



A Decade of Participatory Research in Russia

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General Info

The Center is a department at the State University – **Higher School of Economics** (Moscow, Russia).

The **mission** of the Center is theoretical and empirical **research** into **civil society** and the non-profit sector, both in Russia and elsewhere in the world.

The Center is directed to develop **policy recommendations** to facilitate sustainable development of the Russian non-profit sector, as well as to improve the current Russian policy environment for the sector and to **advocate government** support for institutions in Russian civil society.

The research program of the Center includes **theoretical** studies of civil society and of the non-profit sector, international **comparative** studies, and **policy research** at the federal, regional and municipal level.

Activities of the Center include development and delivery of **educational** and **training** programs for managers and volunteers of non-profit organizations, and for the Russian government and municipal employees. Education and training courses developed and delivered by the Center focus on democratic values, the rule of law, tolerance, social partnership and good governance.

Key Research Project: Russian Civil Society Development Monitoring

The project involves monitoring of the development of Russian civil society to gather empirical data on the state and basic development trends, which includes major annual sociological surveys as well as the analysis of available official statistical data.

Key factors

- Conducted since 2006
- The monitoring focuses on the civil activity of Russian citizens, trends and effectiveness of NGO activity, the legal and policy framework for Russian civil society institutions, self-organized institutions, living standards of the population, and the methodology of forecasting the development of civil society.
- As part of the monitoring international comparisons are carried out using indicators of civil society according to the methodology of the project " CIVICUS Civil Society Index» in cooperation with the World Alliance for Citizen Participation. Also, indicators on the non-profit sector are used according to the project methodology of comparative studies on the non-profit sector conducted in cooperation with the Centre for Civil Society Studies, Johns Hopkins University.

List of stakeholders interested in monitoring Russian civil society development results

- The President's Administration
- The Government
- Ministry of Economic Development
- Ministry of Health and Social Development
- Ministry of Justice
- Other federal bodies of the state authority
- Authorities of the Russian Federation regions
- Local government municipalities
- Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation
- The Presidential Council for the Promotion of Civil Society Institutions and Human Rights
- The media
- Current and future donors (special donor agencies, corporate donors, individuals engaging in philanthropic activities or intending to become donors)
- Volunteers
- Managers of a wide range of non-profit organizations
- Social and academic organizations

Monitoring research has an effect on:

- The development of scientific research by improving the methodology, developing new indicators and indices, and the original tools of sociological data collection;
- Providing current, complete, accurate and regularly updated information necessary to understand the state of civil society in Russia to the government, NGOs, the media and other stakeholders;
- Promotion of state policy in the field of support and development of civil society and decision-making processes;
- Providing recommendations for the development of civil society aimed at different stakeholders;
- Providing analysis for the President's Administration, the Government, as well as the Public Chamber of the Russian Federation and regional public chambers in order to prepare annual reports on the status of civil society as a whole in Russia, and in some regions of Russia;
- Providing to students a knowledge base and analytical tools obtained in civil society monitoring.

Civil society monitoring research features

Ranking of Russia's regions is necessary because:

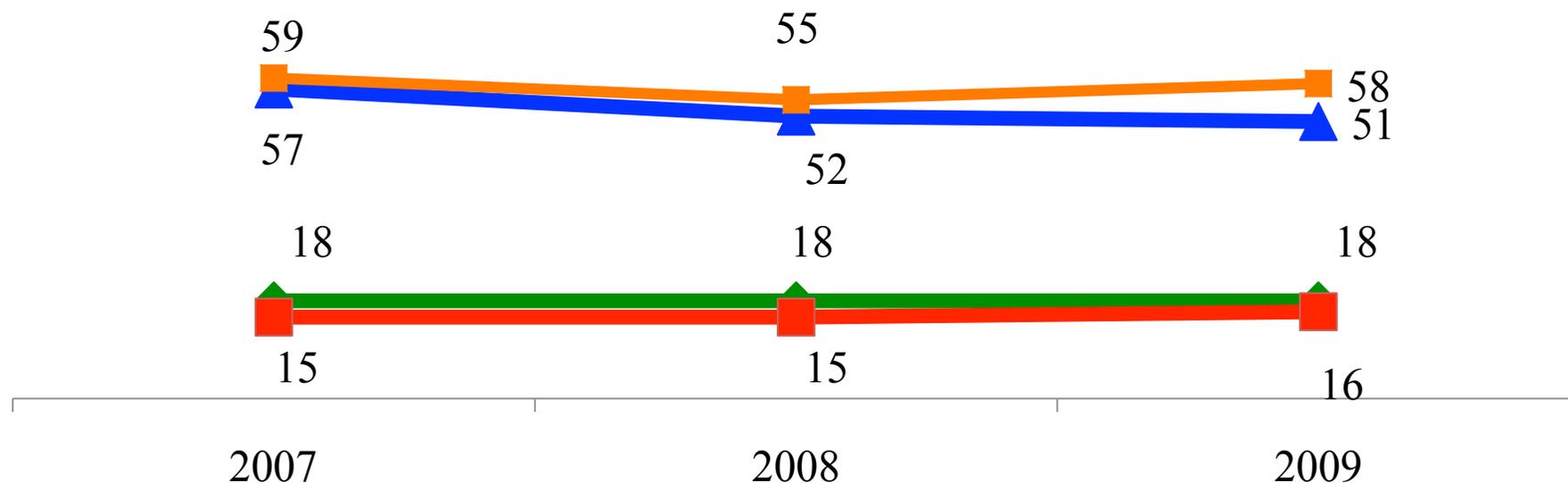
Russia is a large-scale country – population is 141,927,296 inhabitants, over 180 nationalities, 79.83% of which are Russians, 73.1% urban, 79.3% live in the European part, territorial size is 17,075,400 km². Russia is divided into 83 regions spread over 9 time zones. c. 670k NGOs as of 1.09.2009 (2% increase over a year)

Population is internally differentiated – 55% female and 45% male, 18% have a university degree, 29% of people live in cities with more than half a million inhabitants, 8% of people are very poor, while 1% of people are very rich

Research focuses not only on the institutional structures of civil society, but also on the informal social activity of Russians – for example, Russian citizens' engagement in voluntary activity reaches 60%, and the level of formal volunteering, i.e. CSO related activities, is less than 4%

Inaccuracy of governmental statistics – according to the Federal Service of State Statistics the number of CSOs is about 360,000, but according to the results of HSE studies, the number of actually operating CSOs is 136,000

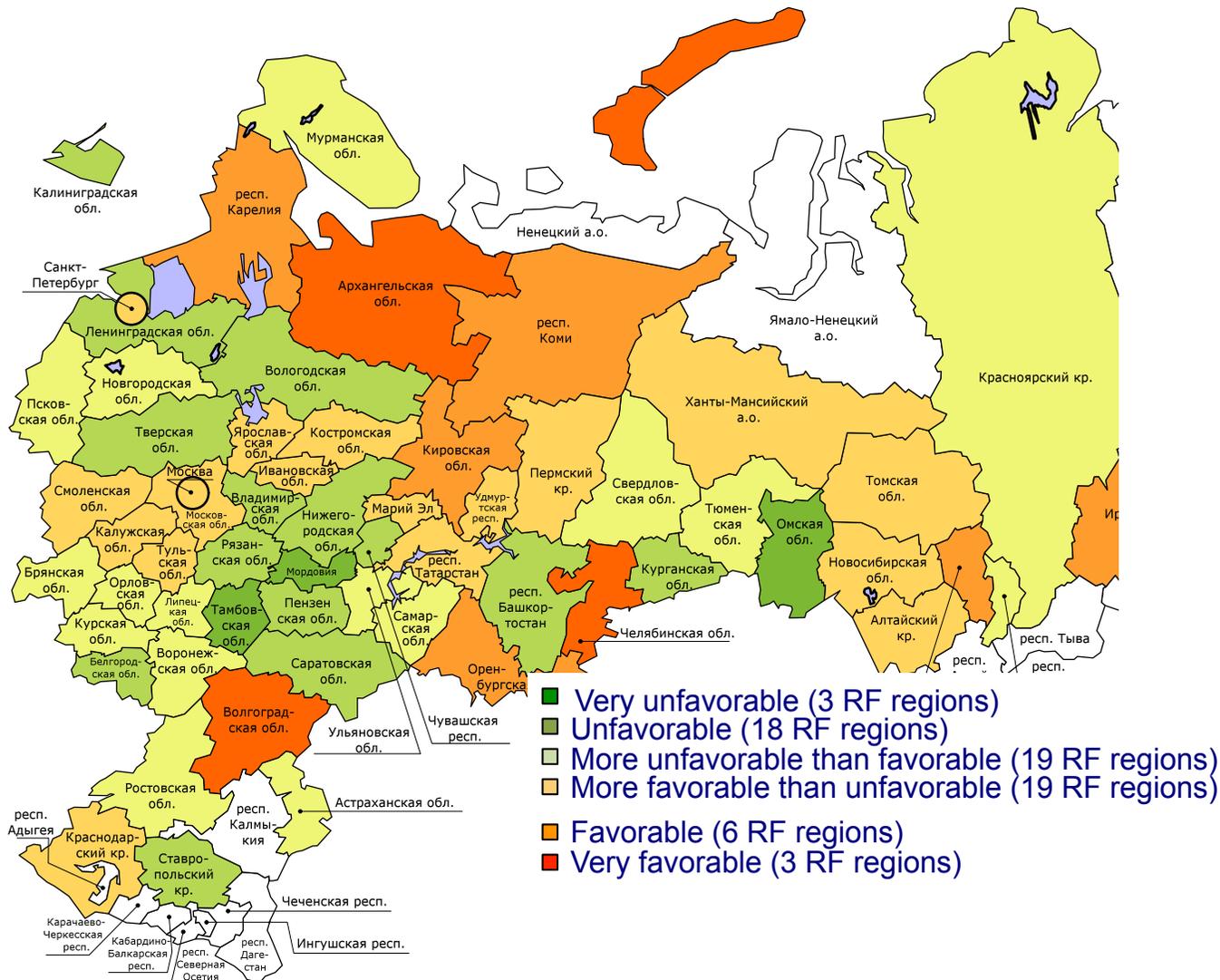
Social Conditions for Engagement in Civil Society activity



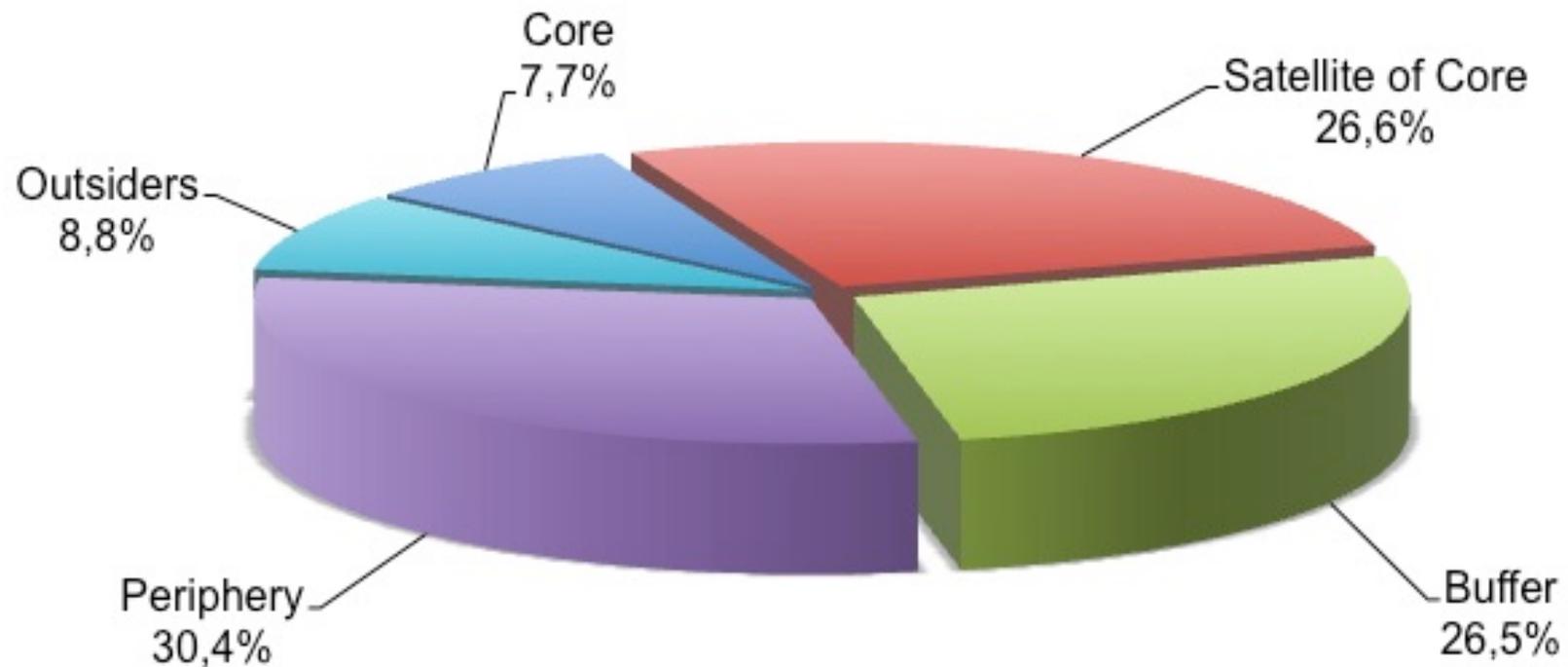
- ◆ Most people can be trusted
- There is more agreement, cohesion in our country in general
- ▲ There is more agreement, cohesion in our country among people around me
- Ready to unit with other people

Ranking of Russian Federation's regions

Ranking according to favorability for the prerequisites of civil society development (Integral Index – Threshold Aggregation Method – index range from 0 to 1); followed by aggregation and six-level ranking nominal scale

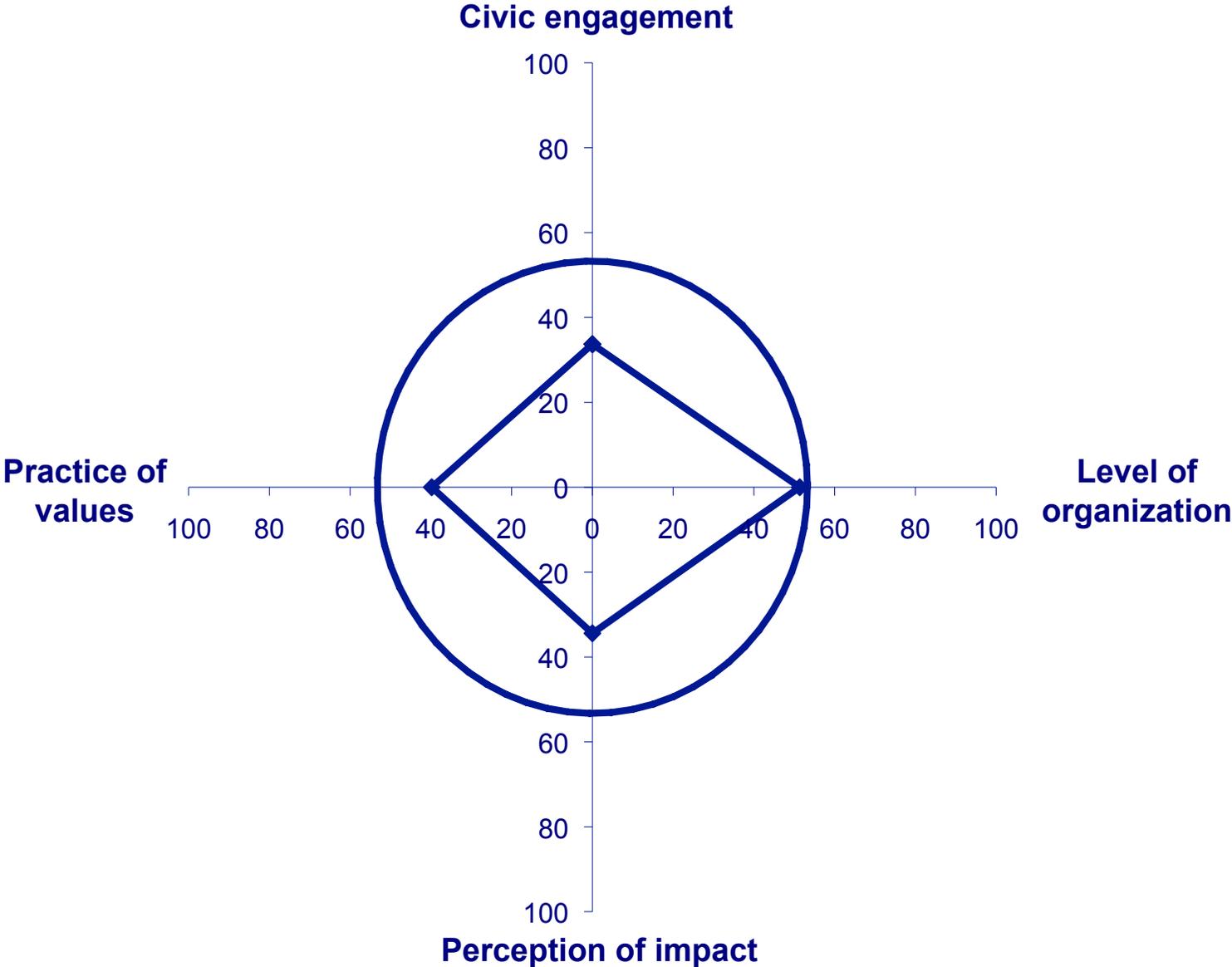


Social Base of Russian Civil Society*



* Full article. Мерсиянова И.В. Социальная база российского гражданского общества// Общественные науки и современность. 2009. № 4. С.35-45.// I.Mersiyanova. Social base of Russian civil society

Russia's CSI Diamond



CIVICUS CSI as a Participatory Research

CIVICUS CSI leads to debate, both of a public and scientific nature, involving a wide range of stakeholders (see slide 4).

The main results of the CIVICUS CSI :

- were discussed at the major scientific and public fora (e.g 12/2009 all-Russian conference “Social partnership and civil society institutions development”, 04/2010 at the international scientific conference “XII April International Academic Conference on Economic and Social Development” with online broadcasting at a top-news agency site);
- were disseminated through the educational activities of the Center (e.g 06/2010 training course for representatives of regional public chambers);
- were provided to the Civic Chamber of Russia to be included in the annual report on the state of civil society in Russia;
- were used as recommendations for state policy in support of civil society;
- were presented at the monthly open scientific seminar of the Center;
- were available to a wide range of stakeholders at the site of the Center and in the publications in the series “The state of civil society monitoring.”

Thank you!

<http://grans.hse.ru>