cooperation and child protection to reforming the examination system in schools and colleges.

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Public Mediation

One of the most prominent cases was the conflict surrounding the construction of the Moscow–Saint Petersburg highway. A section of the highway was slated to pass through the Khimki Forest, sparking protests from radical environmentalists. Additionally, some citizens whose property was subject to buyouts for the construction were dissatisfied with the compensation amounts. Thanks to the intervention of the Civic Chamber, the total compensation fund was increased from 3 billion to 4 billion rubles. Furthermore, a decision was made to install additional noise barriers and plant 500 hectares of forest.

Ultimately, the road was built, and as we see today, it has improved transport accessibility not only for residents of the Moscow region but also for millions of road users.

Alongside this, the Civic Chamber also intervened in the conflict around the demolition of houses in the Moscow settlement of Rechnik. A public expert review of the relevant documents revealed violations by the authorities, specifically the refusal to formalize land rights and the disregard for other residents' rights.

Moreover, in December 2010, public attention was focused on events at Manezhnaya Square, where riots instigated by football fan groups threatened to escalate into ethnic clashes. Members of the Civic Chamber initiated dialog with both ethnic communities and representatives of law enforcement agencies. It was then that the well-known maxim was born: "Only a strong civil society can curb the rise of nationalist sentiments."

Another major case of the year was the discussion of the Moscow Master Plan project up to 2025. During the public debates, members of the Civic Chamber raised a number of comments regarding the project, particularly concerning the consideration and resolution of the city's transport and environmental problems, as well as issues of preserving cultural heritage.



Poster protesting the logging of the Khimki Forest. February 2011. Anton Denisov / RIA Novosti



President of the Civic Chamber, Academician Evgeny Velikhov; Chair of the State Duma Committee of the Third Composition on Sustainable Development Issues, RAS Academician Mikhail Zalikhanov; and Minister of Transport of the Russian Federation Igor Levitin (left to right) at a session of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, where hearings were held on the construction of the Moscow–Saint Petersburg express highway on the 15–58 km section passing through the Khimki Forest park zone. September 16, 2010. Grigory Sysoev / RIA Novosti

The System of Civic Chambers in Russia – in Action!

In 2010, the Council for Interaction between the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation and civic chambers established in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation was created.

This Council united regional civil society institutions into a single system, and the Civic Chamber of Russia committed to providing informational and methodological support to the regional chambers.

As a result, the Council became the key platform for integrating the civic chambers of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, establishing common standards for their work.



The Unified State Exam Without a Shadow of Doubt

One of the new initiatives was organizing public monitoring to ensure the objectivity and transparency of the Unified State Exam (USE).

In particular, the Civic Chamber engaged students, teachers, and parents as observers, developed guidelines, and opened a 24-hour "hotline."

It should be noted that in 2010, the call center received over 7,000 inquiries. The monitoring revealed serious violations in a number of constituent entities of the Russian Federation, and the results served as grounds for adjusting the organization of the exam.



A briefing before the start of the Unified State Exam (USE) in Russian at Moscow School No. 1251. May 31, 2010. Ilya Pitalyov / RIA Novosti

Participation in Improving Legislation



An important topic in 2010 was the draft law on protecting children from information harmful to their health and development. The relevant proposals from the Civic Chamber clarified definitions and the procedure for labeling informational products to avoid ambiguous interpretations.

Equally acute was the discussion on transferring property owned by the Russian Federation to religious organizations. In particular, the proposals from the Civic Chamber helped reach a compromise and reduce public tension surrounding these initiatives.

Member of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, Archpriest Vsevolod Chaplin. May 31, 2010 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

International Activities

On June 10, 2010, the Concept for the International Activities of the Civic Chamber was approved.

The Concept outlined the participation of Russian civil society structures in international organizations, the development of bilateral and multilateral ties, and the promotion of Russia's image abroad. Particular attention in this area was paid to intercultural and intercivilizational dialog, which was aligned with the country's overall foreign policy strategy.



Meeting of the AICESIS Board at the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation. December 3-5, 2009 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

Shared Responsibility for Nature

The anomalous heat in the summer of 2010 led to massive forest fires in various parts of our country. The Civic Chamber did not stand aside, launching a nationwide campaign to collect aid for victims of the natural disaster. Nearly 300 million rubles were raised, enabling assistance to hundreds and thousands of people who had lost their homes and property. Funds came from individuals and legal entities, and their distribution was managed jointly with civic chambers

of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, the Ministry of Emergency Situations, and the Ministry of Health and Social Development of Russia. Simultaneously, civil society activists drew the authorities' attention to the root causes that led to the emergencies: chronic underfunding of forest protection and forestry services, aerial fire surveillance,

and imperfections in forest legislation. The Civic Chamber urged the authorities not to engage in a "witch hunt," endlessly punishing negligent officials responsible for forest management, but to initiate a comprehensive, systemic dialog on improving forest management nationwide. The activists' call was heeded by the authorities!



Fighting a forest fire near the settlement of Kriusha, Klepikovskiy District, Ryazan Oblast. August 5, 2010. Andrey Stenin / RIA Novosti

2011

Institutionalization of Public Initiatives

In 2011, the Civic Chamber firmly established its status as a platform where public initiatives lead to tangible changes in citizens' lives.

The focus was on several key areas simultaneously—from combating corruption and reforming the Unified State Exam (USE) to expanding public participation in elections.

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Combating Corruption

At the beginning of the year, the Civic Chamber opened a corruption hotline where citizens could not only report corrupt practices by authorities but also receive necessary advice. This was prompted by cases where Russian Interior Ministry personnel were provoking individuals into offering bribes to improve crime clearance statistics. Anatoly Kucherenko, Chair of the Civic Chamber's Commission on Public Oversight of Law Enforcement

and Reform of the Judicial-Legal System, stated that such actions should lead to criminal prosecution for police officers. Simultaneously, a working group on judicial reform was established within the Civic Chamber, involving lawyers, criminologists, and representatives of the Prosecutor's Office. Later, during a meeting with the Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation, the role of the Prosecutor's Office in preventive measures and avenues for humanizing

criminal legislation were discussed. That same year, the Civic Chamber prepared a report on the effectiveness of anti-corruption activities, which was presented to the President of Russia. It contained specific recommendations for improving whistleblower protection, creating mechanisms for public (civil) oversight, defining specific criteria for evaluating anti-corruption measures, and mandating the consideration of expert review results.

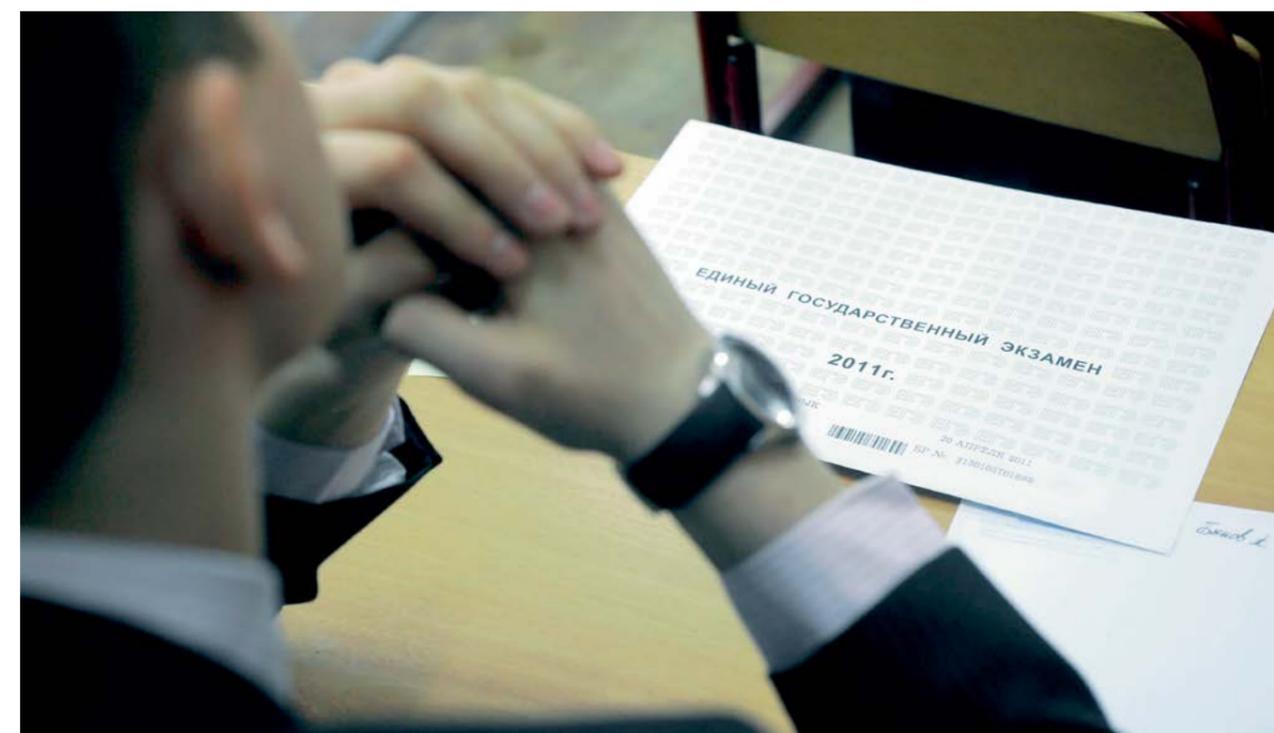
Unified State Exam 2.0

The seventh year of the Unified State Exam (USE) revealed that the procedure required significant refinement.

Ongoing discussions on improving the organization of the exam were held at the Civic Chamber's platform, gathering complaints and suggestions from schoolchildren, parents, and experts. Yaroslav Kuzminov, Chair of the Civic Chamber's Commission on Education Development, proposed several key changes. These concerned cross-review of exam papers, the choice of

exam difficulty level, the inclusion of a foreign language in the mandatory list, and making the exam independent from the Russian Ministry of Education and Science. Other proposals included the early publication of test items, video recording of all exam stages, independent teacher certification, and a prohibition on score reduction after appeals.

A student of Moscow School No. 1254 before taking the early-period Unified State Exam in Russian. April 20, 2011. Grigory Sysoev / RIA Novosti





Electoral Observation

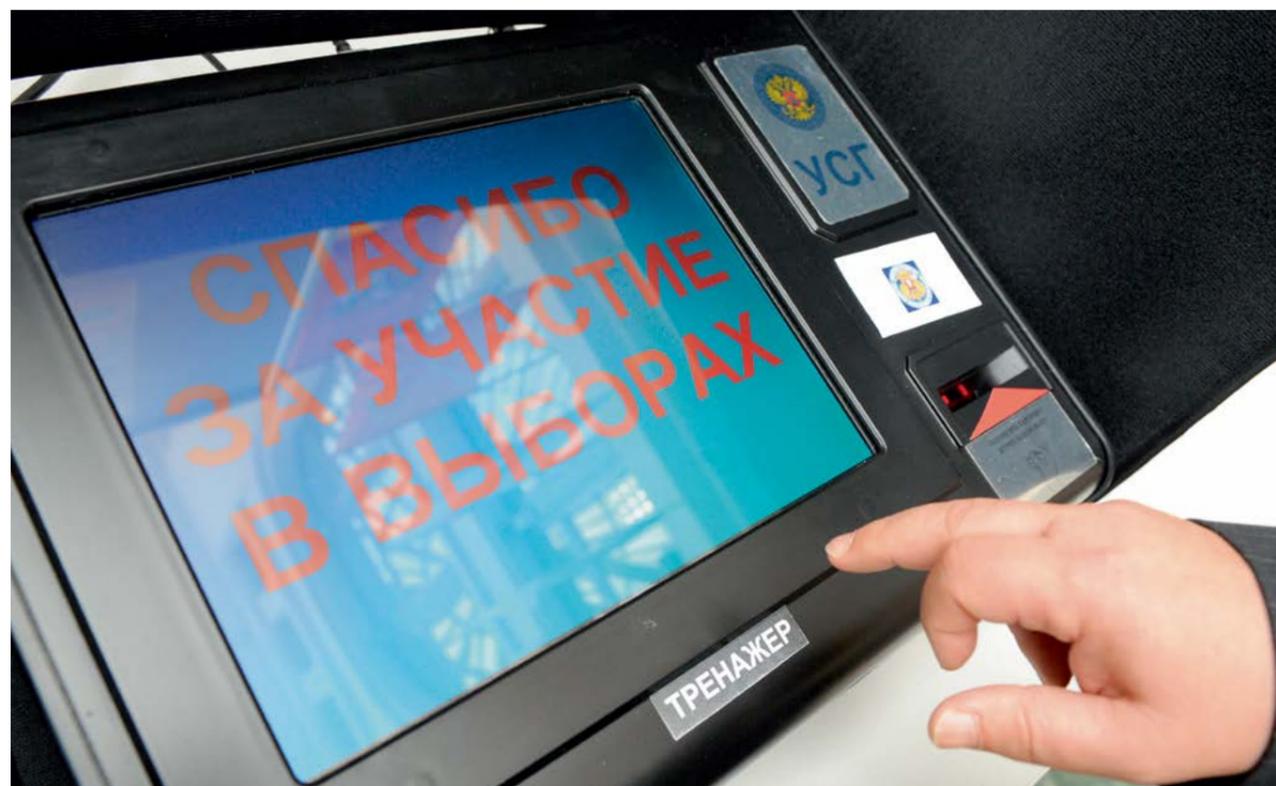
The 2011 State Duma elections initiated work on new forms of public oversight over voting.

The Civic Chamber proposed expanding the pool of observers by allowing their accreditation not only from political parties but also from public organizations. Civil society activists also advocated for the right of citizens to document voting violations through photo and video. The Civic Chamber's proposals found support from the Central Election Commission (CEC) of Russia, although many alleged violations during the State Duma deputy elections ultimately were not confirmed. Despite the skeptical attitude of representatives from the radical political opposition, an important step was taken towards establishing the institution of public election observation, which later became one of the key instruments of civic (public) oversight in Russia. Today, several tens of thousands (and over 100,000 during federal electoral procedures) of independent public observers monitor the voting process in elections at various levels.



Chairman of the CEC of Russia Vladimir Churov during a meeting between the President of Russia and representatives of regional election commissions. July 26, 2011. Vladimir Rodionov / ITAR-TASS

During a test vote using the State Automated System (SAS) "Elections" before the elections of deputies to the State Duma of the fifth composition, scheduled for 2011. Artyom Korotayev / ITAR-TASS



Evgeny Velikhov at a reception at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia on the occasion of the Civic Chamber's election as Chair of the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (AICESIS). Moscow. November 6, 2013 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

International Activities

In 2011, the Civic Chamber joined the Board of the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (AICESIS).

This provided Russian civil society with the opportunity to directly participate in shaping the international agenda. One of the outcomes was Russia's involvement in preparing the global report titled "Civil Society's Response to the Global Economic Crisis," which also reflected the Russian perspective.

2012

New Technologies for Reconciling Public Interests

In 2012, the Civic Chamber significantly expanded the scope of its activities—ranging from election observation and education issues to housing and utilities and public diplomacy.

33 Public Monitoring of the Voting Process

34 Public Diplomacy

34 New Procedure for Forming Public Councils

35 Law "On Education in the Russian Federation"

35 Housing and Utilities & Capital Repairs

36 When Disaster Calls for Solidarity: Aid to Krymsk

Public Monitoring of the Voting Process



Public Monitoring of the Russian Presidential Election. March 4, 2012 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

The Presidential election held on March 4, 2012, demonstrated for the first time that public oversight could assume a mass character.

Monitoring the voting process involved not only members of political parties and media representatives but also civil society activists. The Civic Chamber, together with regional chambers, managed to deploy several thousand public observers to polling stations.

For the first time, remote training was organized to prepare observers. Furthermore, polling stations were equipped for the first time with video cameras, allowing anyone to monitor the voting process in real-time via a specially created online portal.

Members of public supervisory commissions (PSCs) conducted monitoring in pre-trial detention centers and temporary detention facilities, verifying the provision of electoral rights for detainees and persons under investigation.



Vice President of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, Russian diplomat Sergey Ordzhonikidze / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

Public Diplomacy

2012 also became the year of institutionalizing public diplomacy. Specifically, the Russian Public Council for International Cooperation and Public Diplomacy was established under the Civic Chamber. It comprised over 40 experts from NPOs and the academic community.

The Council discussed issues of Eurasian integration, the use of "soft power" resources for shaping Russia's international image, and the situation in the Middle East. To prepare new personnel in this field, the project "Faculty of International Cooperation and Public Diplomacy" was launched.

Public monitoring gradually evolved into an instrument of "soft power," as Russian observers participated in elections in Abkhazia, Belarus, the United States, Ukraine, and South Ossetia. In May 2012, a delegation of civil society representatives visited Syria, which was engulfed in civil war. The outcome of the mission was reports on human rights violations, submitted to international organizations and law enforcement agencies. The Civic Chamber forwarded the mission's findings to the relevant state authorities, supplementing them with expert recommendations.

New Procedure for Forming Public Councils

2012 also proved pivotal for the system of public councils under federal executive authorities.

The so-called "May Decrees" of the President introduced a new stipulation: from that point forward, important decisions and strategic program documents of ministries and agencies could not be adopted without discussion with members of public councils. Throughout the year, the Civic Chamber, jointly with the Government of Russia and the Presidential Administration, developed a new procedure for their formation.

As a result, public councils began to be formed based on proposals from civic chambers of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, reputable NPOs, leading higher education institutions, and the Russian Academy of Sciences. This made the process more transparent and enabled the inclusion of professional and independent expert communities.



Member of the first composition of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, Chair of the Public Council under the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia since 2013, Anatoly Kucherenka / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

Law "On Education in the Russian Federation"

One of the most significant events of the year was the adoption of Federal Law No. 273-FZ of December 29, 2012, "On Education in the Russian Federation," in the preparation of which the Civic Chamber played a key role. From 2010 to 2012, its platform gathered and

processed nearly 23,000 comments and suggestions received from concerned citizens: experts, educators, parents, and students voiced their opinions. As a result, the Civic Chamber prepared approximately 200 proposals, which formed the basis for over 20 amendments

included in the final text of the law. This process demonstrated that the state is willing to engage in dialog with society when developing foundational legislation.

Housing and Utilities & Capital Repairs

Housing and utilities and the management of apartment buildings became a priority area for the Civic Chamber's work.

Throughout the year, the Civic Chamber collected best regional practices and formulated proposals for state authorities. These included mandatory registration of minutes from owners' general meetings with state housing oversight bodies and the creation of a unified register of such minutes.

The Civic Chamber conducted a public expert review of the draft law on creating self-regulating organizations in the field of apartment building management. It acknowledged that the document was generally aimed at improving service quality but pointed out that some of its provisions could later restrict competition.

The draft law on the system for financing capital repairs of apartment buildings also sparked significant public debate. Citizens saw it as shifting responsibility onto homeowners. The Civic Chamber came forward with a series of proposals to enhance resident protection and transparency in the use of their funds, many of which were taken into account.

Furthermore, a special coordinating body was established within the Civic Chamber—the Working Group on Housing and Utilities Oversight, which included representatives of regional public oversight entities.



Civic Chamber member Igor Shpektor during an inspection of water treatment facilities / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

*The outstanding public figure, President of the Union of Cities in the Arctic and Extreme North of Russia, author of a project for mine water purification, head of the construction of the world's only dam beyond the Arctic Circle and many unique infrastructure facilities in the Arctic under permafrost conditions, member of the Expert Council on the Arctic and Antarctic under the Chairperson of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, **Igor Shpektor** (1938–2020), made a significant contribution to the work of the Civic Chamber.*

Igor Shpektor, who was a member of the Civic Chamber since 2009 and served as Chair of its Commission on the Development of Social Infrastructure, Local Self-Government, and Housing and Utilities since 2014, was a responsible, fair, and compassionate individual who remained actively engaged in public affairs until his final days, taking a direct personal role in solving problems identified in the regions.

In recognition and respect for Igor Shpektor's service, one of the halls for public events in the Civic Chamber building has been named in his honor.



When Disaster Calls for Solidarity: Aid to Krymsk

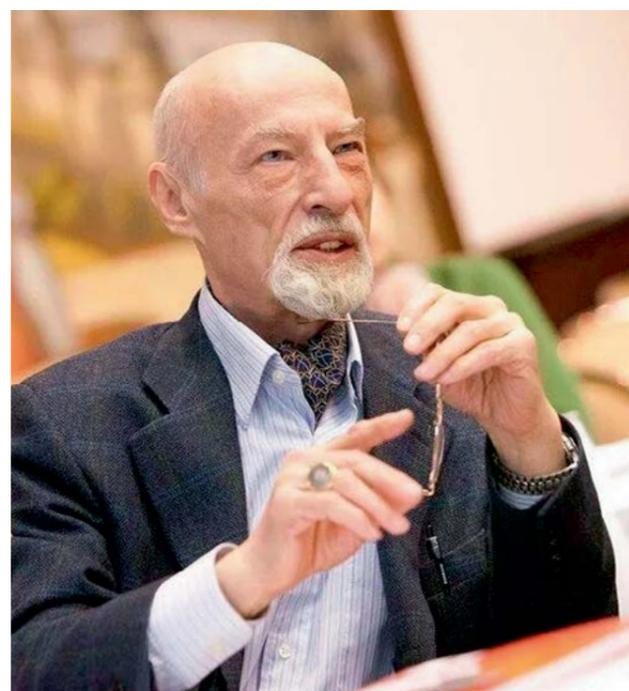


Civic Chamber member Elena Topoleva-Soldunova at a temporary accommodation center for residents of the Krymsky District, Krasnodar Krai, affected by the flood. Summer 2012 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

The summer of 2012 is remembered for the tragedy in the Krymsky District of Krasnodar Krai, where a devastating flood on the night of July 7 claimed hundreds of lives and left thousands homeless.

The Civic Chamber responded to the disaster almost instantly. Volunteer recruitment for relief efforts was announced as early as July 10, while simultaneous efforts began with businesses and charities to attract nongovernmental resources.

On July 17, the Civic Chamber opened a hotline for victims. Hundreds of calls helped gather data on the most acute problems: from shortages of medicine and housing to difficulties in receiving compensation. Based on the situation analysis, the Civic Chamber proposed developing new mechanisms for supporting emergency victims. One of the key proposals was to encourage the establishment of local nonprofit organizations that could take on functions of mutual aid, coordination, and public oversight.



From 2005 to 2012, the Civic Chamber member was **Vyacheslav Glazychev** (1940–2012)—an eminent scholar and public figure, professor of the Moscow Architectural Institute (MARKHI), Candidate of Philosophical Sciences and Doctor of Art History, Director of the Institute for the Promotion of Innovations at the Civic Chamber. Vyacheslav Glazychev was among the first in Russia to advance the idea that cities should be designed and developed considering the opinions of their residents, not just based on architects' and urban planners' blueprints. He actively integrated philosophy and systems analysis into the practice of urban planning, which was revolutionary for Russian urban development at the time. He paid special attention to the development of small towns, proposing strategies for transforming them into full-fledged "service centers," insisted on mandatory consideration of the original meanings of territories, and advocated moving away from perfectionism in spatial development.

The work of Vyacheslav Glazychev gave a powerful impetus to the development of urban studies in Russia. His "social-architectural" projects and concepts continue to be implemented in many cities across the country.

In recognition of Vyacheslav Glazychev's contributions, one of the halls for public events in the Civic Chamber building has been named in his honor.

2013

Refining Civil Society Institutions and Public Oversight Tools

In 2013, the procedure for forming the Civic Chamber was changed, enabling it to continue strengthening its influence both domestically and internationally.

38 Changes to the Procedure for Forming the Civic Chamber

39 International Recognition

38 Law on Public Oversight

40 Education and Student Life

39 Social Services: New Rules

40 Safe Routes for Young Travelers



Changes to the Procedure for Forming the Civic Chamber

On January 28, a draft law on reforming the Civic Chamber was submitted to the State Duma. Experts had long noted that the federal Civic Chamber inadequately reflected regional diversity, and this new initiative was intended to correct that imbalance.

On February 13, a roundtable on "Improving the Mechanisms for Forming the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation" was held at the Federation Council, where the idea to increase the Civic Chamber's membership from 126 to 166 members, expand its regional representation, and introduce online voting was supported.

The changes were adopted in July. Thus, the Civic Chamber's composition began to be formed as follows: 40 members are appointed by the President of Russia, 83 are delegated by civic chambers of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, and another 43 are determined through a rating-based online vote by public organizations.

This decision helped connect the Civic Chamber with civic chambers of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation and made its composition more representative.



Consideration of the draft Federal Law No. 212605-6 "On Amending the Federal Law 'On the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation'" regarding changes to the formation procedure and increasing the number of members of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation at a session of the State Duma of the Russian Federation. December 23, 2013. Alexey Filippov / RIA Novosti

Law on Public Oversight

At the beginning of the year, in his Address to the Federal Assembly, Vladimir Putin proposed developing and adopting a law on public oversight.

The task was entrusted to the Civic Chamber and the Presidential Council for Civil Society and Human Rights Development.

Their joint work led to the creation of a concept for a draft law on the fundamentals of public oversight. The document introduced concepts such as public monitoring, expert review,

hearings, and inspections, and enshrined the right of human rights defenders and initiative groups to assess the activities of state authorities and local self-government bodies.

In December, the concept was submitted to the President of Russia. Subsequently, the law became the legal foundation for public oversight.

Social Services: New Rules



Individuals without a fixed abode receive a hot meal at a social service center in the Chkalovsky District of Yekaterinburg. November 16, 2015. Pavel Lisitsyn / RIA Novosti

At the end of 2013, the Federal Law "On the Fundamentals of Social Services for Citizens in the Russian Federation" was adopted. It came into force in January 2015, but preliminary discussion of this law and active work on it took place extensively on the Civic Chamber's platform. Many ideas and proposals from civil society were incorporated into the final text of the draft law.

It should be noted that the law marked a turning point, as socially oriented NPOs gained the opportunity to compete with state-funded institutions and commercial organizations for the right to provide services to the population. This signified a new level of trust and the institutionalization of the third sector in the social sphere.

International Recognition

2013 strengthened the international standing of the Civic Chamber, as Russia was elected to chair the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (AICESIS), which at that time united 72 national structures.

A highly significant theme was chosen for the chairmanship—"National Human Capital and New Sources of Competitiveness."

Within the association, education, healthcare, and sustainable development were discussed as key factors for the long-term competitiveness of nations.

During its two-year presidency, the Civic Chamber raised the organization's profile. Specific achievements included conducting over 20 conferences, establishing connections with the United Nations and other international organizations, and welcoming three new countries into the association. In 2013, at the G20 Summit in St. Petersburg, a report titled "The Global Crisis and Its Consequences: A Civil Society Perspective," prepared with Russia's participation, was presented. This allowed for articulating the position of global civil society on the platform of the G20 leaders for the first time.



BRICS leaders (Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping, and South African President Jacob Zuma) at the G20 Summit in St. Petersburg. September 5, 2013 / Brazilian news agency Agência Brazil



Education and Student Life



In 2013, the Civic Chamber also focused on student issues.

For instance, following complaints about inflated dormitory fees, public monitoring was conducted, which led to public debates with the Russian Ministry of Education and Science and the Federal Service for Supervision in Education and Science (Rosobrnadzor). The outcome was the reinstatement of a regulation on maximum accommodation costs into the legal framework governing education, which helped curb such abuses.

The dormitory building of the Moscow Engineering Physics Institute (MEPhI). April 2, 2013. Ruslan Krivobok / RIA Novosti

Safe Routes for Young Travelers

Another positive result of civil society intervention was the amendment of the Sanitary Rules and Norms (SanPiN) regulating children's camping activities.

The original document issued by Rospotrebnadzor (Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Wellbeing) had effectively made children's tent camping impossible due to excessively strict and sometimes absurd requirements. Following the intervention of the Civic Chamber and the work of an expert group, the Russian Ministry of Justice registered an updated SanPiN, which incorporated the key suggestions.



Children departing for recreational camps. August 28, 2013. Vitaly Ankov / RIA Novosti

2014

Crimean Spring

2014 was marked by an expansion of the Civic Chamber's functions and a stronger role for citizens in the nation's life. The Civic Chamber ensured public oversight of socially significant government initiatives and developed the institution of "zero readings" for draft laws.

Civil society activists played a particular role in the so-called "Crimean Spring" and the subsequent integration of the new regions—Crimea and Sevastopol—into Russia.

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| 42 | Integration of Crimea and Sevastopol | 46 | Preservation of Monuments and Cultural Heritage Sites |
| 43 | Establishment of the Coordinating Headquarters for Providing Aid to Donbass Residents | 47 | Public Monitoring of Higher Education Quality |
| 43 | Adoption of the Law on Public Oversight | 47 | Project "Russian Corner" |
| 46 | "Zero Readings" of Draft Laws | 47 | Modernization of the Tourism Industry |
| 46 | Support and Development of NPOs | | |



Integration of Crimea and Sevastopol

2014 went down in Russia's history as the year of the Crimean Spring.

The Civic Chamber actively engaged in the process of integrating the peninsula into the Russian Federation.

It should be noted that members of the Civic Chamber participated in the public observation of the referendum held on March 16, 2014. Delegations from the Civic Chamber, civic chambers of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, and public organizations worked at polling stations alongside international observers and State Duma deputies. Public observers monitored the voting process not only in major cities but also in small settlements. Following the referendum, the Civic Chamber formed a monitoring group to assess the adaptation of civil society institutions in Crimea and Sevastopol to the Russian legal system. Work began on establishing the civic chambers of Crimea and Sevastopol, as well as amending federal legislation to ensure their representation in the new



Employees at a polling station in Sevastopol count votes following the referendum on the status of Crimea. March 16, 2014. Valery Melnikov / RIA Novosti

composition of the Civic Chamber. By the end of the year, NPOs began to form in the new constituent entities of the

Russian Federation, gaining access to federal grant support.



First Vice President of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation Vladislav Grib and Alexey Chaly (acting Governor of Sevastopol as of April 2014). March 17, 2014. Valery Melnikov / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

Establishment of the Coordinating Headquarters for Providing Aid to Donbass Residents

The events in Ukraine in 2014 necessitated a consolidation of efforts between society and the state. On March 7, the Civic Chamber called on public associations, charitable foundations, entrepreneurs, and state authorities to pool resources to assist those affected by the crisis.

A Coordinating Headquarters was established on the Civic Chamber's platform, along with the opening of a hotline and an online portal.

The Headquarters' work received widespread support, engaging Russian NPOs, state authorities, and civic chambers of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, which opened their own hotlines and coordination centers. According to official data, 40,000 refugees from Ukraine were provided with places in temporary accommodation centers, while significantly more displaced persons were taken in by Russian citizens.

In 2014, Alexander Brechalov—head of "Opora Rossii" and co-chair of the Central Headquarters of the All-Russian People's Front—became the President of the Civic Chamber. Brechalov actively engaged in the Civic Chamber's efforts to assist the residents of Donbass from the very first days and, in general, brought a project-based approach to the Civic Chamber's work.



President of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation Alexander Brechalov at one of the temporary accommodation centers for refugees / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

Adoption of the Law on Public Oversight

A landmark event of 2014 was the adoption of Federal Law No. 212-FZ of July 21, 2014, "On the Fundamentals of Public Oversight in the Russian Federation." This regulatory legal act for the first time systematically enshrined the legal mechanisms of public oversight, defining the range of its subjects and the forms of its implementation.

According to the law, the permanent and primary subjects of public oversight are the Civic Chamber, civic chambers of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, civic chambers (councils) of municipalities, as well as public councils under federal executive authorities. To implement oversight, commissions, inspections, groups, and other structures could be established. The law granted civic chambers of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation the right to conduct public expert reviews of draft regulatory acts, thereby significantly expanding the powers of civil society institutions. In essence, it transformed public oversight into a sustainable and recognized instrument for citizen participation in state governance, a platform for dialog and finding compromise solutions on socially significant issues.

Article 2. Legal Basis of Public Oversight

1. The exercise of public oversight is regulated by this Federal Law, other federal laws and regulatory legal acts of the Russian Federation, laws and other regulatory legal acts of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, and municipal regulatory legal acts.
2. The exercise of public oversight over activities in the sphere of national defense and state security, public security and law and order, over the activities of the police, investigative bodies, the prosecutor's office, and the courts, as well as over activities related to the execution of sentences, control over the circulation of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, the care of orphans and children left without parental care, and the provision of psychiatric care, is regulated by the corresponding federal laws.
3. The provisions of this Federal Law do not apply to public relations regulated by legislation on elections and referendums.
4. The adoption of regulatory legal acts for the purpose of impeding the exercise of public oversight is prohibited.

Article 2 of Federal Law No. 212-FZ of July 21, 2014, "On the Fundamentals of Public Oversight in the Russian Federation"

Residents of Simferopol watch a live broadcast of the festive concert dedicated to the signing of the treaty on the accession of Crimea to the Russian Federation on the city's central square. March 18, 2014.
Mikhail Voskresensky / RIA Novosti

 Крым Россия
 Вместе на

Crimean Spring

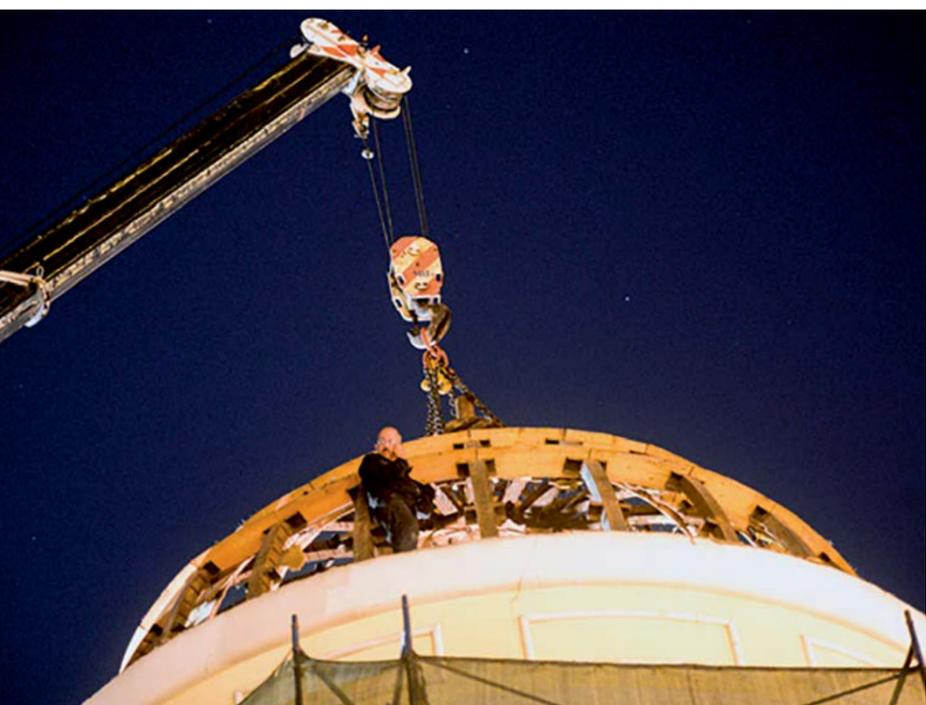


"Zero Readings" of Draft Laws

One of the most significant innovations in the Civic Chamber's activities was the establishment of the "zero readings" mechanism. This format of public expert review, as its name suggests, involves

discussing draft laws even before their first reading in the State Duma, with the participation of experts, representatives of professional communities, businesses, scholars, and civil activists.

The practice of "zero readings" gained traction in 2014—five such readings were conducted. In his Address to the Federal Assembly, the President of Russia specifically emphasized the importance of this mechanism as a form of genuine dialog between the state and society. Already in 2015, the institution of "zero readings" became fully operational: the Civic Chamber conducted 39 discussions in this format, creating an additional mechanism for influencing the legislative process.



Activists of "Arknadzor" (Architectural Supervision) climbed onto the dome of the Volkonsky House on Vozdvizhenka Street to prevent its demolition, which they deemed illegal. June 25, 2013. Vladimir Astapkovich / RIA Novosti

Preservation of Monuments and Cultural Heritage Sites

In October 2014, after years of discussion, Federal Law No. 315 of October 22, 2014, "On Amending the Federal Law 'On Cultural Heritage Sites (Historical and Cultural Monuments) of the Peoples of the Russian Federation' and Certain Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation," was adopted. Its adoption

was the result of persistent work by the Civic Chamber, the All-Russian Society for the Protection of Monuments, and other public organizations. The law introduced mechanisms to ensure the preservation of monuments in any transactions involving them, established procedures for public access

to cultural heritage sites, and provided for compensation for conscientious owners investing in restoration. The Civic Chamber had been advocating for the adoption of this legislative act for over four years, uniting specialists and the public around the issue of cultural heritage protection.

Support and Development of NPOs

In 2014–2015, the Civic Chamber paid special attention to the development of the nonprofit sector.

Specifically, the Civic Chamber's platform was used to develop proposals for forming an NPO support infrastructure, training staff, and creating new public oversight mechanisms. Some of these initiatives were reflected in regulatory legal acts. Among them were additional support measures for socially oriented NPOs, the creation of a registry of "reliable suppliers" of social services, and the establishment of a specialized grant operator to support social projects in small towns and rural areas. These steps contributed to building a sustainable system of interaction between the state and the third sector, strengthening trust in public organizations as full-fledged partners in addressing social issues.

Public Monitoring of Higher Education Quality



Visitors at the 30th Anniversary International "Career" Forum in the "Afimall City" shopping center in Moscow. November 7, 2012. Ruslan Krivobok / RIA Novosti

Federal Law No. 212-FZ of July 21, 2014, "On the Fundamentals of Public Oversight in the Russian Federation," provided a legal basis for more systematic citizen participation in monitoring social processes. A vivid example of this was the Civic Chamber's monitoring of the labor market demand for professions. Civil society activists identified a mismatch between graduate training and the economy's needs. Over a million young professionals found themselves unemployed, while businesses urgently required skilled personnel. The Civic Chamber organized a series of hearings on the topic "Public Oversight of Higher Education Quality," which brought together representatives of employers, higher education institutions, and state authorities on a single platform. This made it possible to identify solutions to the problem, including adjusting educational programs, forming new professional standards, and encouraging the academic community to engage more closely with the labor market.

Project "Russian Corner"



Students of the Institute of Foreign Languages at Tishreen University in Latakia (Syrian Arab Republic) during a Russian language lesson. November 5, 2014. Dmitry Vinogradov / RIA Novosti

Experts of the Civic Chamber have repeatedly noted *that promoting the Russian language requires supporting the establishment of its study centers in neighboring countries, as well as training local educators in Russian language teaching methodologies.* Within the framework of the Year of Literature, the Civic Chamber, together with the Russian Peace Foundation, launched the "Russian Corner" project.

This initiative is aimed at disseminating and preserving the Russian language abroad through multimedia educational aids. Launched in December 2014, the joint project of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation and the Russian Peace Foundation, "Russian Corner," has reached over 50 educational institutions in more than two dozen countries, including Austria, Azerbaijan,

Modernization of the Tourism Industry

In September 2014, following public discussions at the Civic Chamber, the Government of Russia adopted a resolution obliging tour operators to provide tourists with all necessary documents, including return flight tickets, at least 24 hours before the start of their trip. Additionally, as a result of these discussions, an expert task force was established to oversee the reform of the tourism industry and protect the rights of affected citizens.

Armenia, the United Kingdom, Georgia, the Dominican Republic, India, Spain, New Zealand, the United Arab Emirates, Slovakia, the United States, Turkey, Ukraine, France, Croatia, Estonia, and South Korea. As part of the project, multimedia and printed educational materials on the Russian language and other subjects in Russian were delivered to these institutions in 2016.

2015

Civil "Community" Forums

The Civic Chamber launched the "Community" forums and the "Perspective" project to support civil initiatives and NPOs. Funding for socially oriented NPOs was preserved, the creation of regional support centers was proposed, assistance was provided for the development of social entrepreneurship, and aid was rendered to Ukrainian refugees. Systematic public oversight in the sphere of waste management was initiated, and a large-scale public discussion of programs and projects for the development of the Far East was commenced.

49	"Community" Forums	52	Promoting Social Entrepreneurship
49	A Chance to Grow: What "Perspective" Offers	53	Aid to Residents of Donbass Affected by Hostilities
50	Regulation, Funding, and Support for NPO Activities	53	Establishment of a Federal Corporation for the Development of Small and Medium-Sized Businesses
50	Maintaining Funding for Socially Oriented NPOs	54	"Resetting" Public Councils
51	Forming a "Roadmap" for Third Sector Development	54	Public Oversight over Waste Management
51	Formalizing the Ability of SO NPOs to Provide Social Services	55	Development of the Far Eastern Territories
52	NPO Support Centers in the Constituent Entities of the Russian Federation	55	Report "National Human Capital and New Sources of National Competitiveness"

"Community" Forums

In 2015, the Civic Chamber launched a new large-scale initiative—a series of annual forums for active citizens called "Community." The forums were held in all federal districts of the country and became a working platform for interaction between society, the state, and business. The main condition was maximum openness, and anyone could register for free to participate through the forum's website.

Over the year, about 4,000 activists took part in regional forums, and more than 5,000 participated in the final forum in Moscow. These meetings became a catalyst for public activity in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, as they identified new opinion leaders, created a "social lift" for civil activists, and set a new benchmark for competition in the sphere of public initiatives.

Particularly significant was the final forum in Moscow, where activists and NPO representatives were able to communicate directly with President of Russia Vladimir Putin.

As part of the forum, a ceremony was held to award the "I am a Citizen" prize, established by the Civic Chamber. In 2015, the prize received



President of Russia Vladimir Putin addresses the participants of the "Community" forum. Moscow. November 4, 2015. Alexey Nikolsky / RIA Novosti

1,412 applications from 81 regions of the Russian Federation, with 14 civic activists from Moscow and St. Petersburg to small towns and villages being named

winners. This marked a significant step towards recognizing and encouraging local initiatives that transform people's lives at the grassroots level.

A Chance to Grow: What "Perspective" Offers

The same year, the Civic Chamber's large-scale public project "Perspective" was launched. Its main task was to identify and support constructive initiatives, replicate successful practices, and help civil society leaders find resources to implement their ideas. The project included four key areas: conducting large-scale research on the third sector, establishing the "I Am a Citizen" award, providing individual mentorship for activists, and holding the "Community" forums as an integration platform for NPOs and initiative groups. Already in its first year, "Perspective" demonstrated high

effectiveness. The research conducted provided the most comprehensive picture of civic activity in Russia at that time - from registered NPOs to informal communities and initiatives on social media. The forums helped identify key systemic problems within the sector, as well as the best practitioners ready to share their experience with other regions. President of Russia Vladimir Putin highly praised the project, noting its role in identifying NPO leaders engaged in beneficial activities in the regions and who have earned the trust of citizens.



Regulation, Funding, and Support for NPO Activities

In 2015, the Civic Chamber's special focus was on state regulation, funding, and reporting requirements for nonprofit organizations.

Work was conducted to address gaps in legislation hindering the development of the third sector and to create a more transparent and comprehensible system of support for NPOs.

These topics became central at the plenary sessions of the Civic Chamber in January and June 2015, as well as at the "Community" forums.

The Civic Chamber's initiative was supported by the President of Russia, who emphasized *that systematizing information about NPOs' work, their projects, funding sources, and challenges would become "the foundation for the further successful development of the third sector," capable of operating alongside small businesses, state, and municipal institutions in addressing social issues.*

Maintaining Funding for Socially Oriented NPOs

One of the key issues in 2015 was preserving subsidies for socially oriented NPOs. The Russian Ministry of Finance proposed discontinuing their funding, but the Civic Chamber opposed this initiative. Members of the Civic Chamber signed

an open letter to the President of Russia, requesting that the subsidies not be abolished.

As a result, they succeeded in defending them, and in April 2015, the Russian Ministry of Finance allocated 621 million

rubles to the constituent entities of the Russian Federation for funding socially oriented NPOs.

This decision sent an important signal to the entire civil society about the significance of the third sector in the country's social policy.



At the L. I. Shvetsova Scientific and Practical Center for Medical and Social Rehabilitation of the Disabled. December 4, 2015. Ekaterina Shtukina / RIA Novosti

Forming a "Roadmap" for Third Sector Development

The regional "Community" forums staged by the Civic Chamber in all federal districts became a unique platform for discussing the problems and prospects of NPO development. In total, more than eight thousand activists participated in the forums, and each could contribute proposals for forming a "roadmap" for third sector development.

The most pressing topics discussed at the forums concerned NPO funding and support, public oversight, the development of social entrepreneurship and volunteering, interaction with the media, and the activities of Public Supervisory Commissions. During the events and through feedback, the Civic Chamber collected over a thousand proposals. All were analyzed, synthesized, and presented at the final Moscow "Community" forum on November 3–4, 2015.

Thus, 2015 became for the Civic Chamber a time of strengthening the dialog between the state and civil society in the sphere of NPOs, as well as a stage in building a systematic approach to their support and development.



Member of the Civic Chamber Elena Topoleva-Soldunova at one of the public debates on third sector development issues. 2015 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

Formalizing the Ability of SO NPOs to Provide Social Services



Alexander Brechalov and Diana Gurtskaya visit the Nizhny Novgorod Regional Public Organization of Parents of Visually Impaired Children "Perspective". March 2015 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

Effective January 2015, amendments to Federal Law No. 442-FZ of December 28, 2013, "On the Fundamentals of Social Services for Citizens in the

Russian Federation," came into force. The amended version of the document became a turning point for the entire social sphere, as it not only provided clear definitions for

the terms "social service," "recipient," and "social service provider," but also for the first time formalized the right of socially oriented nonprofit organizations to act as official providers of such services. Previously, the share of non-state actors in this field was negligible—less than 1%. The amendments laid the groundwork for creating registries of social service providers and essentially opened the way for NPOs to participate systematically in addressing tasks that were previously considered the exclusive function of the state.

The Civic Chamber was among the main initiators of these changes and immediately engaged in monitoring their implementation. The results of 2015 showed that the constituent entities of the Russian Federation demonstrated varying approaches in the sphere of social services, and the mechanisms for transferring functions to NPOs were not yet fully clear. However, the very fact of involving nonprofit organizations in social services became a major milestone in the development of the third sector.



NPO Support Centers in the Constituent Entities of the Russian Federation

Continuing the theme of systemic change in the nonprofit sector, the Civic Chamber proposed creating NPO support centers in every region of the country. Such centers were intended to assist organizations with day-to-day tasks: providing legal and analytical support, organizing educational programs, offering grant

application counseling, and facilitating access to premises and equipment on preferential terms.

The idea was simple: if a region has a stable support infrastructure, NPOs would be able not only to carry out their activities but also to develop, replicate successful practices, and interact more

effectively with the state and business.

In a number of regions, such centers had already begun operating, and where they were just being established, the Civic Chamber called for leveraging existing resource platforms.

Promoting Social Entrepreneurship



Member of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, Director of the "Old Age in Joy" Charitable Foundation for Assisting the Elderly and Disabled, Elizaveta Oleskina with one of the foundation's beneficiaries. Daria Rotocheva / Press Service of the "Old Age in Joy" Charitable Foundation

An important focus for the Civic Chamber in 2015 was the promotion and development of social entrepreneurship. This topic was discussed at each of the nine "Community" forums. The Civic Chamber aimed to become one of the promoters

of the idea of social entrepreneurship among NPOs, not only by highlighting gaps in legislation in this sphere but also by disseminating best practices in social entrepreneurship.

Aid to Residents of Donbass Affected by Hostilities



Volunteers unload one of the vehicles from the 37th humanitarian convoy of the Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations, which arrived in Makeyevka, a satellite city of Donetsk. August 27, 2015. Ilya Pitaylov / RIA Novosti

The events in Ukraine in 2015 could not go unnoticed by the Civic Chamber. A humanitarian aid collection point was organized in Moscow on the Civic Chamber's premises: food, clothing, medicine, and essential goods were sent directly to families displaced from Donbass. The Civic Chamber's hotline played a special role, through which over 600 Ukrainian citizens who found themselves in Russia were able to receive assistance in resolving legal, everyday, and social problems.

That same year, with the participation of human rights organizations, an Information and Advisory Center for Judicial Protection of Ukrainian Residents was established under the Civic Chamber. Its main task was to assist in preparing and submitting complaints to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. This activity demonstrated that public institutions can provide not only humanitarian but also legal protection for victims in conflict situations.

Establishment of a Federal Corporation for the Development of Small and Medium-Sized Businesses

On the initiative of business associations and with the active support of the Civic Chamber, the Federal Corporation for the Development of Small and Medium-Sized Businesses was created.

Its mission was to unite the efforts of the state and business and to make support for small and medium-sized enterprises more systematic, transparent, and targeted.

The Civic Chamber participated in developing the corporation's concept, acting as a mediator between the authorities and the business community. This laid the groundwork for a new model of interaction where the voice of business directly influenced the formation of state policy.

The Civic Chamber's proposals formed the basis for developing sustainable models to support civil society and economic actors amid crisis conditions.



General Director – Chairman of the Management Board of "SME Corporation" JSC Alexander Braverman (left) and President, Chairman of the Management Board of Sberbank of Russia Herman Gref during the signing of a cooperation agreement at the XX St. Petersburg International Economic Forum. June 16, 2016. Ilya Pitaylov / RIA Novosti



"Resetting" Public Councils

Another priority in 2015 was the "reset" of public councils under federal executive authorities.

On the instruction of the President of Russia, the process of their renewal began. The goal was to transform the councils into an effective instrument of public oversight and to engage active representatives of NPOs in their work.

In 2015–2016, the Civic Chamber, together with the Government Commission on Coordinating the Activities of the Open Government, prepared the Standard for Public Council Activities and the Regulations on the Competitive Selection of its Members. In collaboration with the Expert Council under the Government of Russia, proposals were developed to regulate the procedure for establishing and functioning of these bodies. Thus, public councils ceased to be ostensible structures and turned into a real mechanism for engaging civil society in state decision-making.

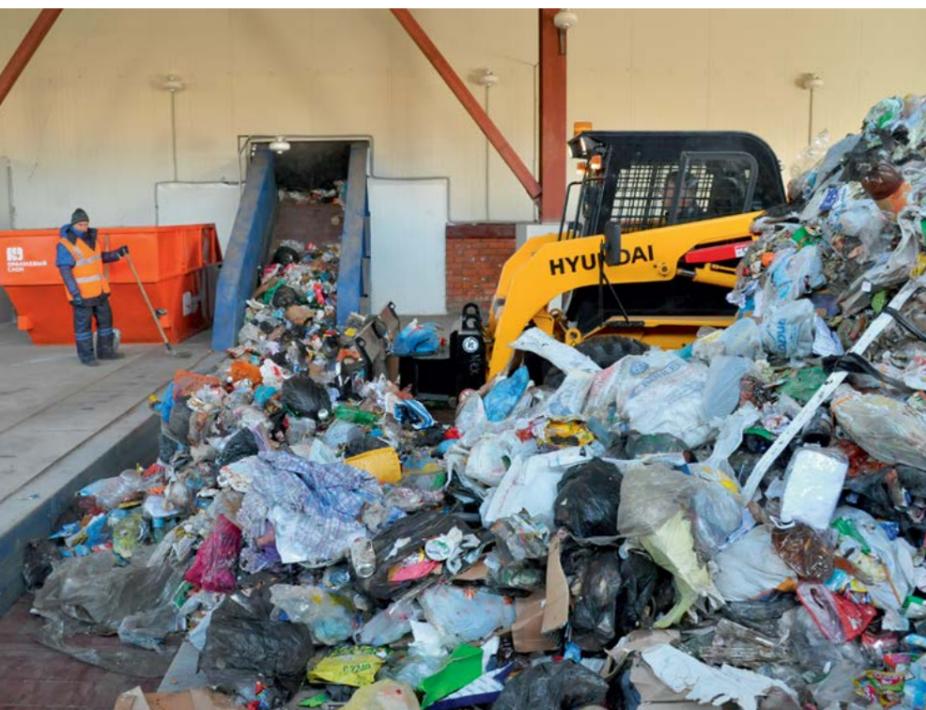
Public Oversight over Waste Management

The problem of waste management became one of the most pressing environmental issues in modern Russia and received special attention from the Civic Chamber in 2015.

In particular, in the spring, a public expert review was conducted of draft Russian Government resolutions on licensing activities in the sphere of managing waste of hazard classes I–IV

and on the procedure for collecting the environmental fee.

The most heated discussions centered on the proposal to introduce licensing for all types of waste management activities. Civil society activists insisted that the measures must be well-considered, otherwise the risks of monopolization and price increases in the industry could harm both businesses and citizens. Following the debates, the Civic Chamber proposed creating a mechanism for permanent public oversight in this sphere and a system for training public inspectors. All recommendations were compiled into a single document and submitted to the Presidential Administration, the Government of the Russian Federation, and relevant ministries. This was the first step towards forming a civilized and transparent system of public environmental supervision.



Launch of the first waste sorting plant in Transbaikalia. Chita. November 2, 2015. Evgeny Epanchintsev / RIA Novosti

Development of the Far Eastern Territories

Development of the Far East remained among the priority areas.

The agenda included several initiatives at once — from creating Advanced Special Economic Zones (ASEZs) to the "Far Eastern Hectare" program. The Civic Chamber engaged in work on the draft laws even before their first reading. During the discussion of the ASEZ law, the emphasis was on the need to involve residents and local communities in decisions about the region's future. When considering the "Far Eastern Hectare" program, the Civic Chamber's experts stressed that the land program should be maximally accessible and avoid creating administrative barriers for citizens.

By the second reading in 2016, many of the Civic Chamber's proposals were incorporated into the draft laws' texts, for example, securing the right to file an application for property registration free of charge. Thus, the participation of civil society activists helped make the legislation more socially oriented and understandable for citizens.



Start of the academic year at the Far Eastern Federal University. Russky Island. September 2015. Alexander Kryazhev / RIA Novosti

Report "National Human Capital and New Sources of National Competitiveness"



Members of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation participate in unfurling the largest Russian flag, measuring 1052 square meters, along with 85 symbols of different regions as part of the cultural-patriotic project "Arctic-2015" / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

Marking the conclusion of Russia's presidency of the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (AICESIS), the Civic Chamber prepared a comprehensive report titled "National Human Capital and New Sources of National Competitiveness."

The document examined education, healthcare, and social development as key factors for the long-term competitiveness of nations. The report was the result of not only in-depth expert-analytical work but also of the broad international dialog conducted during the presidency. For Russia, this was an opportunity to present its approach to human capital development and propose it as a basis for global discussion.

2016

Gradual Development of the Third Sector

The Federal Law on Civic Chambers of the Constituent Entities of the Russian Federation was adopted; the Concept for Supporting Socially Oriented NPOs and the Resource Centers Map were developed.

The Civic Chamber worked on modernizing civil legislation, monitoring orphanage reforms, developing SO NPOs, and improving forest legislation. The "Community" forums contributed to engaging citizens in third sector development.

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57 Monitoring the Reform of Orphanages

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58 Improving Legislation in the Field of Forestry

Law on Civic Chambers of the Constituent Entities of the Russian Federation

A significant event for the public oversight system in 2016 was the adoption of Federal Law No. 183-FZ of June 23, 2016, "On the General Principles of Organization and Activities of Civic Chambers of the Constituent Entities of the Russian Federation." It established unified approaches to the formation of civic chambers in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, their organizational, logistical, and technical support, and secured equal legal status and independence for these bodies.

The draft law was prepared with the participation of the Civic Chamber, a wide range of experts, and representatives of the nonprofit sector. This Federal Law came into force in 2017.



The building of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation in Moscow / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

Monitoring the Reform of Orphanages

In 2016, the reform of orphanages remained one of the key topics of public debates. The previous year, a Russian Government resolution had come into force, laying the foundations for a large-scale reorganization of these institutions.

A year later, in September, the Civic Chamber, together with the civic chambers of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, initiated monitoring of the reform's progress. Working groups were formed for inspections, comprising psychologists, doctors, NPO experts, volunteers, and specialists of various profiles who traveled to orphanages across the country.

The monitoring results recorded not only problems and vulnerable aspects of the reform but also proposals and ways to address them. Public organizations and businesses became involved, drawing local authorities' attention to factors slowing down the process. The beginning of 2017 was marked by the submission of the final report to the Deputy Chairman of the Government of Russia.



Residents of one of the boarding schools in Chelyabinsk at a performance arranged for them by visiting artists from Moscow who came with participants of the "Train of Hope" adoption assistance program. October 24, 2016. Vladimir Pesnya / RIA Novosti



Facilitating the Development of Socially Oriented NPOs

Since 2015, the Civic Chamber has been conducting a series of "Community" forums. Throughout 2015, the forums were held in Perm, Omsk, Khabarovsk, Yalta, Yekaterinburg, Cherepovets, Grozny, and Volgograd, with the final forum taking place in Moscow on November 3–4, 2015. In total, more than ten thousand representatives of NPOs and civil activists participated in the 2016 forums, enabling the formation of a comprehensive picture of the third sector's needs and opportunities. One of the forums' goals was to develop the Concept for Facilitating the Development of Socially Oriented NPOs in Russia.

The document proposed institutionalizing the work of such organizations, enhancing their economic sustainability, expanding citizen participation in nonprofit projects, and changing the perception of the third sector.

Alongside the Concept, experts also presented the Map of Resource Centers for Supporting NPOs. This analytical tool allowed nonprofit organizations and state authorities to navigate the third sector's development infrastructure and utilize existing resources as effectively as possible. Simultaneously, in November 2016, a draft bill amending the Federal Law "On

Nonprofit Organizations" was submitted to the State Duma.

It stipulated financial, property, informational, and consultative support for NPOs providing socially beneficial services. The proposed amendments opened up opportunities for NPOs to use free airtime on regional and municipal TV channels and radio stations for social advertising, established deadlines for providing subsidies and property support from regional authorities. The necessity for such support was also emphasized by the President of Russia at one of the final "Community" forums.

Improving Legislation in the Field of Forestry

The summer of 2016 was remembered for massive forest fires. On some days, fires engulfed up to 2.3 million hectares of forest simultaneously, with 13 constituent entities of the Russian Federation shrouded in smoke. The situation revealed serious gaps in forest management, which had begun to be restructured in the 2000s.

The Civic Chamber engaged in discussing the problem, preparing recommendations for the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources and the Federal Forestry Agency. In particular, it was proposed to legally mandate the development of forest fire protection plans for the territories of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, adopt regulatory legal acts for conducting preventive measures, and strengthen control over their implementation.

Throughout the year, the Civic Chamber held over ten events and actively participated in preparing a draft law on creating "green belts" around cities. These initiatives became part of broader efforts to modernize forest legislation and enhance the resilience of ecosystems during fire-hazard seasons.

A BE-200ChS amphibious aircraft of the Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations at the Blagoveshchensk airport in Amur Oblast during forest firefighting operations. May 8, 2016. Igor Ageyenko / RIA Novosti

2017

Systemic Support for Social Change

Volunteerism was institutionalized: Volunteer's Day was established, a volunteer support standard was developed, and amendments to the charity law were introduced.

The "Marathon of Good Deeds" and "Open NPOs" projects were launched, and the Presidential Grants Foundation was created. In the housing and utilities sector, the public oversight system was enhanced, covering over 1,300 municipalities and 3,000 activists.

60 **Volunteer's Day Established in Russia**

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Volunteer's Day Established in Russia

A new state approach to supporting the volunteer movement.

The impetus for the systemic development of the volunteer movement was the President's Address to the Federal Assembly on December 1, 2016, in which he emphasized the need to eliminate all barriers impeding the growth of volunteerism.

The Civic Chamber, having long served as a key platform on volunteerism development, intensified its work in this area. Members of the Civic Chamber collected and systematized over 300 successful practices for supporting

volunteers, analyzed them, and based on this, prepared a Standard for Supporting Volunteer Activities.

The document proposed unified approaches to eliminating administrative and organizational barriers to volunteer activities across the country. Alongside this, preparing proposals for amending the law on charitable activities was also significant. The Civic Chamber organized a broad public discussion of the amendments to the law. Public hearings were held in the vast majority of the country's regions.

The result was the formal recognition of volunteers as subjects of charitable activity, which finally legitimized the volunteer movement in Russia.

According to sociological surveys, millions of the country's citizens considered themselves volunteers and/or benefactors. As early as mid-2018, the UN would call Russia the "largest volunteer nation."

At the end of 2017, the President of Russia signed a Decree declaring December 5 as Volunteer's Day and proclaimed 2018 the Year of the Volunteer.



First Vice President of the Civic Chamber, Hero of Russia Vyacheslav Bocharov participates in a lesson alongside activists of the youth military-patriotic movement "Yunarmiya" / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

"Marathon of Good Deeds". Mediation of Environmental Conflicts

2017 was declared the Year of Ecology in Russia.

The large-scale environmental agenda initiated by the President of Russia united the efforts of the authorities and civil society institutions. Within this framework, the Civic Chamber launched the nationwide "Marathon of Good Deeds" campaign. The project brought together activists, students, professional communities, and environmental NPOs, becoming one of the largest volunteer initiatives in the field of environmental protection. The campaign demonstrated that citizens' environmental demands could transform into a sustainable and mass form of participation in the country's life. Simultaneously, 2017 saw an increase in conflict situations related to environmental policy, primarily in the context of launching the "waste reform." Here, the Civic Chamber acted as a public mediator, facilitating dialog between the authorities and the population, seeking to mitigate tensions and find compromises.



Artek campers during an ascent of Bear Mountain and a cleanup of the ecological trail. March 4, 2017. Sergey Malgavko / RIA Novosti

Record Funding Volume for Social Projects

A unified operator for state support of NPOs was created—the Presidential Grants Foundation.



General Director of the Presidential Grants Foundation Ilya Chukalin addresses participants of the seminar "How to Receive a Presidential Grant of the Russian Federation for Implementing a Social Project?". March 5, 2018 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

Until 2017, the system of state support for NPOs was fragmented, and access to information about grants and subsidies was limited. The establishment in 2017 of the Presidential Grants Foundation—a unified operator for presidential grants—provided an impetus for the development of civic initiatives across the country.

From its inception and in subsequent years, the Foundation became not just an administrator but a genuine engine of positive change, supporting projects in a wide range of spheres—from culture and science to ecology and charity—directing significant funds towards implementing socially significant projects and ensuring transparency and systematic allocation of funds.

Already in 2017, the Foundation distributed over 6 billion rubles among 3,213 SO NPOs. In 2018, 8 billion rubles were allocated through the presidential grants program. Projects submitted by NPOs working across 13 areas in the fields of social protection, healthcare, education and science, and youth policy competed for grants. A new area—"Identifying and Supporting Young Talents in Culture and the Arts"—was introduced in 2018.

In the first years of the Foundation's operation, the geography of support expanded, with the focus shifting from Moscow and St. Petersburg to the regions of the Russian Federation. For instance, following two competitions in 2018, projects from all 85 regions of the country received support. More than half of the supported NPOs (1,049) received a presidential grant for the first time. Compared to 2015, the number of supported regional projects quadrupled. The number of winning projects from small towns and rural areas also increased, with 1,068 organizations receiving grants totaling over 1.2 billion rubles in 2018 (20% more than in 2017).

The platform's success was evident and allowed for refining the grant allocation system and creating new development institutions: in 2021, the Presidential Foundation for Cultural Initiatives began its operations under the leadership of media manager Roman Karmanov, and in 2025, the Presidential Foundation for Nature was established, also headed by Ilya Chukalin.

Support for

Volunteerism



Volunteers and volunteer candidates at the launch ceremony of the volunteer program for the 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup and the 2018 FIFA World Cup in the Universiade Village in Kazan. June 1, 2016. Maxim Bogodvid / RIA Novosti



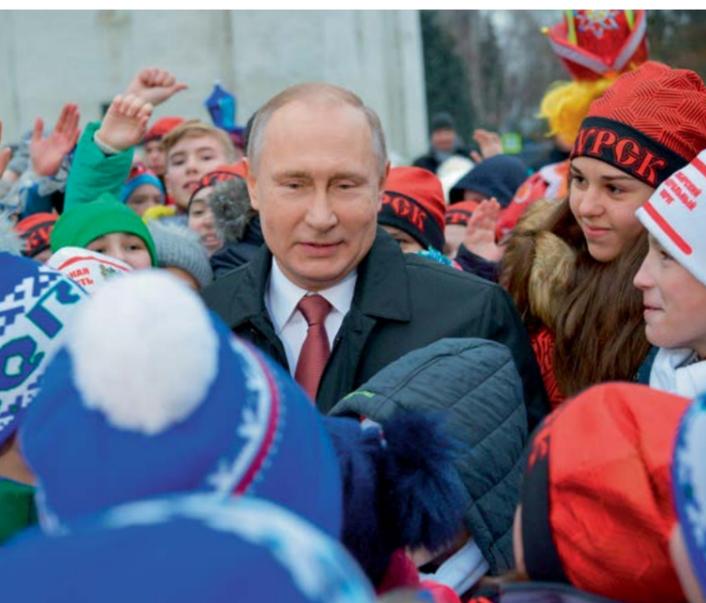
Urban Environment Under Public Oversight

By 2017, a multi-level system of public oversight had been established in the housing and utilities sector. It included civic chambers across the country's regions, public councils under federal executive authorities, and over 300 specialized NPOs. The municipal network covered 1,349 cities and towns, with approximately 3,000 activists involved in its work. They monitored the housing stock, surrounding areas, building entrances, and the quality of utility services, collected citizens' appeals, and forwarded them to the authorities. The Civic Chamber also organized on-site events where open dialogs were held with residents, management companies, and government representatives. This not only helped identify systemic problems but also generate substantiated proposals for addressing them. On June 19, 2017, at the first plenary session of the sixth composition, Valery Fadeev—a journalist, political scientist, and public figure who was among the founders of the Civic Chamber—was unanimously elected



President of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation Valery Fadeev and acting Governor of Nizhny Novgorod Oblast Gleb Nikitin at the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation's forum "#ЧТОДЕТАК" in Nizhny Novgorod. February 28, 2018 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

as its President. In his role as President, Fadeev focused significantly on enhancing the effectiveness of dialog between the state and society, reducing the distance between them, and shaping the so-called "people's agenda."



President of Russia Vladimir Putin during a meeting on Cathedral Square with children attending the Kremlin New Year's Eve celebration. December 26, 2017. Alexey Druzhinin / RIA Novosti

The Decade of Childhood: A Grand Strategy for the Young Generation

On May 29, 2017, the President of Russia signed a decree on the Decade of Childhood—a large-scale state program to support families and improve children's living conditions. The Civic Chamber became a key participant in implementing this initiative. The Civic Chamber's proposals were included in the final version of the action plan through 2027: analyzing the effectiveness of social support measures, organizing campaigns and public events, developing standards for child supervision and care services, and establishing requirements for specialists working with young children.

2018

May Decrees: Deepening the Systemic Dialog Between Authorities and Society

The Civic Chamber strengthened oversight of social processes, support for NPOs, and civic initiatives. The work of the forums continued, new mechanisms for citizen participation were introduced, and projects in culture, ecology, and support for socially vulnerable groups were implemented.

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Monitoring the Implementation of National Projects



Section "National Projects in the Social Sphere: State Priorities, Opportunities for Society" at the "Community" forum in Moscow. November 2, 2018 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

Achieving the goals of the national projects, outlined in the May decree of the President of Russia, became the central socio-political task of the country.

The Civic Chamber, together with the civic chambers of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, engaged in monitoring the implementation of the projects, helping civil society articulate its interests and transform them into concrete proposals for the authorities.



First meeting of the Coordinating Council under the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on National Projects and Population Sustainability. September 9, 2020 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

150,000 Observers at the Russian Presidential Election

In 2018, the Civic Chamber gained the authority to deploy independent public observers to polling stations to monitor the voting process.

A large-scale training program was undertaken across the country to train observers, including seminars, round tables, and practical training sessions. The "Golden Standard of Public Observation" was developed—a simple questionnaire that enabled an observer to monitor the key parameters of the voting process at a polling station: before opening, during voting, and during the vote count.

In total, over 150,000 public observers were trained and deployed to polling stations. All-Russian public organizations, regional and municipal NPOs collaborated with the Civic Chamber of Russia and regional chambers on recruiting and training observers under relevant agreements. Similar agreements were signed by the Civic Chamber with political parties.

Public observation during the 2018 presidential election became the first large-scale experience of civil society's

participation in monitoring electoral procedures.



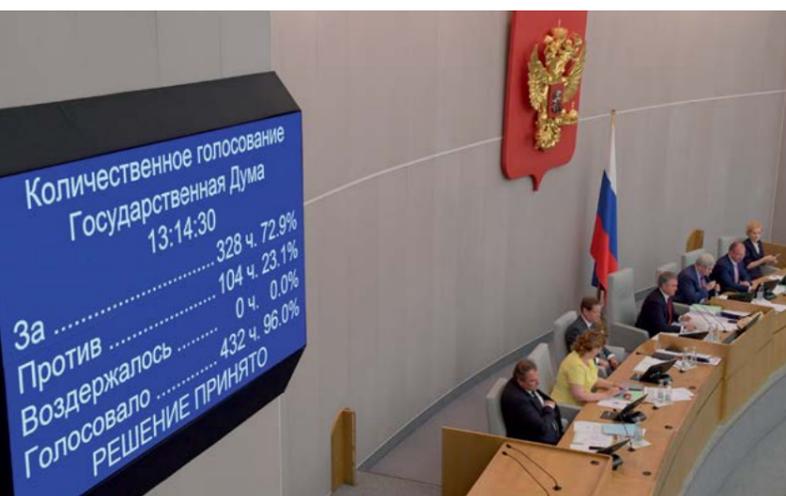
Volunteers at the Monitoring Center for Public Observation of the Russian Presidential Election in contact with observers at polling stations. March 18, 2018 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation



Vice President of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation Alexander Tochenov, President of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation Valery Fadeev, and Deputy Head of the Civic Chamber's Working Group for Monitoring the Implementation of Citizens' Electoral Rights Maxim Grigoriev in the Monitoring Center for Public Observation of the Russian Presidential Election at the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation. March 18, 2018 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation



Pension Age Increase: Civic Chamber's Proposals Taken into Account!



Scoreboard showing the voting results for the first reading of the pension reform bill at a plenary session of the State Duma of the Russian Federation. July 19, 2018. Vladimir Fedorenko / RIA Novosti

The 2018 pension reform sparked widespread public debate. The Civic Chamber engaged in the discussion by organizing a platform for experts, NPOs, trade unions, and regional chambers.

The result was a list of 27 substantive questions and proposals to the Government of Russia, covering age discrimination in employment, the state of regional labor markets, opportunities for retraining, the role of labor migrants, support for families with children, youth unemployment, and other socio-economic aspects. The public address by the President of Russia in August 2018 and subsequent changes to pension legislation demonstrated the importance of the proposals developed during the discussions at the Civic Chamber. The pension reform became an indicator of how institutionalized public discussion can significantly influence state policy in addressing socially significant issues.



The Civic Chamber's Proposals on Pension Reform Were Taken into Account! Members of the Civic Chamber watch the live broadcast of the President of Russia's address to citizens regarding pension reform. August 29, 2018 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

Towards People with Disabilities

In the autumn of 2017, a hotline for issues related to medical and social assessment began operating at the Civic Chamber.

Over three months, about a thousand inquiries from citizens with disabilities were registered. Complaints concerned denials of disability status, excessive formalism, and bureaucratic hurdles. The Civic Chamber initiated a discussion of the problem at the federal level, involving relevant ministries, human rights, and medical organizations. As a result, a Resolution of the Government of Russia was adopted, simplifying the procedure for establishing disability and reassessment. For many citizens, the need for annual reassessments was eliminated, reducing administrative pressure and emotional strain.



Meeting of the President of Russia with representatives of public organizations for persons with disabilities. December 5, 2017. Alexey Nikolsky / RIA Novosti

Civic Chamber and the "Waste Reform"



One of the central topics at the "Community" forum in Arkhangelsk was the discussion of MSW management issues. June 22, 2019 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

2018 was marked by the development of a large-scale reform for managing solid municipal waste. The Civic Chamber engaged in the process at the peak of public concern. Together with the All-Russian People's Front and the Presidential Council for Civil Society and Human Rights Development, measures for processing municipal solid waste (MSW) were analyzed, and proposals for considering public opinion when constructing waste processing facilities were formulated. Over eight thousand citizen inquiries were received on the Civic Chamber's hotline. Citizens complained about non-transparent decisions, environmental risks, and the construction of landfills without considering the opinion of local communities. These inquiries were discussed at "Community" forums, round tables, and meetings of public councils under regional government bodies. The Civic Chamber formulated and submitted proposals to the authorities regarding ensuring the harmonization of citizens' interests when changing the rules for MSW management. One of the key ideas was the creation of a specialized Public Legal Company (PLC) for managing municipal waste. This proposal from the Civic Chamber was soon implemented.

Decade of Childhood





Legalization of Self-Employed Individuals

2018 became the starting point for legalizing self-employed individuals in Russia



Accountant Dmitry Graf, as a self-employed individual, repairs children's strollers in Vladivostok. July 19, 2020. Vitaly Ankov / RIA Novosti

Millions of citizens—tutors, nannies, designers, freelancers—worked outside the legal framework, without being registered as individual entrepreneurs and. Therefore, not paying taxes. At the same time, they did not conceal their activities, but the existing legislation provided no mechanisms for their legalization.

The Civic Chamber served as the key platform for an open dialog on this issue. On April 6 and June 14, 2018, "zero readings" were held for two alternative draft laws from the Russian Ministry of Finance and the Russian Ministry of Justice. During the discussions, civil society representatives noted the absence of a unified understanding and interpretation of a term analogous to "self-employed" in legislation, which hindered the development of effective state policy. The main emphasis was placed not on formal definitions but on creating conditions for people to voluntarily exit the shadow economy. The Civic Chamber insisted that the tax system for the self-employed must be simple, accessible, convenient, and safe to incentivize the legalization of their activities.

On November 27, 2018, Federal Law No. 422-FZ was adopted, establishing the legal basis for conducting an experiment on introducing the special tax regime "Tax on Professional Income."

The experiment began in Moscow, Moscow Oblast, Kaluga Oblast, and Tatarstan, paving the way for the legalization of millions of self-employed citizens.

2019

Public Participation in Shaping State Policy Priorities

The role of civil society in shaping state policy across various areas—from charity and volunteerism to the development of the Far East. In 2019, the Civic Chamber actively participated in addressing environmental tasks and improving legislation in healthcare and social entrepreneurship.

Mapping Barriers for SO NPOs in the Social Services Market

At the "Community" forum platforms, the Civic Chamber's Commission on the Development of the nonprofit Sector regularly held events aimed at removing barriers for SO NPOs wishing to provide social services.

The main problem was distrust and doubts about the reliability of NPOs among officials responsible for organizing social assistance. It is fair to note that such distrust was sometimes justified.

The task of the Civic Chamber was to bridge the positions of the authorities and the nonprofit sector, creating conditions that expand the opportunities for SO NPOs to participate in providing social services and make them more competitive.



Section "SO NPOs in the Social Services Market" at the "Community" forum in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, October 2018 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

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Concept for the Development of Charitable Activities

In 2019, the Civic Chamber continued its systematic work to shape state policy priorities in key areas of social development. One significant outcome was the adoption of the Concept for Facilitating the Development of Charitable Activities for the Period until 2025. The document aimed to expand citizen participation in charitable initiatives, foster a culture of giving, strengthen transparency and trust in charitable institutions, and enhance the effectiveness of relevant programs. The Civic Chamber actively participated in discussing and shaping the provisions of the Concept, serving as a link between the nonprofit sector, businesses, and state structures.



President of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation Lidia Mikheeva during the gala concert of the "Good People" festival, organized by the Civic Chamber in the "Muzeon" Park of Arts in Moscow. September 5, 2020 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

In 2019, the Civic Chamber President Valery Fadeev assumed the leadership of the Council for the Development of Civil Society Institutions and Human Rights. At a plenary session of the Civic Chamber, Lidia Mikheeva, head of the S.S. Alexeev Research Center for Private Law under the President of the Russian Federation, Honored Lawyer of the Russian Federation, and a member of the Civic Chamber since 2014, was elected as the new President.

Under Lidia Mikheeva's leadership, the Civic Chamber intensified its work on public expert review of legislation, analysis of law enforcement practice, and engagement with legislative initiative entities.

She also places significant emphasis on public diplomacy. During this period, the Civic Chamber's activities on the international track were substantially reinvigorated: Russia once again assumed the presidency of AICESIS, and, thanks to Lidia Mikheeva's professional contribution, work was conducted to modernize its Charter; the Civic Chamber formed and dispatched humanitarian and observation missions abroad.



Leader of the "Medical Volunteers" movement Pavel Savchuk gives a tour to First Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration of the Russian Federation Sergey Kiriyenko at the "Volunteers of Russia" forum. Sochi. December 2019. Ekaterina Lyzlova / RIA Novosti

Preparation of Strategic Documents for Supporting Volunteerism

In 2018–2019, key documents aimed at developing the volunteer movement in Russia were adopted: the Concept for the Development of Volunteerism until 2025 and the Action Plan for its implementation. The documents envisaged broad citizen involvement in patriotic education, preserving historical memory, and other spheres of public activity.

The Civic Chamber actively participated in developing and discussing these documents, primarily through the Coordination Council for Volunteerism. Most of the Civic Chamber's proposals were taken into account. The document outlined 95 steps to remove barriers for volunteers, launch educational programs, and support sectoral volunteerism in healthcare, social protection, culture, ecology, and other fields.

Preparation of the National Program for Socio-Economic Development of the Far East

In 2019, the Civic Chamber organized a large-scale public debate on the program for the socio-economic development of the Far East until 2024 and with a perspective to 2035. For the first time, the participation of civil society was enshrined as a key condition for strategic planning.

To support the dialog, the interregional project "My Ideas for the Far East" was implemented, uniting citizens, experts, government authorities, and businesses to jointly develop long-term solutions within the program's framework. Also, with the support of the Civic Chamber, the Council of Civic Chambers of the Constituent Entities of the Russian Federation in the Far Eastern Federal District was established.



Public debate on the Far East Development Program at the "Community" forum in Ulan-Ude. May 2019 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

Implementation of a New Institutional Management Model in the Sphere of Waste Management

Special attention of the Civic Chamber was devoted to the national project "Ecology."

In particular, the Civic Chamber proposed a concept for a new institutional management model in the sphere of waste management, focused on transparency, sustainability, and efficiency.

In January 2019, as part of this initiative, the Russian Environmental Operator was established—a public legal company responsible for developing waste processing infrastructure, improving the industry's efficiency, and ensuring environmental safety. This initiative became an example of systemic participation by civil society in shaping and supporting state decisions.



Civic Chamber member Albina Dudareva installs a GLONASS tracker on a garbage bin to monitor MSW removal as part of the Civic Chamber's campaign "Where Does the Trash Go?". October 3, 2017 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation



Formalizing the Concepts of "Social Entrepreneurship" and "Social Enterprise"

One of the key achievements of the Civic Chamber in 2019 was the legal formalization of the concepts of "social entrepreneurship" and "social enterprise."

Amendments to Federal Law No. 209-FZ of July 24, 2007, "On the Development of Small and Medium-Sized

Entrepreneurship," established the legal basis for state support of organizations implementing socially oriented initiatives.

The criteria included job creation for socially vulnerable groups, the production of goods and services for such groups, as well as activities aimed at addressing socially significant challenges. The Civic Chamber submitted a number of comments and proposals, the majority of which were taken into account in the final version of the corresponding draft law.

Improving Legislation in the Sphere of Public Health

The Civic Chamber actively participated in refining the draft federal law "On the Fundamentals of Public Health Protection in the Russian Federation," specifically regarding the provision of palliative medical care.

During a broad expert discussion involving the professional community, patient organizations, and human rights advocates, proposals were developed to expand the definition of palliative care, improve access to pain management, and institutionalize social, psychological, and spiritual support. These proposals were taken into account during the preparation of the final version of the draft law.



The inclusive flash mob "We Are Russia," organized by the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on Poklonnaya Hill in Moscow / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation



Member of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation Dmitry Nosov during a visit to places of forced detention in St. Petersburg. 2019 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

Development of a Federal Target Program for Military Memorial Sites

The Civic Chamber, together with the civic chambers of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation and search NPOs, actively participated in the development of the Federal Target Program "Creation and Restoration of Military Memorial Sites for 2019–2024," and its proposals were taken into account during the formulation of this program.

Institutionalization and Expansion of the Authority of Public Councils and PSCs

2019 became a landmark year for the development of the public oversight institution. On the initiative of the Civic Chamber, gaps were addressed, and mechanisms for the formation and operation of public councils under federal executive authorities and Public Supervisory Commissions (PSCs) were systematized.

A key step was amending Government Resolution No. 481 of August 2, 2005, which established unified requirements for the procedure of forming public councils.

Specifically, the Civic Chamber was assigned the function of organizing competitions for forming these

councils, uniform qualification criteria for candidates and the procedure for nominating chairpersons were defined. The term of office for council members was set at no more than three years. In the sphere of PSCs, 2019 saw the largest campaign to form commissions in 45 constituent entities simultaneously.

New Format of the Civic Chamber's Work—Special Reports

In 2019, the Civic Chamber introduced a new tool into its practice—special reports, which strengthened the analytical and expert component of its activities. These materials became full-fledged documents of public analysis, where systemic conclusions were combined with research data, and proposals from civil society were considered on par with state initiatives.

The themes of the first reports covered key issues on the public agenda:

- "Demography-2024: How to Ensure Sustainable Natural Population Growth in the Russian Federation";
- "Participation of NPOs in Providing Services in the Social Sphere";
- "Family Policy: Support Measures Through the Eyes of Families";
- "How to Preserve Rural Areas: Problems of Population Employment."



Effective Dialog Between Civil Society and the State!



Meeting of First Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration of the Russian Federation Sergey Kiriyenko with members of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation and civic chambers of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation at the "Community" forum in Moscow. November 2019 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

2020

Constitutional Plebiscite and the Coronavirus Pandemic

In 2020, the Civic Chamber played a key role in adopting amendments to the Constitution of the Russian Federation, ensuring the transparency of the nationwide vote. It became the central coordinator of the civil response to the pandemic, actively participated in adjusting national projects, launched rating studies to assess the development of NPOs and regional civic chambers, and put forward an initiative to create a unified register of SO NPOs, which received the support of the President of Russia.

81 Meeting of the President of the Russian Federation with the New Composition of the Civic Chamber

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Meeting of the President of the Russian Federation with the New Composition of the Civic Chamber

On June 25, 2020, the President of Russia met with the new composition of the Civic Chamber. Key issues were discussed - from organizing public oversight of the

vote on amendments to the Constitution of the Russian Federation to monitoring decisions amid the pandemic.

The Civic Chamber proposed measures for monitoring the implementation of national projects, creating a unified NPO registry, providing additional support to the third sector, and funding assistance for children with rare diseases through a progressive personal income tax. Following the meeting, a list of 17 instructions from the President of Russia was approved. Their implementation required interagency coordination, and the Civic Chamber prepared expert reports, becoming not only a feedback channel but a full-fledged participant in shaping strategic decisions.



President of Russia Vladimir Putin holds a meeting via videoconference with members of the newly formed seventh composition of the Civic Chamber. June 25, 2020. Mikhail Klimentyev / RIA Novosti

Amendments to the Constitution

In 2020, the Civic Chamber became the connecting link in implementing the constitutional reform, uniting civil society, experts, and the authorities. A group for preparing proposals operated on its platform, which included nine Civic Chamber representatives. Over three months, more than 2,200 initiatives were collected, over 600 were forwarded to the working group, and 11 of the Civic Chamber's proposals were incorporated into the final text of the Constitution.

During the nationwide vote on amendments to the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the Civic Chamber deployed over half a million independent public observers from more than 1,600 public associations to polling stations. As per tradition, a Situation Center operated around the clock on the Civic Chamber's premises. After the vote, the Civic Chamber prepared a report with proposals for developing public observation and conducted expert reviews of draft laws implementing the "social amendments," including matters of education, child protection, youth policy, and the status of the Russian language.



Working Group of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on Amendments to the Constitution of the Russian Federation / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation



#WeAreTogether— Uniting Efforts in the Fight Against the Coronavirus



Activists of the regional volunteer headquarters of the All-Russian People's Front, as part of the "We Are Together" campaign, process requests for home delivery of medicines for COVID-19 patients in Tambov. November 24, 2020. Alexey Sukhorukov / RIA Novosti

In 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Civic Chamber became the coordinator of efforts by civil society, volunteers, and NPOs. With its support, the #WeAreTogether campaign was launched, uniting over 118,000 volunteers and providing assistance to more than 3.5 million people. The total volume of donations exceeded 1.8 billion rubles.

For an operational response, the project #UnderSupervision2020 was launched, featuring hotlines for state support measures, NPO operations, combating disinformation, and healthcare issues. Based on the collected data, the Civic Chamber prepared proposals to enhance the effectiveness of interaction between the state, citizens, and volunteers.



Aid to the population during the pandemic and the #WeAreTogether campaign / Добро.рф

Developing Systemic Support Measures for NPOs During the Pandemic



Volunteers of the "Good of the World—Volunteers of Crimea" charity foundation deliver necessary medications to a retiree. April 6, 2020. Konstantin Mikhalevsky / RIA Novosti

One of the key priorities of the Civic Chamber in 2020 became the protection of socially oriented NPOs, which found themselves at particular risk due to restrictive measures. The Civic Chamber's prepared proposals for mitigating the crisis's impact on the third sector were taken into account in the instructions of the President of Russia and formed the basis of a number of regulatory legal acts. As a result, unprecedented support measures were introduced, including temporary exemptions from taxes and insurance premiums, a moratorium on inspections, access to preferential lending, and tax incentives for benefactors. Potential recipients of aid included approximately 40,000 organizations. In April 2020, the Civic Chamber launched the #TogetherNPOs hotline to collect information on NPOs' needs, their adaptation experience, and successful practices. This initiative became an important tool for horizontal connections within the sector and strengthening institutional support.

Later, the Civic Chamber actively participated in forming registries of NPOs eligible for state support: it facilitated

interaction with state authorities, provided up-to-date data and proposals for including organizations, and exercised public oversight over the process.

Given the need for systematization and simplification of procedures, the Civic Chamber proposed consolidating the registries and put forward the initiative to create a unified registry of SO NPOs. At the meeting of the President of Russia with the new composition of the Civic Chamber, this idea received support, and the Government of Russia was instructed to jointly prepare proposals for its formation and maintenance with the Civic Chamber.

Many legislative decisions to support the nonprofit sector, adopted during that period and considered temporary and anti-crisis, were not subsequently canceled after the pandemic ended, allowing for the formation of a full-fledged infrastructure to support the nonprofit sector. The Civic Chamber, together with the civic chambers of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, submitted a set of proposals to the Government of Russia for inclusion in the National Action Plan, ensuring the restoration of employment and incomes, growth, and long-term structural changes in the economy. The main focus was on two key areas: targeted support for vulnerable categories of citizens and the resilience of the small and medium-sized enterprise sector.

The Civic Chamber's proposals became the basis for forming sustainable models to support civil society and economic actors amid crisis conditions.



The Commission of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation on Economic Development and Corporate Social Responsibility discusses support measures for small and medium-sized enterprises. 2020 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

We Are Together!



Adjusting National Projects and Public Monitoring of Their Implementation

On the instruction of the President of Russia, the Civic Chamber ensured public oversight over the implementation of national projects. Simultaneously, the Government of Russia was directed to integrate the measures of the National Action Plan for restoring employment, incomes, and economic growth into the national projects, strengthening their social orientation.

Together with the civic chambers of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, the Civic Chamber collected and analyzed over 500 proposals aimed at supporting civil initiatives, disseminating successful practices, and improving mechanisms for achieving socially significant outcomes. Based on this, the Civic Chamber's commissions prepared a set of proposals for adjusting

the content of the national projects, taking into account the real needs of the population and regional specifics. The work was built on a systematic analysis of national project implementation practices in the regions and allowed for the development of recommendations based on public demand and concrete experience.

Sustainable Development

In 2020, environmental protection and sustainable natural resource management became among the most pressing issues for society, requiring the participation of the expert community and civil society institutions in resolving social conflicts. One of the most resonant events was the emergency in Norilsk related to the diesel fuel spill. Following discussions organized at the Civic Chamber, a set of proposals for eliminating the consequences and compensating for the damage was formed and submitted to state authorities, being taken into account in decisions on ecosystem restoration.

Another acute example was the conflict around the industrial development project of the Kushtau Shihan in the Republic of Bashkortostan. The Civic Chamber supported the decision to prohibit economic activity in that area and to create a specially protected natural area of regional significance. The situation around Kushtau highlighted a systemic problem — the need for institutional civil society participation in settling environmental disputes. The Civic Chamber took control not only of this specific case but also of similar conflicts in other constituent entities of the Russian Federation to develop balanced and fair solutions.

Continuing this work, the Civic Chamber conducted a public expert review of the draft federal law proposing amendments to legislation on specially protected natural areas. Following an expert discussion of its provisions, the relevance of the proposed changes regarding the protection of the rights

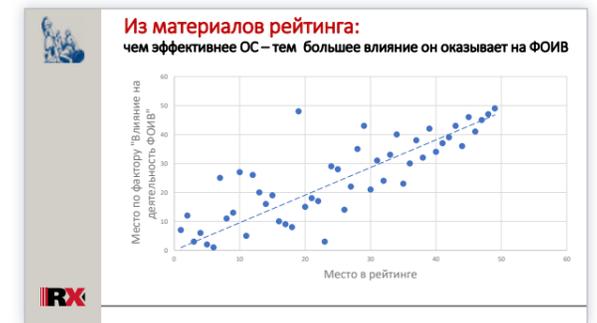


Working meeting of the Chair of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation's Commission on Ecology and Environmental Protection, Elena Sharoykina, with experts on ensuring control over the progress of eliminating the consequences of the diesel fuel spill in Norilsk. August 4, 2020 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

of the local population living within specially protected natural areas and the need to reduce social tension were noted. At the same time, provisions of the draft law that allowed for the reduction of national park areas under the formal pretext of changing their borders also caused serious concern and criticism. The Civic Chamber expressed a clear position against the inadmissibility of weakening the legal regime of specially protected natural areas and submitted relevant conclusions to the state authorities.

Rating Studies as a Tool for Developing the Public Sphere

Since 2020, the Civic Chamber, together with the rating agency "RAEX-Analytics" (RAEX), has been implementing a large-scale project to conduct annual nationwide rating studies. These studies have become an important tool for supporting and developing civil society institutions, forming sustainable feedback mechanisms, and driving tangible improvements across various sectors.



Regional Third Sector Rating "Region-NPO"

The "Region-NPO" rating became the first public tool for the comparative assessment of the level and quality of nonprofit sector development in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation. It allowed for an

evidence-based evaluation of real regional disparities in third sector development and became an effective mechanism for implementing changes at both the regional and federal levels.



Rating of Civic Chambers of the Constituent Entities of the Russian Federation

The goal of launching the rating of civic chambers of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation in 2020 was to assist regional civic chambers in objectively assessing their activities. The annual publication of the study's results has shown that healthy competition for high

positions in the rating stimulates regional civic chambers to improve the quality of their work, refine their mechanisms, and enhance the effectiveness of interaction between public institutions and citizens, state authorities at various levels, and the expert and professional community.



2021

Social Partnership in Solving Public Tasks

The Civic Chamber focused on developing social partnership and strengthening the role of civil society in implementing national projects. The Civic Chamber initiated the creation of expert-public platforms, introduced new mechanisms for registering and supporting socially oriented NPOs, promoted digital security and child protection online, and participated in legislative initiatives regarding the search for missing persons.

89 Consolidation of Civil Society Institutions for Achieving National Development Goals

89 "Circle of Kindness" Foundation for Supporting Children with Severe Illnesses

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Consolidation of Civil Society Institutions for Achieving National Development Goals

In implementing the instructions of the President of the Russian Federation following the Address to the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on April 21, 2021, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation acted as the coordinator of extensive work to consolidate the efforts of civil society institutions in order to participate in developing solutions for achieving national development goals and improving the mechanisms for implementing national projects. On the basis of the Coordinating Council under the Civic Chamber for National Projects and Population Sustainability, a broad expert-public platform was formed, uniting representatives of nonprofit organizations, the expert community, civil activists, and specialized professionals. The main task was not merely to discuss but to develop concrete proposals for adjusting and improving key national projects—from healthcare and education to ecology, science, infrastructure, and demography. All initiatives were result-oriented, with success measurable by the quality of people's lives.

The Civic Chamber's proposals received the support of the President of Russia and the Government of Russia: representatives of the Coordinating Council joined the public-expert councils under the project committees, and a number of initiatives formed the basis of instructions to federal authorities. Furthermore, the Civic Chamber formed a package of new



Vice President of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, Chair of the Coordinating Council under the Civic Chamber for National Projects and Population Sustainability, Alexander Galushka during a council meeting dedicated to adjusting national projects. October 21, 2020 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

proposals in the spheres of healthcare, education, ecology, digital transformation, and demography, expanding the scope of the national agenda and confirming the role of civil society as a full-fledged participant in strategic planning.

"Circle of Kindness" Foundation for Supporting Children with Severe Illnesses



President of Russia Vladimir Putin proposed creating a charitable foundation to assist children with serious and rare diseases, to be funded through an increased tax rate on the incomes of the country's wealthy citizens. On the platform of the Civic Chamber, the concept, structure, and key foundational documents were developed. The foundation was headed by Civic Chamber member, priest Alexander Tkachenko.

In its first year of operation, the foundation helped over 2,000 children, providing treatment worth more than 31 billion rubles. Children with serious and rare diseases received expensive therapy funded by Russian taxpayers. The foundation's model was unique on a global scale: revenues from taxes on citizens' excess incomes were purposefully directed towards treatment and, quite literally, saving children's lives.

Members of the Civic Chamber Lidia Mikheeva, Alexander Tkachenko, and Nikolay Daykhes at a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the "Circle of Good" Charitable Foundation. March 2021 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation



Access for Volunteers to Hospitals and Clinics

In 2021, due to the increasing cases of social and medical institutions refusing volunteer assistance because of coronavirus restrictions, the Civic Chamber—with broad participation from representatives of state authorities, public organizations and associations,

the scientific and expert community—examined the main problematic issues in organizing volunteer work in the healthcare sphere.

Recommendations for further aligning interests and eliminating restrictions on volunteer work in healthcare institutions

were submitted to the relevant ministries and departments.

These recommendations were subsequently taken into account during the development of corresponding methodological guidelines and standards for organizing volunteer activities.

"Reset" of the Russian Red Cross



Public Expert Review of the Draft Federal Law "On the Russian Red Cross." June 24, 2021 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

The large-scale reform of the Russian Red Cross (RRC) became clear evidence of the maturity of civil society. The Civic Chamber, assuming the role of guarantor, expert, and talent donor for the country's main humanitarian organization, emerged as one of the key participants in this "reset."

For a long time, the Russian Red Cross, while possessing a colossal historical legacy, needed an update of its management approaches and legal status. The Civic Chamber became the platform that could unite the interests of the state, the medical community, and volunteer movements.

The election of Pavel Savchuk, a member of the Civic Chamber and leader of the "Medical Volunteers" movement, as Chair of the RRC became a symbol of the organization's systemic renewal—his crisis management experience, proven during the pandemic and the #WeAreTogether campaign, allowed for the introduction of

transparency principles and efficiency standards, adopted in the Civic Chamber, into the Red Cross. The Civic Chamber, in cooperation with regional chambers across Russia, provided the RRC with significant organizational support.

The XVII Congress of the Red Cross, where the new development strategy was approved and governing bodies were elected, was conducted in a unique format. To ensure maximum legitimacy of the decisions made and to account for the opinion of every region, delegates gathered in regional civic chambers. Thus, the Civic Chamber not only performed a technical function by providing the necessary infrastructure for the congress but also ensured full methodological support for the event, guaranteeing the legality and compliance of all procedures with the organization's foundational documents.

Later, in June 2021, a public expert review of the draft federal law "On the Russian Red Cross" was conducted. Civic Chamber experts meticulously worked on the document, advocating for the interests of beneficiaries and volunteers.

Today, looking at the active work of the renewed Red Cross, we see the result of the work done: this includes aid to residents of the Donbass republics, Zaporozhye and Kherson oblast, Belgorod and Kursk oblasts literally from the first days of the Special Military Operation; support for victims of conflicts in Syria and Karabakh, efforts in the field of blood and bone marrow donation, work with forced migrants, and much more.

Unified Mechanism for Supporting Socially Oriented NPOs



Co-working space "#RegionNPO in the Kurgan Oblast" as part of the "Community" forum in Kurgan. March 3, 2020 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

Amid the pandemic, on the initiative of the Civic Chamber, NPOs were included in the list of recipients of anti-crisis measures alongside small and medium-sized businesses.

A key step was the creation of a unified registry of SO NPOs, formalized by federal law and a Resolution of the Government of Russia. Thus, supporting organizations could count on a tax deduction, and the NPOs themselves gained a more transparent and fair accounting mechanism.

Upon the Civic Chamber's proposal, the criteria for inclusion in the registry of socially oriented nonprofit organizations were expanded: from that moment, not only recipients of property support but also organizations recommended by the constituent entities of the Russian Federation could be included. Furthermore, the Civic Chamber secured the right to initiate a review of decisions regarding the inclusion or non-inclusion of an NPO in the registry, with a mandatory response from the authorized bodies.

Protection of Citizens' Rights and Public Interests in the Digital Environment

The Civic Chamber has always been a place for active discussion of issues related to the development of internet space and the digital environment. Civic Chamber's members, experts, and government representatives have grappled with the question of how to make online communications safer and more responsible, and how to protect children from harmful content. In 2021, this dialog continued. Particular attention was paid to combating digital fraud and protecting the rights of participants in civil transactions in the sphere of online dealings, including real estate operations. The developed initiatives became part of efforts to form a systemic policy in digital security.

However, one of the most resonant and acute topics on the digital agenda in 2021 was child protection on the Internet. Noting the special attention the President of Russia pays to this issue, the Civic Chamber initiated a broad public discussion of the threats children face in the digital environment, including harmful content and its impact on minors' mental health.

The result of this work was the "Memorandum of the Parental Community on Protecting Children on the Internet and Social Media," prepared with the participation of public organizations and experts. This document not only outlined the issues but also became a unifying signal for business, the state, and society. In September 2021, leading Russian internet companies, media holdings, and telecom operators signed a charter on child safety on the Internet. The Civic Chamber supported this initiative, emphasizing that the participation of digital platforms in regulating internet space is a key condition for countering the spread of unlawful content.

Another important area in this sphere was the Civic Chamber's participation in shaping ethical principles for the development and implementation of technologies based on artificial intelligence.

Thus, together with representatives of the IT industry, the scientific community, and civil institutions, the concept of regulating digital ethics principles was discussed.

In particular, in October 2021, at the First International Forum "Ethics of Artificial Intelligence: The Beginning of Trust," the AI Ethics Code was signed—the first document of its kind to establish voluntary self-regulation principles in the high-tech sphere.

The Civic Chamber supported this initiative as an important step towards forming responsible interaction between humans and artificial intelligence, and the Code itself was recognized as a key element of future digital sustainability and trust in society.

International Forum "Ethics of Artificial Intelligence: The Beginning of Trust" in Moscow. October 26, 2021. Mikhail Dzhaparidze / TASS





Assistance in Finding Missing Persons

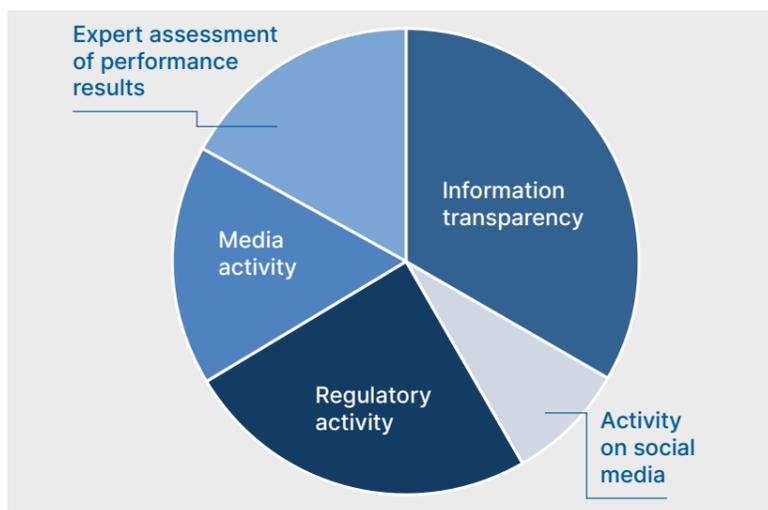
Acknowledging the high importance of volunteer work in searching for missing persons, the Civic Chamber in 2020–2021 conducted a series of events on improving the legislation of the Russian Federation regarding determining the location of subscribers' mobile phones for the purpose of rapid search operations.

The debate on whether or not data from a person's mobile device can be disclosed if they go missing lasted for many months. The Civic Chamber submitted its proposals, which were taken into account by the State Duma during the adoption of the corresponding federal law.



Launch of a quadcopter during search training exercises. January 5, 2020 / Press Service of the "LizaAlert" volunteer search and rescue team

Rating of Public Councils under Federal Executive Bodies



Since 2021, the Civic Chamber has begun compiling an annual rating of public councils under federal executive authorities overseen by the Government of the Russian Federation. The conducted rating studies have proven themselves as an effective mechanism for expert assessment, motivation for development, transparency, and improving the quality of work of civil society institutions.

The work of public councils was measured and evaluated throughout the year across many indicators, allowing council members, ministries, and agencies to build their interaction more purposefully. The rating leaders—public councils under the Ministry of Construction, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Education and Science—became benchmarks for councils under other government bodies.

2022

Support for the Special Military Operation

From the very first days of the Special Military Operation, members of the Civic Chamber not only supported the decision of the President of Russia but also launched extensive work to support the residents of Donbass and integrate civil society of the new regions into Russian civil society.

In 2022, the Civic Chamber also continued its work on forming Public Supervisory Commissions, defended its membership in AICESIS, and maintained dialog on key state policy priorities.

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Support for the Special Military Operation

The very next day after the start of the Special Military Operation, the Civic Chamber published an appeal titled "Together with the President and the Country!" expressing its unequivocal support for the actions and policy of President of Russia Vladimir Putin. Within a few days, the appeal was signed by over 15,000 public figures, civil activists, and representatives of nonprofit organizations.

At the end of March, under the auspices of the nationwide #WeAreTogether campaign, a Public Humanitarian Aid Collection Center opened on the Civic Chamber's premises. The center became a coordination hub for interaction between citizens, foundations, and communities across the country. Thousands of tons of essential items and food passed through it, and, most importantly, a system of public aid based on trust and personal involvement was built.



A humanitarian aid collection point organized in the building of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation



Understanding that individual initiatives could not replace a full-fledged support infrastructure, the Civic Chamber, together with the civic chambers of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, launched the project "Support for Public Initiatives in the New Territories of Russia." The project was aimed at developing the nonprofit sector, creating resource centers, forming a partner database, and conducting training and methodological events. The Civic Chamber acted as the institutional operator, ensuring that every initiative in the new territories received support, development, and recognition.

Member of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation Maxim Grigoriev during the dispatch of a humanitarian shipment from the Civic Chamber building on Miusskaya Square. 2022 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

Public Participation in Implementing Key State Policy Directions

In 2022, the Civic Chamber continued its work on key initiatives directly influencing the country's strategic course.

One of the key documents was Presidential Decree No. 809 of November 9, 2022, "On the Approval of the Fundamentals of State Policy for the Preservation and Strengthening of Traditional Russian Spiritual and Moral Values." The final text incorporated the Civic Chamber's proposals on preserving human potential, protecting cultural sovereignty, and respecting religious diversity. A significant step was the formation of a comprehensive family policy system: during discussions on the draft federal law on benefits for families with children, the Civic Chamber

secured the inclusion of additional guarantees for large families and those in unstable labor market conditions. These initiatives formed the basis of the May report by the State Council on family support. Special attention was paid to youth upbringing and socialization. Civic Chamber's experts actively participated in the work to create the Russian Movement of Children and Youth ("Movement of the First"), proposing adjustments regarding goals, mentorship, and rules for involving schoolchildren. The corresponding federal law was signed by the President of Russia in July 2022. Environmental issues also received attention. The Civic Chamber conducted public expert reviews of draft laws on environmental impact assessment and lands of specially protected natural areas, achieving the preservation of their legal regimes, including in the Baikal region.



Participants of the first congress of the Russian Movement of Children and Youth at the Central Exhibition Hall "Manezh" in Moscow. December 18, 2022. Ramil Sitdikov / RIA Novosti



Training Future PSC Members



Chair of the Civic Chamber's Commission on Security and Interaction with PSCs, Alexander Vorontsov, at the ceremonial presentation of mandates to members of the Public Supervisory Commission of Moscow. October 4, 2022 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

An important part of the program involved meetings with representatives of the Russian Federal Penitentiary Service (FSIN), the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs (MVD), prosecutor's offices, regional authorities, and human rights commissioners, which allowed for forming a comprehensive understanding of observers' tasks and responsibilities. The project became an effective tool for strengthening the PSC institution, laying the groundwork for more professional and effective human rights work.



Forum of Public Supervisory Commissions at the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation. March 18, 2022 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

The Civic Chamber launched a large-scale educational project for candidates to become members of Public Supervisory Commissions (PSCs). Its goal was to ensure the quality selection and training of citizens prepared to engage in human rights activities in places of forced detention. The seminars became a platform where future PSC members gained knowledge about relevant legislation, the specifics of interacting with the penal system, and practical aspects of human rights protection.

Forming a Unified Educational Space

On the Civic Chamber's platform, a public debate took place on forming a unified educational space that creates equal opportunities for the development and professional self-determination of every child. Proposals from participants, voiced during public debate on the normative foundations of the Russian Movement of Children and Youth, the unified content standard for general education organization "School of the Russian Ministry of Education," and the concept of a unified line of school textbooks, formed the basis of the Civic Chamber's recommendations submitted to the Federal Assembly and the Russian Ministry of Education.



Member of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation Natalia Kravchenko during public hearings on the topic "School of the Russian Ministry of Education." April 6, 2022 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

The Civic Chamber Led the International Dialog within AICESIS

In November 2021, the Civic Chamber was re-elected as the presiding organization of the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (AICESIS), and its Secretary, L. Yu. Mikheeva, became the Association's President. The chairmanship's agenda was defined by two topics—"Life in the Online Era: New Challenges and the Search for Solutions" and updating the Association's Charter. Following the start of the Special Military Operation in 2022, the Civic Chamber came under pressure from a number of European AICESIS members who insisted on its removal. However, it managed to defend its right to preside and preserve a space for dialog, albeit with the temporary suspension of participation by some European councils. Key events included a discussion organized by the Civic Chamber at the UNCTAD forum on balancing national digital regulation and cross-border data flows (April 2022), L. Yu. Mikheeva's report "The Solidarity Social Economy" at the International Labor Conference in Geneva (May-June 2022), and participation in the UN ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum in New York (July 2022), where the civil society position on post-pandemic recovery and achieving sustainable development goals was presented. In October 2022 in Rabat, at the General Assembly of the Union of Economic and Social Councils of Africa, the Civic

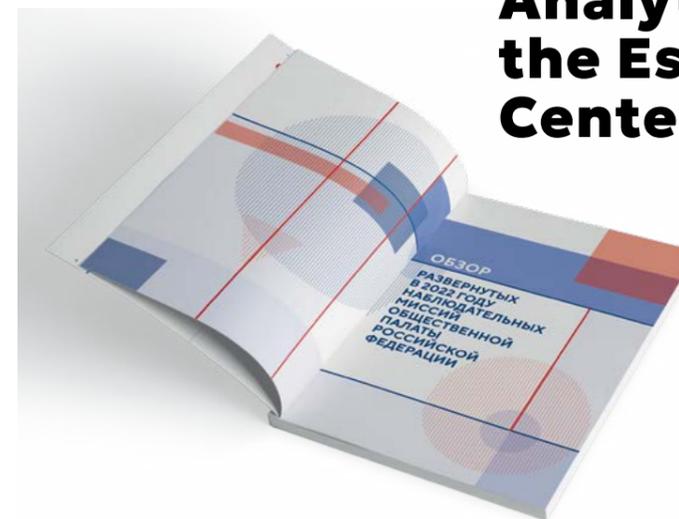


Meeting of the Presidium of the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions, chaired by the President of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation and President of the Association (2021-2023) L. Yu. Mikheeva. (From left to right: Deputy Chairman of the trade union "Nezavisnost" Z. Ilic, Secretary-General of the Association A. Xirafis, President of the Serbian Association of Employers M. Nenezic, Chairman of the Serbian Socio-Economic Council and Minister of Labor, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs of the Republic N. Selakovic, President of the Greek Economic and Social Council I. Paidhas, Secretary of the Serbian Socio-Economic Council D. Petrovic, Vice-President of the Union of Independent Trade Unions of Serbia D. Vukobici). Belgrade, Serbia. December 2, 2022 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

Chamber confirmed its readiness for partnership with African colleagues and the exchange of successful civic participation practices. Russia's chairmanship of AICESIS

became an important tool for preserving international dialog and confirming the universality of the principles of solidarity, justice, and openness even in conditions of global turbulence.

Analytical Reports and the Establishment of the Center for Electoral Expertise



Since 2022, members of the Civic Chamber's international observation missions, upon completing work at elections abroad, have begun preparing official communiqués and analytical reports. These documents examine in detail the technical, legal, and administrative aspects of the electoral process. The reports include a description of the mission's mandate, its goals and legal framework, composition and methodology, schedule and itineraries, as well as the procedure for interaction with other international observers.

The Voice of Russian Civil Society is Heard on the World Stage!



Speech by President of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, President of the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (2021–2023) L. Yu. Mikheeva at the International Labor Conference of the UN, Geneva, Switzerland. June 8, 2022 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

2023

Integration of Historical Territories into the All-Russian Socioeconomic and Sociocultural Space

In 2023, the Civic Chamber paid special attention to supporting social initiatives and developing civil society institutions in the new constituent entities of the Russian Federation. Additionally, the Civic Chamber initiated a series of projects in the spheres of supporting SMO participants and their families, patriotic education of youth, countering fake news and the spread of harmful content online, as well as issues of resocialization and legal support for citizens.

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Supporting the Implementation of Civil Initiatives in the New Subjects of the Russian Federation



Members of the Civic Chamber Vladimir Rogov and First Vice President of the Civic Chamber, Hero of Russia Vyacheslav Bocharov, at a meeting of the Coordination Council for the Integration of the New Subjects of the Russian Federation. July 2023 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation.

The year 2023 marked a stage of integrating historical territories into the country's unified humanitarian, legal, and socio-political space.

In June 2023, a new composition of the Civic Chamber began its work. For the first time, it included representatives from the DPR, LPR, Zaporozhye, and Kherson oblasts—Anna Revyakina, Viktor Ryabichev, Vladimir Rogov, and Vladimir Ovcharenko. The Civic Chamber continued its work on integrating the civil society of the new subjects with that of Russia. A unified database of nonprofit organizations from the new territories was created, educational and methodological programs

were launched, and direct informational support was provided. For nonprofit organizations and public associations from the new regions, the three-year existence requirement for nominating candidates to public councils under federal executive bodies was lifted. As part of the project "Supporting Public Initiatives in the New Territories of Russia," resource centers in the Lugansk and Donetsk People's Republics, Zaporozhye, and Kherson oblasts have significantly boosted the activity of the

nonprofit sector and created a favorable environment for implementing various social initiatives and projects. The Coordination Council for the Integration of the New Subjects of the Russian Federation began its work on the Civic Chamber's platform. It brought together civil activists, opinion leaders, and expert practitioners. The Council has become a platform for direct dialog, sharing best practices, and facilitating solutions to specific tasks.



Retraining, Social Adaptation, and Mental Health Services to SMO Participants

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation has focused special attention on developing comprehensive approaches to the social adaptation of participants in the special military operation, supporting their families, and providing humanitarian aid to residents of the new subjects of the Russian Federation.

At the end of 2022, during the "Community" forum, participants decided to establish the Committee of Families of Warriors of the Fatherland (CFWF)—an organization aimed at implementing programs and projects to support the families of SMO participants. Human rights advocate Yulia Belekhova became the head of the CFWF, and its branches were soon established across the country.

In 2023, with broad participation from the scientific, professional, and expert communities, a series of events on the Civic Chamber's platform extensively discussed topics such as comprehensive rehabilitation of active and discharged military personnel and veterans, wide-ranging opportunities for their professional retraining, professional aspects of providing psychological assistance, and the need to create support communities for sharing experiences in this field.

Throughout 2023, many ideas and initiatives proposed during the Civic Chamber's events were translated into specific state decisions.

Traditional areas for implementing humanitarian initiatives in 2023 included

the collection and procurement of humanitarian aid.

Members of the Civic Chamber organized the dispatch of humanitarian convoys carrying medical equipment and a wide range of humanitarian supplies to the new regions. They were involved in organizing cultural and educational leisure activities for military personnel and their families, as well as for citizens of the new subjects of the Russian Federation, such as organizing musical concerts, sports competitions, professional master classes, and educational training sessions. A crucial focus of the Civic Chamber members' efforts was on informational, cultural, and historical projects within the new territories.



Member of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, Ekaterina Kolotovkina, at the opening of the photo exhibitions "Wives of Heroes" and "Faces of the Army" at the Samara Officers' House. September 2, 2023 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

New Approaches to Patriotic Education

In 2023, patriotic education became one of the priority themes in the public-state agenda, gaining the status of not merely an educational activity but a key vector for shaping national identity and civic responsibility.

On the platform of the Civic Chamber, substantive discussions continued, aimed at comprehending the tasks facing all participants in this process, including relevant federal executive authorities, educational institutions, public associations, and professional communities. Special attention was paid to improving the cycle of extracurricular classes, "Conversations about Important Things," which has become a significant tool for dialog between general education institutions and the younger generation about the core values of modern society. Members of the Civic Chamber actively participated in developing methodological materials for the cycle of extracurricular classes, organizing teacher training, and providing expert evaluation of the content of the classes.

An equally significant area was the participation of the Civic Chamber in developing the educational and methodological complex, "Fundamentals of Russian Statehood."

Representatives of the Civic Chamber joined the interdepartmental working group. The first public discussion of the content and structure of the new course also took place on the Civic Chamber's platform.

An important part of the work in this sphere for the Civic Chamber was participation in the creation and establishment



An important part of the work in this sphere for the Civic Chamber was participation in the creation and establishment of the Russian public-state movement of children and youth, "Movement of the First." June 2025 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

of the Russian public-state movement of children and youth, "Movement of the First."

The program of educational activities for the organization was discussed on the Civic Chamber's platform during round tables and expert sessions. Representatives of the expert and pedagogical communities reviewed proposals for the program's content, emphasized the importance of an individual approach to the children and adolescents involved in the movement's activities, and outlined the value orientations upon which modern patriotic education should be built. In all the examples considered, the Civic Chamber acted as a center for the expert alignment of different approaches, within which patriotic education was viewed not as a set of isolated events, but as a multi-layered and integrated system for nurturing a responsible, active, and moral citizen.



A workers' rally on Miuskaya Square protests Socialist-Revolutionary (SR) terrorism, following the assassinations of V. Volodarsky and M. Uritsky and the attempt on V. I. Lenin's life. August 30, 1918

In 2023, the building of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation turned 110 years old. It was built at the beginning of the 20th century on Miuskaya Square and originally

housed the City Primary School named after Emperor Nicholas II.

The building became part of the educational cluster of the Miusy district, located alongside the modern Mendeleev University of Chemical Technology and the Russian State University for the Humanities.

During the Soviet period, it housed the Publishing House of Political Literature of the CPSU Central Committee ("Politizdat"). To meet the needs of the publishing house, the building was reconstructed: in the 1970s, two four-story annexes with elevators were added, and the territory partially lost historical elements in the name of the practical requirements of large-scale publishing activity. After the dissolution of the USSR, the publishing house ceased its activities for objective reasons, and part of the building's space was rented out. In 2004, the building was reconstructed to meet the needs of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation.

The Civic Chamber is still located here, at 7 Miuskaya Square, and for 20 years has been a welcoming home for civil activists and their public initiatives and projects.



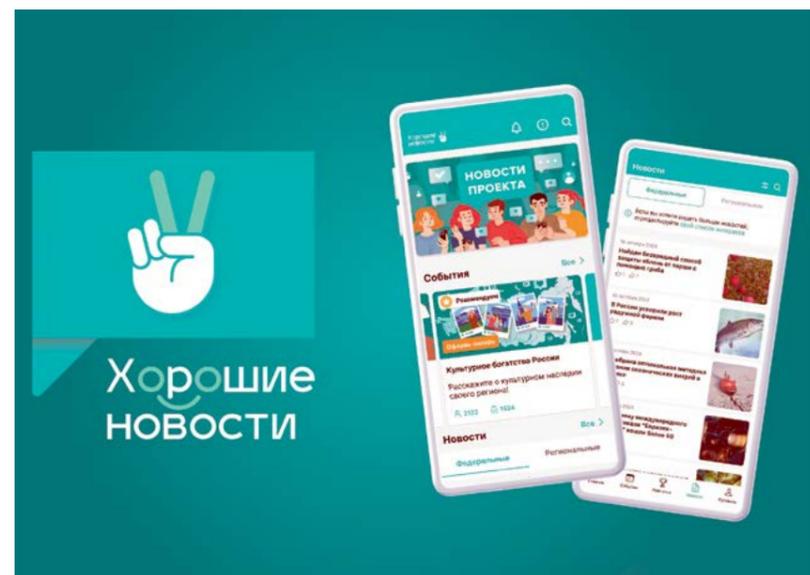
The City Primary School named after Emperor Nicholas II. 1913-1914.



Combating the Mass Spread of Fakes on the Internet

For the past several years, experts of the Civic Chamber have repeatedly raised and discussed the issue of the uncontrolled spread of destructive content on social networks, noting that Russia needs to create its own "information shield" to protect the country's digital sovereignty.

To achieve this goal, the "Good News" project was launched in 2023 on the initiative of the Civic Chamber.



The idea for the "Good News" project originated at one of the "Community" forums in 2023, and its development involved broad public participation. The project aims to disseminate positive and verified information about Russia's achievements in diverse sectors, including science, education, economy, industry, healthcare, sports, culture, arts, digital technologies, and volunteering. The "Good News" project has fostered a community of like-minded individuals that continues to grow steadily.

Currently, over 29,000 good news stories have been published in the application, with more than 72,700 registered users who have performed over 634,400 interactions with positive content.

Adoption of the Law on Probation in the Russian Federation

The adoption of Federal Law No. 10-FZ of February 6, 2023, "On Probation in the Russian Federation," was a significant step in the field of convicted persons' resocialization and the culmination of years of public discussion, in which the Civic Chamber actively participated.

The Civic Chamber had raised the issue of systematic support for people released from penitentiary institutions, including their adaptation and reintegration into society, which requires a comprehensive approach beyond the criminal-executive system. After the law came into force, members of the Civic Chamber, during a meeting with the Minister of Justice of the Russian Federation, proposed specific measures for implementing the new provisions, highlighting successful practices from the nonprofit sector that could be replicated in several regions of Russia.

Life in the Online Era: New Challenges and the Search for Solutions



The Secretary-General of the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions, Apostolos Xirafis, at the plenary session of the "Community" forum. November 2, 2023 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

In November 2023, the two-year presidency of the Civic Chamber in the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions concluded.

The outcome of the discussions held under the auspices of AICESIS in 2021–2023 was a report prepared by the Civic Chamber following its presidency in the organization, titled "Life in the Online Era: New Challenges and the Search for Solutions." This report was presented at the AICESIS General Assembly on November 1, 2023.

Within the framework of cooperation with international organizations, the Civic Chamber, as chair of AICESIS, in collaboration with representatives of other economic and social councils, accomplished the following in 2023:

- Prepared a report titled "Social Transition" for presentation at the 111th International Labor Conference held in Geneva from June 5–16, 2023.
- Prepared a report titled "Accelerating recovery from COVID-19 and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels" for presentation at the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in New York from July 15–21, 2023.

A key priority during the presidency of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation in the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (AICESIS) was the updating of the Association's Charter.

The aim was to enhance operational efficiency, strengthen the internal structure, intensify interaction among its members, attract new participating countries, and increase AICESIS's recognition and authority at the international level. A specially created working group, personally headed by the P of the Civic Chamber and President of AICESIS, Lidia Mikheeva, and including representatives from Benin, Guatemala, Greece, Spain, China, Luxembourg, Mali, Russia, France, and the Union of Economic and Social Councils of Africa, worked for two years to refine, modernize, and adapt the document to contemporary realities. Of note, the best Russian international lawyers from MGIMO and the National Research University Higher School of Economics were also involved in this work. The result was a balanced and transparent document aligned with AICESIS's current goals and objectives.

The final version of the Charter was unanimously approved at the General Assembly of AICESIS in Moscow on November 1, 2023.



Special Report on International Election Observation

In 2023, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation published its first special report in Russian and English, containing materials on the results of deploying 10 observation missions in 2022.

The report included forewords expressing support for the Civic Chamber's international observation missions from Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Chairperson of the Russian Central Election Commission Ella Pamfilova.

The report comprises findings from the Civic Chamber's observation missions during elections in Abkhazia, Angola, Kenya, Congo, Lebanon, Nepal, Senegal, Serbia, Tunisia, and South Ossetia.

Support by the President of Russia for the Initiatives of the Civic Chamber

A meeting between the President of Russia and members of the Civic Chamber took place at the final "Community" forum.



President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin during a meeting with members of the Civic Chamber of Russia at the Museum of the Great Patriotic War (Victory Museum) in Moscow. November 3, 2023. Sergey Guneev / RIA Novosti

Members of the Civic Chamber presented initiatives and proposals developed jointly with the expert community. Following the meeting, the President of Russia approved a List of Instructions, endorsing a significant portion of the Civic Chamber's initiatives. These included the following initiatives:

comprehensive public monitoring of social rights observance in historical regions; the establishment of a creative cluster in Donetsk; the development of strategic planning documents in the field of demographic security; the improvement of traffic regulations; the implementation

of the federal project "I am a Citizen of Russia"; the finalization of the draft law on the development of creative industries; and the creation of a museum dedicated to A.A. Zhdanov in Mariupol, among other projects. To date, the majority of these projects have been implemented.

2024

Civil Society Institutions as Drivers of Social Change

In 2024, the Civic Chamber concentrated its efforts on strengthening the role of civil society institutions as drivers of social change.

The year was characterized by systematic support for participants of the SMO and their families, expansion of social assistance measures for large families, scaling up public oversight practices, and active international engagement, particularly through the BRICS Civil Forum. Particular attention was paid to developing proposals for improving legislation and monitoring the observance of citizens' social rights.

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Legal and Psychological Assistance to Participants of the SMO and Their Families



The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation implements projects aimed at providing support to the families of participants in the Special Military Operation. Among the Civic Chamber's initiatives is the project "Legal Assistance to Participants of the SMO and Their Families," led by Civic Chamber member Alexander Ternovtsov / Committee of Families of Warriors of the Fatherland.

The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation and the Committee of Families of Warriors of the Fatherland have significantly enhanced their cooperation in processing appeals from SMO participants and their family members on a wide range of issues. These include military service, discharge

and leave, monetary allowances, injury compensation, social benefits, contesting decisions of military medical commissions, as well as searching for missing persons and organizing prisoner exchanges. The scope of work undertaken by members of the Civic Chamber was extensive, ranging from preparing

necessary documentation to representing applicants' interests in court.

As part of the Civic Chamber's social project "Lawmobile" ("Pravomobil"), its members, together with lawyers and government representatives, organize mobile legal clinics for SMO participants and their families, providing them with qualified legal assistance on-site.

The Civic Chamber, in collaboration with the Committee, also launched a dedicated hotline and a unified federal Telegram chat for medical and psychological support titled "CFWF. Talk to a Psychologist." On average, the hotline and the chat received about 50 inquiries daily on a variety of matters. Project staff provided assistance to applicants even when the reason for contact was not a psychological issue but rather a material problem requiring qualified legal or administrative support.

The objectives of this project, implemented via the Telegram chat for medical psychological support, extended beyond offering a unified communication channel with qualified psychologists. It also aimed to involve family members of SMO participants in various activities focused on joint leisure, recreation, promoting family, spiritual, moral, and cultural values, and organizing joint socially significant initiatives with the support of the Committee's regional headquarters.

Development of New Regional Support Measures for Large Families

In 2024, the Civic Chamber conducted a series of events to implement the President of Russia's Decree on social support measures for large families in the regions. Following the discussions, recommendations were submitted to the Government of Russia to incentivize regions that have introduced all support measures for large families without applying a means-testing criterion. Proposals formulated in the Civic Chamber's special reports "Demography 2030. How to Ensure Sustainable Population Growth in the Russian Federation" and "Family and Children in Russia" were incorporated into the new national project "Family" for implementation in constituent entities of the Russian Federation with unfavorable demographic situations.



Civic Chamber member Sergey Rybalchenko moderates the session "The Far East is a Family Affair" at EEF-2024. September 6, 2024. Ekaterina Chesnokova / RIA Novosti

Scaling Up Public Oversight Practices

Public inspections are a key tool for monitoring compliance with legislation, allowing for the identification of both problem areas and best practices for subsequent implementation. In the eighth composition of the Civic Chamber, this work was significantly expanded: since mid-2023, 63 public inspections have been conducted across various spheres of public life.

In 2024, inspections were carried out within the framework of the "Community" forums and covered street sports infrastructure facilities in Irkutsk, Kaluga, and Magas, as well as road infrastructure in Tula, Smolensk, Tver, and Voronezh. Furthermore, in collaboration with civic chambers of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, a large-scale inspection of medical-psychological counseling offices in medical institutions was conducted, including an assessment

of equipment against approved standards. In total, over 230 institutions across 36 constituent entities of the Russian Federation were covered by the inspection. To systematize the practice and enhance its effectiveness, the Civic Chamber developed methodological recommendations for implementing public oversight in the healthcare sphere through the format of inspections. These recommendations helped standardize approaches and increase the transparency and effectiveness of monitoring.



Members of the Civic Chamber conduct public inspections in the spheres of road safety, accessibility, and playground equipment as part of the "Community" forums. 2024 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

BRICS Civil Forum

In July 2024, the IX BRICS Civil Forum was held in Moscow with the participation of the Civic Chamber.

It brought together over 450 representatives of civil society from more than 20 countries—both current members of the association and potential participants. Over two days, expert sessions discussed the goals and principles of fair development and an equitable world order, issues of sovereign economic and financial development, education, healthcare, ethics of new technologies, human well-being, and other relevant topics. The outcome of the discussions was a set of proposals for BRICS agenda priorities, as well as a number of civil initiatives within this agenda. Members of the Civic Chamber participated in their discussion and development. These recommendations were reflected in the final declaration of the XVI BRICS Summit, held on October 22–24, 2024, in Kazan.



Members of the Civic Chamber of Russia with representatives of foreign delegations at the session "Cultural Bridges of the BRICS Countries," held as part 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



Presidential Elections in Russia



Tatyana Moskalkova and Rodion Miroshnik in the live broadcast studio of the Situation Center. March 17, 2024 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

The election of the President of the Russian Federation was the main event of 2024. With the support of regional civic chambers and relying on accumulated experience in the field of public observation, the Civic Chamber launched comprehensive preparatory work. The methodological foundations of public observation were updated, an enhanced "Golden Standard" was introduced, and the training of an observer corps numbering over 150,000 people was organized. For effective observer training, the Civic Chamber signed agreements with leading political parties and major public organizations. Extensive work was also carried out to modernize the Civic Chamber's IT infrastructure to counter hacker attacks from abroad, and the information environment for interaction with public observers at polling stations was updated: new features were added to the "Public Observer" application and web interface, support was enhanced, and new interaction tools based on artificial intelligence were implemented. Now an observer could not only independently fill out the "Golden Standard" but also create a news feed from the polling station, upload photo and video materials, and contact the operational mobile group of the regional headquarters. The work done allowed for the formation of a full-fledged public observation ecosystem in the country.

From March 14 to 18, a Situation Center was deployed on the Civic Chamber's premises. For the first time, the "SIC," as it is commonly called by civil society activists, also operated as a live broadcast studio, where experts and observers, representatives of authorities and the media, and opinion leaders provided reliable and objective information about the voting process around the clock and held discussions on the capabilities of civil society in the sphere of public oversight.

The Center was visited by foreign delegations, representatives of political

Foreign delegations during a visit to the Situation Center. March 15–17, 2024 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation



parties, and hundreds of citizens, as the center provided an access point to video surveillance of polling stations. Additionally, center staff and volunteers conducted seminars and workshops for anyone wishing to become independent public observers.

Remote electronic voting was monitored for the first time with the involvement of students from technical universities. This ensured complete coverage, reaching all 38 million citizens eligible for this form of voting. The Civic Chamber, together with the Central Election Commission, guaranteed the security of remote electronic voting results by performing daily backups of the database.

Impressive work was also done by the call center volunteers. Collecting information from polling stations about compliance with the "Golden Standard," 250 volunteers spent over 6,000 man-hours and conducted more than 25,000 communications with observers.

It is important to emphasize that the elections proceeded with a minimal number of violations. The vast majority of reports of violations were unsubstantiated. The hotline received 828 inquiries, including 508 reports of violations, of which only 7 were confirmed and addressed.

At the final briefing on March 18, members of the Civic Chamber noted the record voter turnout in the elections, which, together with the voting results, indicated the consolidation of citizens around the country's President.

2025

Year of the Defender of the Fatherland

2025 was dedicated to supporting participants of the SMO and their families, preserving historical memory, fostering patriotic education of youth, and promoting the values of a healthy lifestyle. The year was marked by the celebration of the 80th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War, the implementation of large-scale cultural, educational, and sports initiatives, the expansion of international cooperation, and the intensification of work to protect citizens' rights.

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Anniversary of the Great Victory

In the run-up to Victory Day celebrations, the Civic Chamber hosted events dedicated to identifying, promoting, and developing existing practices for implementing public projects aimed at the patriotic education of youth, including through their involvement in volunteer activities.

Thus, educational modules of the project "Volunteers: Mission 'Victory'" were implemented on the platform of the Civic Chamber. In particular, experts shared knowledge with young project participants on forming volunteer teams to carry out patriotic events in the year of the 80th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War, building their own brand and promoting it in the media space, particularly on social networks. Experts also explained how to engage an audience with patriotic content and attract new participants to volunteer teams.

In May 2025, the Civic Chamber summarized the results of the "Our Victory" competition aimed at identifying best practices in the sphere of patriotic education. The competition involved over 550 authors from 63 constituent entities of the Russian Federation. Among the entries were original classroom hours and lessons of courage, interactive events, and engaging quizzes for children and teenagers. Competition winners were determined in categories such as "Immortal Feat," "INFOVICTORY," "Memory in the Heart, Memory in Stone," "Eyes on Victory!" and "Family. Victory. Memory." A ceremonial awards ceremony for the laureates of the open creative competition in fine and decorative arts "Children Draw Victory," dedicated to the 80th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War, was also held at the Civic Chamber.

In total, the competition received over 13,500 works from participants aged two to eighteen.

An exhibition of the participants' works was opened in the lobby of the Civic Chamber building. At the exhibition's opening, it was emphasized that the children's drawing competition symbolizes the connection between times and generations, making Victory Day a living and important holiday for all Russians.

According to Civic Chamber's experts, there is a persistent deficit of truthful information online about the Great Patriotic War, the role of the USSR in the victory over Nazi Germany, and the tragedy of the civilian population of the USSR — victims of Nazi war crimes and their accomplices during the Great Patriotic War.

In February 2025, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation launched



Educational module of the "Volunteers: Mission 'Victory'" project at the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation. March 26, 2025 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation



Member of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation Elena Rodionova and Deputy Head of the National Research Center for the Legal Heritage of the Nuremberg Trials at the Institute of State and Law of the Russian Academy of Sciences Alexander Zvyagintsev. April 19, 2025 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

the nationwide competition "No Statute of Limitations: VICTORY!" to present historical facts about the past to students in an age-appropriate, reliable, and emotionally considerate way. Participants — schoolchildren, students, and teachers — could submit their projects (presentations, videos, research) until April 19. This date was not chosen by chance: every year on April 19, Russia observes the Unified Day of Remembrance for the Victims of the Genocide of the Soviet People committed by the Nazis and their accomplices during the Great Patriotic War. The competition results were summarized in June 2025 at a ceremony in the Civic Chamber, where the best authors were awarded.

In 2025, for the third consecutive year, the "No Statute of Limitations" center opened in the Civic Chamber building on April 19.

Here, commemorative events from the regions were broadcast in real time: rallies, remembrance lessons, visits to memorials. Participants shared stories about their fellow countrymen — victims of the war. The center also hosted discussions with historians, educators, and human rights defenders: they discussed how to properly preserve the memory of past tragedies and combat the distortion of facts.

In April, following tradition, volunteers for the "Immortal Regiment" campaign

were trained on the Civic Chamber's platform, and the Civic Chamber itself initiated the project "Victory Forever!", within the framework of which members of the Civic Chamber read poems by Soviet poets from the Great Patriotic War era.



Participants of the All-Russian Cultural-Patriotic Project "Victory Ball" at the Theatre of the Russian Army. June 29, 2025 / Anna Semyonuk

On June 29, 2025, with the support of the Civic Chamber, the Central Academic Theatre of the Russian Army became the venue for one of the most solemn events of the year — the Victory Ball, timed to coincide with the 80th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War. Over 150 dance pairs from 61 regions of Russia took part in the project — college students, cadets, veterans of combat operations, and participants of the special military operation (SMO). The audience included veterans, children of the war, and representatives of cultural and public organizations.

A special place among the Ball's honored guests was held by veterans who survived the occupation in the city of Klin during the Great Patriotic War: Galina Lyachina, Lyudmila Shcherbakova, and Lyudmila Shkudova.

Today, they are actively involved in supporting frontline soldiers and children from orphanages in the Lugansk People's Republic — knitting warm woolen socks. The Victory Ball was the culmination of the spring series of balls held in 21 regions of the country.

Through the language of art, music, and dance, the youth expressed gratitude to the generations of victors, feeling a sense of belonging to the country's destiny. The Civic Chamber participated in events dedicated to celebrating the



The Civic Chamber actively engages in preserving historical memory and supporting veterans and cooperates with the "Victory Volunteers" movement / All-Russian Public Movement "Victory Volunteers"

anniversary of Victory not only in Russia but also abroad. Thus, for the Victory anniversary in Brazil, a series of concerts by Russian and Brazilian musicians was held, organized by the Civic Chamber with the participation of violinist and the Civic Chamber member Petr Lundstrem and tenor Mikhail Nor. Together with the Philharmonic Orchestra of the University of São Paulo and cellist André Micheletti under the direction of Maestro Rubens Ricciardi, the artists performed on April 29, 30, and May 3, 2025, in São Carlos, Ribeirão Preto, and Rio de Janeiro. The audience was presented with a program aimed at preserving historical memory, featuring works by Russian and Brazilian composers, as well as songs from the war years. The concerts gathered over two thousand spectators, and Petr Lundstrem conducted a series of masterclasses for students of the Music Faculty at the University of São Paulo. The project was initiated as part of systematic work to develop diplomatic relations between Russia and Latin America and was implemented with the support of the concert agency "KA22". On May 5, 2025, in the capital of

Panama, on the grounds of the Russian Orthodox Church, a memorial was unveiled in honor of the heroic feat of Soviet submariners during the Great Patriotic War.

The monument, erected near the Panama Canal, through which a group of Soviet submarines passed in 1942, completing an extremely difficult transit from the Pacific Ocean.



Member of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation Nikita Anisimov at the unveiling of a memorial in honor of the heroic feat of Soviet submariners during the Great Patriotic War on the grounds of the Russian Orthodox Church in the capital of Panama. May 5, 2025 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

The first monument in Latin America to heroic submariners has been established, commemorating those who sailed into the Atlantic and later engaged in combat with the fascist fleet.

The initiative originated from the Coordinating Council of Russian Compatriot Organizations in Panama, and the work on the memorial itself spanned five years. The project was realized thanks to the Assembly of the Peoples of the World, Russian nonprofit organizations, and private benefactors. The Civic Chamber played a key role in completing the construction, successfully engaging local and Russian civil society activists and securing the necessary resources.

From August 30 to September 19, 2025, the All-Russian Children's Center "Ocean" in Vladivostok hosted its 10th session, which included 30 schoolchildren from Vietnam.

The trip was organized by the Civic Chamber as part of expanding cultural and humanitarian cooperation with the Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front.

This was preceded by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation during the visit of a Civic



Rubens Ricciardi, Petr Lundstrem, Andre Micheletti, Marcos Santos. Ribeirão Preto, Brazil. April 30, 2025 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

Chamber delegation to Vietnam in September 2024.

The visit to "Ocean" was one of the first practical steps in implementing this document and received support from the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation.

The program included an introduction to Russian culture, history, folk arts, and language, as well as participation in events dedicated to the 80th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War.



Members of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation Vladimir Rogov, Alexander Asafov, and Evgeny Zabrodin with Vietnamese schoolchildren at the All-Russian Children's Center "Ocean" in Vladivostok. August–September 2025 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

Cultural Mission in Brazil



A performance by Pyotr Lundstrem, a member of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, with the São Paulo University Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Maestro R. Ricchiardi at a concert dedicated to the 80th anniversary of Victory, Ribeirão Preto, Brazil. April 30, 2025 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation



Public Monitoring of the Integration of Historical Regions

In accordance with the instruction of the President of the Russian Federation, issued following the meeting of the Head of State with members of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation and chairs of the civic chambers of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation on November 3, 2023, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation continued comprehensive public monitoring of compliance by state authorities and local self-government bodies with the social rights of citizens

during the integration of the Donetsk People's Republic, the Lugansk People's Republic, the Zaporozhye Oblast, and the Kherson Oblast 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 collection and analysis of information received by the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation revealed both positive practices and key

challenges and problematic areas arising in the integration process that require additional attention from federal and regional state authorities.

The outcomes of this work indicate that the implemented measures have contributed to the formation of a sustainable mechanism for systematic feedback between civil society and state authorities, ensuring the openness and transparency of decisions made, and strengthening citizens' trust in state institutions.

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Support for Participants of the Special Military Operation

In 2025, support for participants of the Special Military Operation (SMO) and their families remained one of the key areas of activity for the Civic Chamber.

Thus, in May 2025, a signing ceremony for an agreement was held at the Civic Chamber with the charitable foundation "Nashi sootchestvenniki" ("Our Compatriots") and the Dr. Dmitriev Revitalization Medical Center "SanProVi" to implement a pilot project for the rehabilitation, habilitation, and resocialization of persons discharged from the Armed Forces and other Russian security agencies, veterans of the SMO, and their family members.

The pilot project is based on the experience of implementing similar initiatives in the Lipetsk, Novosibirsk, and Chelyabinsk regions, as well as the Krasnodar Territory. The parties agreed to conduct seminars, round tables, and other events involving representatives of government structures, scientific and educational institutions, and the media.

Subsequently, in October 2025, as part of the agreement's implementation, a psychological training session titled "How to Adapt and Maintain Emotional Balance" was held for the wives and mothers of Special Military Operation participants.



Signing ceremony of the agreement between the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, the charitable foundation "Nashi sootchestvenniki," and the revitalization medical center "SanProVi" on the implementation of a pilot project for the rehabilitation, habilitation, and resocialization of persons discharged from the Armed Forces and other security agencies of the Russian Federation, veterans of the Special Military Operation, and their family members. May 2025 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation



First Vice President of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, Hero of Russia Vyacheslav Bocharov visits a military hospital in Irkutsk during the "Community" forum. May 30, 2024 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

During the initial stage of engagement with the training participants, specialists assessed the psychological state of patients who had lost a loved one or were experiencing a pathological fear of such a loss. The primary objective was to stabilize the emotional state of the project's participants.

In March, the "Za lyubov'" ("For Love") project was launched, aimed at providing comprehensive support to wives of special military operation participants who are expecting a child or are raising children under the age of three. The program's implementation includes support measures for discharge from the maternity hospital, assistance with older children under the "Sotsial'naya nyanya" ("Social Nanny") initiative, as well as the provision of psychological and moral support. In the future, there are plans to expand the range of services offered by introducing cleaning services.

Currently, 160 women are participants in the program.

First piloted in the Samara region, the "Za lyubov'" project has demonstrated sustained effectiveness and is gradually expanding its territorial coverage, now encompassing four additional regions of the Russian Federation.

Continuing the work to support and improve the living conditions of special military operation participants and their families, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation conducted a public review of draft laws aimed at establishing social support measures for SMO participants and their families. In particular, the Civic Chamber provided expert opinions following discussions on:

- A draft law amending certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation, which proposed granting the surviving spouse the right to temporarily use a vehicle owned by a person who died in connection with participation in the special military operation or in assisting in the execution of its tasks.

- A draft law amending Federal Law No. 5-FZ of January 12, 1995, "On Veterans," which proposes granting veteran and combat-invalid status to military personnel and other categories of citizens who participated in repelling the armed incursion and the SMO.

- A draft law simplifying the inheritance procedure for relatives of persons who died in connection with participation in the SMO, including the possibility of reinstating the deadline upon presentation of an official document.

- A draft law extending the right to preferential university tuition at the expense of budget funds not only to children but also to stepsons and stepdaughters who are dependents of SMO participants.



Protecting the Interests of NPOs



Expert discussion on supporting the development of socially oriented NPOs held at the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

In 2025, developing and improving systemic support measures for nonprofit organizations (NPOs) remained among the Civic Chamber's priority areas. The Civic Chamber served as a platform for discussing draft federal law No 795117-8 "On Amending the Federal Law 'On Nonprofit Organizations,'" aimed at enabling the identification and authentication of NPOs' personal pages on social networks via the State Services portal. This initiative is expected to enhance public protection against social media fraud, increase trust in NPOs, and boost charitable activity. In its review, the Civic Chamber highlighted risks that need to be mitigated before the bill's adoption. Specifically, for small NPOs with limited resources, the identification process could prove complex and costly. Support mechanisms for such organizations must be considered. It is also crucial to guarantee the protection of personal data of NPOs and their representatives during authentication. Introducing

new procedures may initially reduce NPOs' operational efficiency; therefore, reasonable deadlines for implementing the identification and authentication processes should be established. The Civic Chamber also focused on the issue of NPOs registered at the residential addresses of their heads being charged as MSW owners. However, the vast majority of NPOs registered at residential premises generate minimal MSW, not exceeding typical household waste levels. The Civic Chamber proposed developing a nationwide mechanism to exempt such NPOs, whose activities generate minimal MSW, from entering into contracts with regional waste operators and paying MSW disposal fees. Furthermore, to simplify NPO operations, the Civic Chamber appealed to the Russian Ministry of Justice requesting consideration of extending to NPOs the mechanism that exempts entrepreneurs from liability when they voluntarily rectify violations.

Large-Scale Rotation of Public Supervisory Commission Members

In 2025, another large-scale rotation of members occurred in Public Supervisory Commissions, with updates in 58 regions of the Russian Federation. Following tradition, the recruitment of new PSC members was preceded by informational-methodological seminars and public events organized by the Civic Chamber. During the formation of the new PSC compositions, significant attention was paid to preserving and ensuring the continuity of the accumulated experience in human rights activities of PSC members. This is considered critically important for their effective exercise of authority, given the specific field of public oversight in which the Public Supervisory Commissions operate.

Scaling Up Public Oversight

In recent decades, Russia has seen active development in the practice of business companies publishing public nonfinancial reports on sustainable development.

These documents allow businesses to describe their contributions to improving the population's quality of life, enhancing their employees' working conditions, implementing environmental protection initiatives, and more. To advance the institution of public oversight, the Civic Chamber has launched

a tool for public verification of public nonfinancial reporting. This tool ensures an objective assessment of the reliability of data provided by companies and offers expert analysis of the effectiveness of implemented programs. The Russian Ministry of Economic Development officially recommends

that Russian businesses undergo such independent expert review. In 2025, four major companies presented their sustainability reports from the previous year for evaluation by the experts of the Coordinating Council of the Civic Chamber for Environmental Well-being and the Development of Public Nonfinancial Reporting Practices, authorized by the Civic Chamber's council to act as a public verifier, and its rating partner, the RAEX agency. The first companies to demonstrate to the public this much-needed and valuable openness to dialog, as well as a commitment to ensuring transparency in their activities and improving their work towards achieving sustainable development goals, were the En+ Group, RUSAL, Polyus, and Renaissance Insurance.

"School of Public Oversight" Project



Members of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation Evgeny Martynov and Evgeny Masharov with participants of the "Public Oversight School" project at the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation. May 19, 2025 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

For the development of the public oversight institution, on May 19, 2025, the "Public Oversight School" project was launched on the platform of the Civic Chamber, representing a large-scale educational initiative. The project's main goal is to form a "personnel" reserve of public inspectors capable of effectively monitoring the implementation of government decisions. Its objective is to increase the legal

literacy of youth and involve them in the socio-political life of the country. The organizers were the "Social Sphere" Foundation for the Development of Public Interaction and Social Communications and the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation. The initiative's author is Evgeny Martynov, Deputy Chairman of the Civic Chamber's Commission on Public Oversight and Work with Citizens' Appeals, and head of the "HealthControl" project.

The theoretical and practical modules of the school are conducted by well-known public and political figures, lawyers, human rights activists, representatives of the Administration of the President of the Russian Federation, government bodies, and members of the Civic Chamber. Thus, the project is a significant step in developing the public oversight system in Russia and confirmation that active youth are ready not just to observe but to act.



The Civic Chamber as a Platform for Developing Solutions to Prevent Environmental Damage



Civic Chamber member Evgeny Kozeyev, head of the All-Russian Public Youth Organization "All-Russian Student Rescue Corps," participates in the cleanup of petroleum product spill consequences on a beach in the Anapa area in 2025. Valeria Semenova / Press Service of the All-Russian Student Rescue Corps

In early 2025, the Civic Chamber paid special attention to addressing the consequences of a major environmental disaster and developing systemic measures to protect the natural environment, dedicating a series of events to this issue.

In December 2024, a severe storm caused a leak and subsequent spill of petroleum products from the tankers 'Volgoneft-239' and 'Volgoneft-212'. As a result, the waters of the Black Sea and beaches in the city of Anapa and other resort towns were polluted. Thousands of volunteers from across the country participated in the cleanup efforts. The Civic Chamber's commissions on volunteerism and on ecology were actively involved in coordinating volunteer assistance.

To address this, a roundtable was held on January 31 titled "Ways to Improve the Efficiency of Petroleum Product Cleanup Operations at Sea and on Shore, and Measures to Mitigate Impact on Wildlife and the Region's Recreational Potential." The discussions focused on the technological, organizational, and legal aspects of emergency response, as well as the role of cooperation between the state, the expert community, and public organizations in minimizing environmental damage.

Subsequently, on March 5, another roundtable was convened on "Emergency Volunteer Assistance: The Role of Volunteers in Responding to the Petroleum Product Spill in the Black Sea and Improving the Efficiency of Organizing Their Work." This event addressed issues of action coordination, skills enhancement, and safety assurance for volunteers involved in the cleanup following the accident involving the tankers 'Volgoneft-212' and 'Volgoneft-239' in the Kerch Strait on December 15, 2024. Based on the outcomes of these events, a set of recommendations was formulated. These cover areas such as improving the system of inter-agency cooperation, developing infrastructure for the long-term rehabilitation of affected ecosystems, and supporting and recognizing citizens who made significant contributions to mitigating the environmental damage.

Protecting Citizens Affected by Telephone and Internet Fraud



In 2024–2025, the Civic Chamber saw a sharp increase in appeals from citizens affected by telephone and internet fraud. In response, members of the Civic Chamber focused not only on educational and preventive measures, including awareness campaigns highlighting the potential dangers associated with the development of modern digital technologies, but also on providing direct legal assistance to citizens who have fallen victim to cybercriminals.

One of the effective practical tools for implementing these tasks has been organizing personal appointments for citizens affected by telephone and internet fraud, aimed at protecting their violated rights and providing legal and advisory support.

For instance, during these personal appointments, practical assistance was provided to applicants in restoring their violated rights. Corresponding inquiries were sent to prosecution authorities, resulting in procedural decisions to reopen investigations in criminal cases. Simultaneously, legal support was provided to citizens at the pre-trial stage: claims were prepared and sent to the credit institutions that issued loans to applicants who had been subjected to fraudulent activities.

This approach to work not only facilitated prompt responses to citizens' pressing problems but also served as an effective instrument for public oversight and the prevention of cybercrime.



Member of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation Evgeny Masharov during a reception for citizens affected by telephone and/or internet fraud. May 27, 2025 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation



Supporting Cultural Workers

For several years, the Civic Chamber has consistently advocated for the launch of a new program to help attract and retain specialists in the cultural sector in small towns and villages, which are home to a third of our country's population.

The meeting between Civic Chamber members and the President of Russia proved to be a true breakthrough on this issue: the President of Russia supported the request for the swift launch of the "Zemsky Cultural Worker" program and

the allocation of necessary funds for its implementation.

The program officially commenced on January 1, 2025. Its main goal is to fill nine thousand vacant positions in the cultural sector across 87 constituent entities of the Russian Federation.

During the final "Community" forum, participants assessed the progress of the "Zemsky Cultural Worker" program and discussed ways to enhance its effectiveness. It was noted that over 1,000 vacancies are planned to be filled this year, with 982 cultural workers already having successfully passed the selection process and secured employment. It was also highlighted that the number of applications received exceeded the initially planned target. Specifically, while 1,138 applications were anticipated, a total of 1,345 applications were actually submitted.



Grigory Zaslavsky, Irina Velikanova, Mikhail Bryzgalov during a panel discussion on the outcomes of implementing the "Zemsky Cultural Worker" program. "Community" Forum. October 31, 2025 / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

Public Organizations Promote the Values of Physical Culture, Sports, and a Healthy Lifestyle



Popularizing a healthy lifestyle and developing mass sports is a key focus area of the relevant Civic Chamber Commission on Physical Culture, Sports, and a Healthy Lifestyle, headed by the celebrated rhythmic gymnastics coach, Hero of Labor of the Russian Federation, Honored Worker of Physical Culture of the Russian Federation Irina Viner. / Stanislav Silyanov

Throughout 2025, there was active development of new sports public organizations, including associations of sports clubs, leagues of sports societies, specialized public organizations, student sports leagues, student sports clubs, and others independent of the International Olympic Committee and similar international sports structures.

In 2025, public organizations showed increased participation in the Civic Chamber's international competition, "Best Practices for a Healthy Lifestyle." This year, over 10,000 civil society activists, as well as representatives of sports communities from China, Argentina, and Chile, submitted applications.

The main goal of the competition is to draw public attention to the importance of protecting citizens' health, and to collecting, sharing, and replicating the best Russian and global practices for preserving health and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.



Creating comfortable conditions for physical activity is facilitated by the federal project "Sport – the Norm of Life." According to data from January 2025, over five years of the project's implementation, around 500 sports facilities have been built in Russia, hundreds of venues have been modernized, and tens of thousands of specialists have been trained.

Despite these official figures, the Civic Chamber continues to receive appeals from various regions of the Russian Federation regarding the state of sports infrastructure in different municipalities and regions. Consequently, despite the officially high percentage of sports facility provision in our cities, the actual public demand is significantly broader and more varied.

With the overarching goal of involving 70% of Russian citizens—or 93 million people of all ages and health groups—in regular physical activity by 2030, thereby making sport a norm of life, the public sector retains a leading and pivotal role in promoting the values of physical culture, sports, a healthy lifestyle, as well as mass and street sports.

Grand Final of the International Contest-Award for Street Culture and Sports "KARDO" in Stavropol. For many years, Civic Chamber member Valentin Rabotenko has been the project leader. August 2025 / Dmitry Tibekin



"School of Dreams" Project



Member of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation Natalya Kravchenko during a visit to leading Moscow schools as part of the 2025 "Dream School" educational expedition / Press Service of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

In August 2025, the third season of the federal "Dream School" project, launched in 2022 in support of the presidential program for capital repair of educational infrastructure "Modernization of School Education Systems," commenced. Since 2025, the program has been expanded to include preschools and secondary vocational education institutions. In 2025, the "Dream School" project expanded its reach to 50 constituent entities of the Russian Federation, uniting over 1,200 students from 55 universities and 35 colleges. Starting this year, regional teams across the country are jointly addressing the important task of qualitatively updating

not only school spaces but also preschools participating in the presidential program. Under the guidance of supervising teachers and with the support of leading industry experts, young talents will develop design projects for 123 schools and 28 preschools involved in the capital repair program. Furthermore, in October 2025, the II All-Russian Co-design Marathon was held—a significant stage of the federal educational project "Dream School." The work is based on the principle of co-design, which allows for the consideration of the wishes and needs of all participants in the educational process: students, pupils, teachers, parents, and school and preschool administrations.

Creative youth visited the schools and preschools participating in the project's third season to work together with all educational stakeholders to envision the future of educational and developmental spaces. The project cycle will conclude with the III All-Russian "Dream School" Educational Space Design Competition. The best projects will be included in a database of best practices hosted on the Creative City HSE University website and recommended for implementation in regions across the Russian Federation.

Conclusion



Address by the President of the Russian Federation at the plenary session of members of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation during the "Community" forum. Moscow. November 2, 2018. Mikhail Klimentyev / RIA Novosti

Over two decades of its existence, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation has transformed from a dialog platform into a stable institution of civil society, ensuring systematic citizen participation in state processes. The institutionalization of key forms of interaction among society, experts, and government has created a unique model of public participation, recognized internationally.

The established mechanisms of public participation cover a broad spectrum of issues — from social services and legislative activities to evaluating the implementation of state strategic initiatives.

Strengthening the network of public oversight entities at the regional level has created a unified space for public oversight from Kaliningrad to Vladivostok. This has ensured the openness of public administration and significantly increased citizens' trust in authorities at all levels.

The development of the nonprofit sector has turned civic initiative into a strategic social resource. Through institutionalized support for socially oriented NPOs, expanded access to state support measures, and participation in providing social services, the third sector has secured a prominent place in addressing pressing tasks — from rehabilitating participants of the Special Military Operation (SMO) to supporting large families and protecting vulnerable population groups. A special place in the activities of the Civic Chamber of

the Russian Federation is held by public observation of the electoral process, which over two decades has evolved from an experimental practice into a stable institution of public oversight. It serves as a guarantee of transparency, legitimacy, and public trust in key electoral procedures in the country (the referendum on amendments to the Constitution of the Russian Federation, elections of the President of the Russian Federation, deputies of the State Duma, etc.).

Today, the institution of public observation is legally enshrined, serves as a reliable bridge between the state and civil society, and ensures trust in the country's electoral system.

The Russian model of civic participation has gained international recognition. The Civic Chamber strengthens its influence in the international electoral process, articulating the stance of Russian civil society on democratic standards for organizing and holding elections. Established working ties with global and regional platforms, including AICESIS and BRICS, have allowed not only presenting domestic experience as an independent and sustainable practice but also shaping alternative agendas in humanitarian cooperation, sustainable development, and digital ethics.

Particularly significant is the work on integrating new territories. Establishing civil society institutions in the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics, and the Zaporozhye and Kherson oblasts, is becoming the foundation not only for administrative but also for civilizational unity — by engaging residents in public initiatives, developing local communities, and forming a common civic identity.

Prospects for further development are seen in expanding digital tools for public oversight and increasing citizen engagement. An important direction will be integrating residents of new territories into the country's civic activities, as well as involving former SMO participants in shaping the new creative economies of the regions. Special attention will be paid to stimulating a proactive life stance among youth through awareness of their civic role.

Strengthening public diplomacy and exchanging humanitarian practices with partners in the Global South will become significant factors in developing international cooperation. These areas of work will ensure the further development of civil society as a crucial element of the democratic system and a mechanism for feedback between the state and society. Thus, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation continues to fulfill its mission — to unite society **in dialog with the government to achieve systemic changes and fair solutions for all**. In the face of new challenges, it remains a reliable pillar for constructive dialog and a guarantee that the voice of every citizen is heard and considered in the country's most important decisions.