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VOLUNTEERING  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
IN EUROPE

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## 1. VOLUNTEERING INFRASTRUCTURE CONCEPT DEFINITION

The Russian Federation has no separate law that regulates relationships in the field of volunteerism. However the definition of main terms such as volunteerism, volunteer, volunteering, beneficiary, etc. are established in other regulatory tools.

Legislation development in volunteering field started in the mid-1990s when in 1995 an Act on charitable activities and charitable organizations of the Russian Federation was adopted. This Act defined volunteerism for the first time, and the principles of it that are still useful for volunteers.

Later the legal framework for volunteerism as the Amendments to the Law was established. For example, the documents contains a new article where the conditions for volunteering be established within a civil contract which is signed between a volunteer and a beneficiary or a legal entity. The contract is signed if the services and work are provided on behalf of beneficiary or are a part of the charitable activities of a legal entity. Signed document gives an opportunity to cover volunteer's costs and to be exempt from paying taxes connected with space rental, transportation, payment of insurance premiums for providing health insurance during volunteer's work.

According to the "Concept of long-term social and economic development of Russia until 2020", which was approved of by the Government on November 17, 2008, promoting the development and expansion of volunteerism in the country is considered to be one of the priorities in social and youth policies.

In 2009 the Government of Russia adopted the charity and volunteering enhancing concept which provides charity, social advertising institutions and volunteerism support mechanism development plan.

Several documents were adopted in Russia due to major international sporting events:

- Federal Law "On the organization and hosting of the XXII Olympic Winter Games and XI Paralympic Winter Games in Sochi, development of Sochi as a mountain climatic resort and amendments to certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation" in 2011;
- Federal Law "On the preparation and organization 2018 FIFA World Cup, 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup and amendments to certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation" in 2013;
- In 2011 the Federal Law "On the volunteer fire brigades" was adopted. According to the law, a volunteer firefighter must be at least 18 years old and be able to take part in fire fighting and rescue operations. Health status of volunteer firefighter is measured in the way that is approved by the Federal body of the executive power which is authorized to meet the challenges in fire safety sphere.

Since 2013 the government has been discussing the draft of Federal Law "On volunteerism". The draft drew a mixed response from experts and non-profit organizations, that's why the question on adoption of this law remains unsolved.

Considering the fact that there is no federal law on volunteerism, such regions of the Russian Federation as Perm Krai, Rostov Oblast, Vladimir Oblast and Vologda Oblast decided to pass an act that regulates public relations connected with voluntary activities carried out on the region's territory. For example, in Perm Krai the Regional Law No. 410-PK, dated 8 December, 2014, "On volunteerism development in Perm Krai" was adopted. In this document several terms/notions that are widely used in other laws are defined.

Volunteerism is socially oriented and socially useful activities, including traditional forms of mutual aid, service provision and other forms of civil participation, that are carried out on unpaid basis and based on an informed choice.

There are two different words in Russian that means a volunteer: *д о б р о в о л е ц* (dobrovolets) and *в о л о н т ё р* (volontyor). These two notions are regarded as synonymous.

- A volunteer is a capable citizen who undertakes voluntary, socially oriented and socially valued activities during his or her leisure time simultaneously with the learning and developing fully as a human being processes.
- Voluntary activities are individual or group voluntary socially oriented activities in the form of work performance that are carried out by any kind of citizens on unpaid basis in their free time.
- A volunteer organization is a non-profit organization with social focus, which works by hiring volunteers, that works on its behalf.
- A beneficiary is a person that receives charitable donations from philanthropists and gets help from volunteers.
- A volunteer work organizer is a legal entity that coordinates volunteer's work and reimburses costs connected with volunteer's work, including travel, accommodation, food and required tools and materials.

In 2014 the Government of Russia adopted the Act "On the Foundations of State Youth Policy of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2025". It contains the volunteering concept among youth people defined as a voluntary, socially oriented and socially useful activities of young people that take the form of works execution and service providing them on unpaid basis (but there is an exception for cases when the costs that should be recovered because they're connected with volunteerism activity).

The Russian President noted the significance of volunteerism in his message to the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, dated 1 December, 2016. After the message session, Vladimir Putin requested to develop Voluntary Movement Action Plan that would include activities to develop the Russian Federation legislation in volunteerism sphere and set standards of cooperation between volunteers and authorities and organizations.

In July 2017, the Government of Russia adopted "The plan on Volunteer movement development for the period up to 2025". This document contains not only main terms, but also volunteering activities priorities. The concept prescribes the necessary environment for providing a better legal framework of volunteerism, enhancing cooperation with business and promoting cultural bond between Russian volunteers and foreign ones.



## 2. VOLUNTEERING LANDSCAPE (the general condition of volunteering in Russia; how the Russian history affected the development of volunteering)

The main feature of volunteerism in Russia is the existence of two parallel systems to work with volunteers: government projects (operated by the state) and non-profit projects. Depending on the region, two systems can vary in their degree of coincidence, but in general, it can be said that they develop quite autonomously.

"The concept of long-term social and economic development of Russia until 2020" considers the development of volunteerism and philanthropy as one of the priorities of state policy. At the same time, volunteering is used as a tool for the development of youth policy - it proves the fact that the state projects at the federal level to support volunteering are under the control of the Federal Agency of Youth "RusYouth" - the state organization of the Ministry of Education of Russia. "RusYouth" works on the principle of the implementation of federal projects. Four of them are related to volunteering.

The number of citizens and organizations that participate in volunteer activities has been steadily growing recent years. The same can be said about the scope of the projects and programs. In addition, volunteers in different spheres of activity and from different social demographic group have become more self-organized.

Fifteen percent of adult Russians respond that they participate in volunteer activities. At the same time, sociological surveys show that 50 % of the interviewed adults agree to work on a voluntary basis.

The volunteerism mainly serves to improve volunteerism relevance in social development, to strengthen involvement of volunteers in solving social problems and to make volunteerism more innovative.

In 2014 the Volunteering Centre Association was founded. The main purpose of it is to systematize work of regional volunteering centers. At the moment the Volunteering Centre Association comprises 100 organizations, including higher and secondary specialized education organizations, non-profit organizations and volunteerism support resource centers. More than 200,000 people work in organizations of the Volunteering Centre Association; every day they participate in events at municipal, regional and federal levels. In addition, the Volunteering Centre Association is a scientific and methodological centre that provides expert and methodological support for non-governmental and educational organizations, budgetary institutions and the authorities.

"Volunteers of Russia" is an information platform for volunteers and organizations, which contains the most relevant news of volunteering in Russia. "Volunteers of Russia" helps to work together, to study and communicate with each other. What is more, it collects all offers and requests of voluntary assistance in one place.

The platform is useful for your volunteer activity, because it allows you:

- to keep abreast of the most relevant news of volunteering;
- to communicate with volunteers, organizations and volunteering centers throughout Russia;
- to go study online;
- to participate in all-Russian events, competition and actions;
- to evaluate the quality of events undertaken;
- to use the portal as a social network for communicating with other users;
- to see all your voluntary activities in one single electronic document.

The All-Russian public movement "Medical volunteers" was founded in 2013. This organization helps medical personnel in hospitals, provides job focus for school children, makes people aware of healthy lifestyle and deals with disease prevention. All these activities are undertaken by volunteers who would like to improve their skills and to get a great experience working in healthcare. Nowadays "Medical volunteers" is composed of 64 regional offices, 7500 volunteers, more than 200 medical organizations and more than 104 medical colleges and universities.

The All-Russian public movement "Victory Volunteers". The main purposes of this movement are as follows:

- to preserve historical memory on the Great Patriotic War,
- to make youths feel their connection to great historical events,

- to help all citizens of the Russian Federation to get spiritual, moral, civil and patriotic education
- to develop inter-ethnic cooperation by retaining and protecting values and identify of national culture and traditions of the Russian Federations people.
- to cooperate with public organizations involved in patriotic and civic education sphere.

Since 2012, Russian Volunteer International Forum has been run in Perm. Within the frameworks of this national forum, priorities in volunteerism development are defined, the civic initiative implementation roadmap is established, and long-term partnerships are created. Such topics as volunteerism development, social entrepreneurship, citizens' initiatives promotion, inclusive volunteerism and social films are beyond the scope of the discussion. The program of the forum is based on the most relevant volunteerism enhancing issues and the priorities set up in the sustainable development agenda through 2030, which was adopted by the United Nations in 2015. There are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) that underlie an ambitious agenda; meanwhile it focuses on three on them: economic growth, social integration and environmental protection.

Most of the programs in the field of volunteerism in Russia are implemented at the regional level. In each region, there are executive agencies, the responsibility of them including volunteering. Most often it is the Committee on Youth and Social Policy (in some cases, in one region the responsibility shared between several committees). These committees work in accordance with the approved program in the region, or the concept of volunteerism. The work includes the organization of events for volunteers, support of volunteer initiatives and volunteer organizations, the distribution of funds in the form of grants and subsidies, the creation of resource centers for volunteers.

As for volunteering in a non-profit sector, it is possible to note two main forms of work:

- organizing volunteer service within the non-profit organization - the organization employs (or engages as a volunteer) a coordinator of volunteers, who is responsible for recruiting, training and motivating volunteers to meet the needs of the organization.
- organizing independent volunteer service/volunteer center, which is responsible for recruiting, training and motivating volunteers - on the one hand, and the selection of volunteer jobs - on the other. Most of these centers are being established in educational institutions or with the support of government agencies, but there are examples of existence of independent projects of this kind, created by the activists, and with no financial support.

Moscow Volunteer (MosVolunteer) is a successful example of a volunteer resource centre. It was founded with the support of Moscow Culture Department in 2014 to popularize and develop volunteerism in Moscow. Today MosVolunteer is an entry point for all volunteer's initiatives of the Russian capital. It implements socially valued projects, supports charitable organizations and civil initiative groups. It's impossible to imagine any major event in the capital without the help of volunteers, the number of whom is about 30,000 people. Any person could become a volunteer, regardless of his or her age, religion and views in politics.

Another example of a regional resource centre is Kazan Volunteer Training Centre of Volga Region State Academy of Physical Culture, Sport and Tourism. Kazan Volunteer Training Centre can pride itself on training volunteers for such events as the XXVII Summer Universiade in Kazan (2013), the the XXII Olympic Winter Games in Sochi (2014), The 16th FINA World Championships in Kazan (2015) , the 6th World Festival of Youth and Students in Sochi (2017) and the 2018 FIFA World

Cup in Russia. It will train 1300 volunteers for participating in the 2018 FIFA World Cup. Even 90-years old ones could theoretically become a volunteer for FIFA 2018, but finally all volunteer positions will be occupied by stress-resistant, foreign language knowing team players who are into football. They will receive distance training, will pass the exams and will have a practice at sport centers.

Perm Volunteerism Development Centre can be considered as a regional volunteer resource centre. It enhances partnerships between non-profit organizations, social organizations, authorities, business entities and media in volunteerism and charity development sphere, implements social projects; gives an organizational, methodical, technical and consulting support for volunteer's and non-profit organizations, conducts training workshops for volunteers in order to improve the quality of programs and projects undertaken and conducts events at national and international level to create a good image of volunteerism and charity. Since 2011 the Centre has been developing cooperation in sociocultural projects and volunteerism with the United Nations Office at Geneva, Switzerland. In 2012 Perm Volunteerism Development Centre became the first Russian member of the European Volunteer Centre.

In addition, in Russia there are branches and representative offices of major international non-governmental organizations and foundations, which regularly work with volunteers: Russian Red Cross, World Wildlife Fund, Greenpeace, Doctors Without Borders, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Russia.

### 3. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR VOLUNTEERING AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION

In Russia, volunteerism is regulated by national and regional levels of law. Today, Federal Law No. 135-FZ "On Charitable Activities and Charitable Organizations"<sup>1</sup> dated August 11, 1995, regulates volunteerism at the national level. This Federal Law establishes the basis for the legal regulation of charitable activities, determines the possible forms of its support by central and local authorities, particularities in organizing and performing charity activities in order to widely disseminate and develop charitable activities in the Russian Federation. This law regulates the conditions of volunteerism in a non-profit organization, the format of the relationship between a volunteer and a non-profit organization.

In 2009, the Russian Federation Government Decree No. 1054-r "On the Concept of the Promotion of Charitable Activities and Volunteerism in the Russian Federation" dated July 30, 2009, was issued<sup>2</sup>.

Each of 85 regions of the Russian Federation can implement programs to support volunteer activities in its region, regardless of the federal level, provided that these programs do not conflict with the federal laws. In the regions of Russia, regional executive authorities are responsible for developing and implementing volunteer programs; most often such an authority is the committee for matters concerning young persons, social policy, or the administration of additional education, nurturing and youth policy, etc. In each region of Russia, a concept and program for the promotion of volunteerism have been developed, which outline the main areas of local work, the main



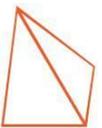
<sup>1</sup> Federal Law No. 135-FZ "On Charitable Activities and Charitable Organizations" dated August 11, 1995 (as amended and supplemented) GARANT system: <http://base.garant.ru/104232/#ixzz4t1OIVwDG>

<sup>2</sup> Russian Federation Government Decree No. 1054-r "On the Concept of the Promotion of Charitable Activities and Volunteerism in the Russian Federation" dated July 30, 2009. GARANT system: <http://base.garant.ru/6726429/#ixzz4tOzVYi5l>

activities, responsible organizations and funding. Such a concept regulates relations between state authorities, non-profit organizations and volunteers within the region. The examples are the Regional law of Rostov Oblast No. 895-ZC "On Supporting Voluntary Activities in Rostov Oblast"<sup>3</sup>, dated June 27, 2012, Perm Krai law No. 410-PK "On Volunteerism Development in Perm Krai"<sup>4</sup>, dated December 8, 2014. Regional concepts and programs to promote the development of volunteerism are usually adopted for 3-5 years. They also determine the budget, which is controlled by regional executive authorities. These documents outline the goals, objectives and principles of volunteer activity, the area of responsibility of all participants, the main target audience, types of volunteer activities, the main areas of responsible executive authorities, for example, infrastructure development, training of volunteers, financial and information support (provision of advertising space for social advertising).

It should be noted that the regions are known for a system of tenders for social and civil projects, assisting the development of non-profit organizations with social focus. The projects are legally supported by the decrees of the regions' heads and on the basis of the Federal Law No. 7-FZ "On Non-Profit Organizations" dated January 12, 1996. In addition, there is Granting Subsidies Procedure from the municipal budget to non-profit organizations that are not state (municipal) institutions in order to organize and conduct activities in the field of youth policy, social protection of the population, etc.

In 2016, Vladimir Putin, the Russian President, instructed the Agency for Strategic Initiatives (ASI) and the Public Chamber of the Russian Federation (RFCP) "to submit a plan for the development of the volunteer movement to the government, which includes measures to improve the Russian legislation in this area and to develop standards for interaction between volunteers and state authorities of the Russian Federation and organizations". The Public Chamber of the Russian Federation noted that more than 2 thousand experts in the field of volunteerism were involved in designing the plan of actions<sup>5</sup>



During the development of the plan, the ASI took a survey in 85 territorial entities of the Russian Federation in order to identify the best practices of state support for volunteerism, organized a series of events devoted to various aspects of volunteerism. A working group was organized on the basis of the ASI; regional experts were invited, who put forward more than 300 proposals on measures of state support for the volunteer movement. As a result, the ASI summarized the suggestions of the experts and the best experience of state support for volunteerism in the regions, presented proposals on cross-sectoral measures to support volunteerism to the RFCP, as well as on measures to support priority areas of volunteering.

The plan of actions for the volunteerism development in Russia was adopted by the Government. The plan is based on the idea of guaranteed equal access of all population groups to volunteer activity. Created conditions that allow everyone to do good deeds everywhere and unhindered are the main expected results; the public should perceive volunteerism as a demanded social phenomenon. In this case,

<sup>3</sup> The Regional law No. 895-ZC "On Supporting Voluntary Activities in Rostov Oblast" dated June 27, 2012 <http://www.donland.ru/documents/O-podderzhke-dobrovolcheskoj-deyatelnosti-v-Rostovskoj-oblasti?pageid=128483&mid=134977&itemId=22561>

<sup>4</sup> Perm Krai law No. 410-PK "On Volunteerism Development in Perm Krai" dated December 8, 2014// GARANT system: <http://base.garant.ru/32711957/#ixzz4tldmj6SI>

<sup>5</sup> The Government of the Russian Federation signed a plan of actions to promote the development of volunteerism <https://www.asi.org.ru/news/2017/07/10/volonterstvo-plan-meropriyatii-podpisan/>

the implementation of the plan and the introduction of the standard of volunteer support are just the beginning for great work<sup>6</sup>.

Thus, Moscow Oblast, Perm Krai and some other regions of the Russian Federation have become pilot sites for the introduction of volunteer standards since August 2017. By the end of 2017, it is expected that the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation would draft and adopt a package of bills aimed at eliminating key barriers in the development of volunteerism; first of all, it would eliminate legal differences in the content of some concepts of "volunteerism", introduce necessary changes to the tax legislation which remove obstacles for the citizens to be involved into volunteer activity in favour of organizations. The plan presupposes the introduction of the Standard for volunteer support in 40 regions of the Russian Federation, the organization of a federal inter-departmental commission for the volunteerism development, which will provide equal support to various areas of volunteerism. Methodological recommendations on organizing a transparent procedure to provide access to financing for the volunteers in the framework of regional grant competitions for non-profit organizations with social focus will be developed on the base of the best regional and federal practices. The methodological materials will be sent to the regions for state and municipal institutions to involve non-profit organizations with social focus and volunteer groups to implement joint voluntary programs. The PFRF will launch a program to collect the best practices in the field of volunteerism. Topics devoted to volunteerism will be included in basic, vocational secondary and higher education programs, as well as in the system of additional education and nurturing of students



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It is important to note that in 2017, the Fund-Operator of presidential grants for the development of civil society (Fund of Presidential Grants) announced about two competitions to provide grants of the President of the Russian Federation for the development of civil society. The competitions are announced for non-profit non-governmental organizations participating in the development of civil society institutions implementing socially significant projects and projects in the field of protecting human and civil rights and freedoms. They are held in accordance with the decree of the President of the Russian Federation No. 93-rp "On the Provision in 2017 of State Support of Non-profit Non-governmental Organizations Participating in the Development of Civil Society Institutions Implementing Socially Significant Projects and Projects in the Field of Protecting Human Rights and Freedoms and Citizen" dated 3 April, 2017<sup>8</sup>. The total amount of grants allocated for the first contest in the summer of 2017 was 2 billion 250 million rubles.

## 4. STRUCTURE OF THE NON-PROFIT SECTOR INVOLVED IN VOLUNTEERING

Currently the development of a civil society is a burning issue in Russia. Institutions of the civil society are considered to be local authorities, mass media, political parties and public voluntary associations. A non-profit sector is an important element of the democratic organization of the society, based on the

<sup>6</sup> The standard of volunteer support developed by the ASI will be implemented in 40 regions of Russia <https://asi.ru/news/76679/>

<sup>7</sup> Draft Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation "On Approving the Concept of the Development of Volunteering in the Russian Federation until 2025" (prepared by the Ministry of Economic Development of Russia on June 26, 2017) GARANT RU: <http://www.garant.ru/products/ipo/prime/doc/56617732/#ixzz4t2hO4byu>

<sup>8</sup> The announcement of the contests for grants of the President of the Russian Federation for the development of civil society in 2017 <https://xn--80afcdbalict6afooklqi5o.xn--plai/Home/SMI>

principles of a market-driven economy. It is named the third sector, which emphasizes its importance along with the other two, represented by the government and market structures. The combination of three features - independence, voluntariness and unprofitable nature of activity - forms that distinctiveness that makes public organizations different from similar organizations belonging to state and commercial social institutions.

A range of non-profit organizations in accordance with the Russian law \*\* (\*\* The Civil Code of the Russian Federation, the laws of the Russian Federation "On Non-profit Organizations", "On Public Associations", "On Charitable Activities and Charitable Organizations", "On Trade Unions, Their Rights and Guarantees of Activities" and other legislative acts.) is very wide. To date, the list of non-profit organizations includes more than 20 organizational and legal forms of NPOs, which together constitute the Russian non-profit sector.

Institutions, associations, unions, chambers of commerce and industry, non-profit partnerships, autonomous non-profit organizations, foundations, consumer cooperatives, public organizations, notary chambers, bar associations, state corporations and others are among them.

The largest Russian non-profit organizations are involved in volunteerism:

- 1) *Youth organization "Vektor Druzhy" ("Friendship Vector") as a part of the National Association of Education Development "Tetradka Druzhy" ("Notebook of Friendship").*

The organization has been operating since 2005. Participants are more than 1 500 000 people from 85 regions of Russia and 17 countries of the world. The organization has special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. Since 2012 the organization holds the International Forum "Volunteer of Russia".

- 2) *Regional Youth Public Organization.*

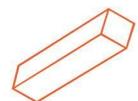
"Volunteerism Development Center in the Republic of Tatarstan". The Regional Youth Public Organization "Volunteerism Development Center in the Republic of Tatarstan" was established in September of 2006 by the leaders of the voluntary associations of the Republic of Tatarstan at the 1st Republican Volunteers' Council called the Coordinating Council of the Voluntary Movement of the Republic of Tatarstan in the form of a public movement without the formation of a legal entity.

- 3) *Association of Volunteers of the Southern Urals.*

The main goal of the Association is to coordinate and provide the interaction of all volunteer communities in the region. The leaders of the Association are creating a unified system for organizing volunteer activities in the Southern Urals and creating conditions for the development of volunteerism in every educational institution and municipality in the region.

## 5. OTHER STAKEHOLDERS (state, private, etc.)

Recently, the authorities, commercial companies, mass media firms together with non-profit organization, educational and different social institutions (orphanages, hospitals, hospices, retirement homes) actively participate in volunteerism in Russia.



### 5.1. Educational Institutions

Many educational institutions refer to volunteerism as an educational tool, therefore volunteer centers organized by the groups of enthusiastic students at the Universities and Colleges are supported by the Administration of the educational institutions.

Today, all Federal Universities have Volunteer Associations or Centers. They mainly dated back to the time of large international events (XXVII World Summer Universiada in Kazan in 2013, XXII Olympic Winter Games in Sochi in 2014). For example, now Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University in Kaliningrad Oblast is a training center for volunteers who are prepared for the FIFA World Football Championship in 2018 in Russia.

However, a students' initiative which is not organized as a legal entity and which can directly provide assistance to different social institutes and do not connect with non-profit organization is the most widely spread association. For example, every month Volunteer Center in Perm State University assists in organizing leisure activities for children from orphanages, in organizing some events for the elderly people in Geriatric Center, in cleaning the area in an animal shelter.

There is a trend that pupils and students who join volunteer associations in an educational institution or help non-profit organizations in a region are the volunteers in Russia.

### 5.2. Social Institutes

Social institutes are as follows: orphanages, hospitals, retirement homes or animal shelters.

Social volunteering is the most popular area in volunteerism in Russia. Therefore, social institutions interact with the stakeholders through different patterns:

- Representatives of the social institutions attract the volunteers via social networks, they do not communicate with non-profit organizations;
- Representatives of social institutions address regional volunteerism development centers for help to find and to train volunteers;
- Volunteers act independently and find social institutions which require assistance.

Training workshops where the volunteers are taught how to communicate with different population groups (elderly people, physically disadvantaged people, children from orphanages, etc.) are gaining their popularity. These training sessions make a volunteering help more professional.

### 5.3. State / bodies of authority

Every year authorities are becoming more involved into volunteering.

Presently, the key areas of volunteerism support provided by the executive authorities in the regions are as follows:

- participation in state policy in supporting and stimulating volunteering;
- development and implementation of volunteering support events organized within the state programs;
- providing assistance in the development of inter-regional and inter-municipal cooperation of the volunteer organizations.

Centers of volunteer support and development are there in nearly all regions of the Russian Federation. Some territories (for example, Perm Krai, Cheliabinsk, Nizhny Novrogod and Sverdlovsk Oblasts) are characterized by a network of local Volunteer Centers at the municipal and inter-municipal levels. Volunteer Center are mainly supported by the regional or local authorities.

Municipal and regional awards, public recognition labels for volunteering work are established to motivate the volunteers in the regions of Russia, sometimes there are even specialized remunerations and student's scholarships. Public recognition label "Volunteer of Russia" awarded every year at the International Forum "Volunteer of Russia" held in Perm in November is a widely known reward among many other ones.

#### 5.4. Business

Quite recently corporate volunteering - a participation of the company's employees in volunteering - is extensively being developed in Russia.

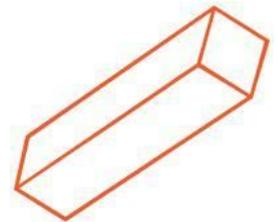
Now national corporate volunteerism is being somehow shaped. This is connected with the fact that many companies deal with implementing a strategy of business social responsibility or at least consider some of its principles and see volunteerism as a significant factor to strengthen corporate culture in a company, as well as an important element of business strategy and personnel practices in an organization. Company's performance is based on a documented strategy of corporate volunteerism. These programs are connected with such volunteering areas as family and children support, environment protection, healthy lifestyle promotion. However, Russian legislation has no mechanisms to regulate the volunteering corporate activities, the programs are often designed thanks to the enthusiasm coming from some employees rather than from top managers in a company, organization of an event does not typically presuppose profound analysis of a social problem.

Business-companies also try to cooperate with non-profit organizations within volunteering. The representatives of non-profit organizations note that they mainly need financial assistance from business. Some experts claim that there can be one more additional advantage of cooperation, that is, a company can employ the most active volunteers, or the company's employees participate in volunteering.

#### 5.5. Mass Media Organizations

The relationships of the volunteer associations with mass media appear to be the most reliable ones. In many RF regions mass media are always eager to inform the public about the volunteers and to visit socially important events. However, mass media are ready to maintain this cooperation with experienced volunteer organizations with good reputation.

But many volunteers are sure that it is necessary to speak about the events and campaigns, to report about the volunteers and problems they solve to improve the volunteering image.



## 6. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### 6.1. State financial support

In the modern world, the development of non-profit sector is impossible without active state involvement and support. Russia is characterized with the following types of state financial support provided to the "third sector" organizations:

1. Grants are special-purpose non-repayable and irreclaimable funds provided by a non-profit organization to implement a particular project (program). These projects (programs) must be aimed to create some public benefits, to provide social support, to fulfill professional, public interests of particular population groups.

2. Subsidies are non-repayable payments granted by the state to the budgets of different level, legal entities (including non-profit organizations), as well as individuals on condition of shared financing of the special-purpose expenses.
3. Contracts are about placing a goods delivery, work delivery, service providing contract for state and municipal needs with non-profit organizations.
4. Providing privileges. The privileges are provided to both non-profit organizations and individuals (legal entities) which donate. Russian legislation presupposes several types of financing sources for non-profit organizations, including federal grants (grants from Ministry of Economic Development, Presidential Grants), regional grants (subsidies from regional ministries of economic development, Governor' grants), so called donor payments with the payments of large non-profit organizations and funds, private donations.

Volunteerism is financially supported at federal and regional levels in Russia. Federal Agency of Youth uses a special budget line to support the development of volunteering to implement federal projects and programs (Competition "Volunteer of Russia") as well as the organization of thematic event in the nationwide summer youth forums (All-Russian Youth Forum "Taurida – 2017"; All-Russian Youth Educational Forum "The Territory of Meanings on Klyazma"). There is also All-Russian competition of youth projects - grants to individuals and organizations to implement social projects and initiatives. In 2016 more than 2253 projects have been supported by financial grants.

A Fund of presidential grants of Russia also provides each year Competitive selection of non-profit organizations with social focus for granting subsidies from the federal budget according to the resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation.

At the regional level, executive agencies implement a large number of projects (events, forums, educational programs), as well as provide support for some volunteer projects (decision of support to be made by the executive agency). Budgets in different regions considerably vary.

The regions also have the opportunity to provide financial support in the form of grants and subsidies on a competitive basis. In some regions (Kaliningrad, Yaroslavl region) as well as at the federal level, there is the possibility of a small grant if you are an individual.

### 6.2. Sponsorship and corporate charity

Today charitable activity of the Russian business is characterized with a "response" nature - in many cases an initiative on assistance comes from the citizens and organizations which need it. Initiative charitable business practices are quite rare. Non-profit organization activity in attracting the business to charity is presently not so high and not effective. Only 5% of charitable companies provide assistance to the requests from non-profit organizations. In their turn, the representatives of non-profit organizations complain that majority of their requests addressed to commercial companies remains to be requests rather than real charitable events.

Today one could observe serious infrastructure drawbacks in the area of charitable activities connected with poor communication between business and non-profit organizations, their mutual misunderstandings. Along with that, this misunderstanding between business structures and non-profit organizations can be seen at the stage of building the relationships rather than in a charitable campaign, or their relationships are developed at a distance (51 % of business structures do not have any experience in cooperating with non-profit organizations today).



### 6.3. Private donations

Charities Aid Foundation published a survey of private donations in Russia. 50 % of country's population donated money to charities in 2016. In terms of numbers it is 37 mln people.

A share of donating to the charities had a slight decrease (23 %) in comparison with 2015 data (25.6%). Along with that, a share of the Russian helping religious organizations saw a slight rise – 37.6% (35% in 2015).

In comparison with the last year, the number of people being volunteers grew – 5.4% (2% in 2015), the same is true for those who donated clothes and food in charitable organizations – 29% (27% in 2015).

A share of people helping particular people in need (targeted aid) soared by 7% (37% in 2016, 30% – in 2015).

An average donation sum slightly changed. In 2016 it was 3,856 rubles, while in 2015 it was 3,300 rubles.

An increase in "average spend" is likely to be explained by the fact that in 2016 a share of those donating large sums of more than 5,000 rubles doubled – 31% (15% in 2015). A share of those donating small sums of up to 1,000 rubles also halved - from 31% to 14.5%.

In the future this trend can result in the growth of private donations.

Online donation becomes very popular among the Russians.

SMS messages, as well as the boxes for donations in supermarkets and other public places are considered to be the most convenient way to donate for the Russian charitable people (64% respondents and 62% respondents, respectively).

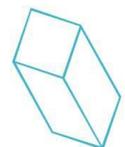
For two years a share of people donating online with a credit card tripled (from 9% to 31 %). The number of people donating via e-purse is tripled (from 6% to 17.5%). Online donation is typical for under 45s.

### 6.4. The status of a foreign agent

On July 13, 2012, the State Duma adopted amendments to the law "On Non-profit Organizations". In accordance with this law, a Russian non-governmental organization which receives donations and other property from foreign states, international and foreign organizations, foreign citizens and stateless people can be awarded the status of a foreign agent. Up to this point a considerable amount of charities funding and foundations came from abroad (according to the Ministry of Justice in 2014, 4108 non-profit organizations received foreign funding totaling over 70 billion rubles, 52 of these organizations could be labelled 'a foreign agent'. In January, 2017, the register of Ministry of Justice contained only 103 "foreign agent". This status imposes a large number of restrictions on funding in Russia, therefore, it is highly undesirable for the organization. For this reason, a large number of charities refused to get foreign funding or significantly reduced it.

## 7. REGULAR AND SYSTEMATIC RESEARCH

In modern Russia empirical studies have been carried out from the beginning of the XXI century. A number of All-Russian Projects have been implemented by a Center of Study of Civil Society and Non-Profit Sector in Scientific and Research Center in Higher School of Economics<sup>9</sup>, Fund



<sup>9</sup> Center of Study of Civil Society and Non-Profit Sector in Scientific and Research Center in Higher School of Economics <https://grans.hse.ru/>

"Public Opinion"<sup>10</sup>, Yuri Levada Analytical Center (Levada-Center)<sup>11</sup>, a Research Group "Zirkon"<sup>12</sup>.

Volunteerism is looked upon as a charity resource, as one of civil society practices (I. E. Korneeva, I. V. Mersianova, O. I. Kholina, L.I. Iakobson<sup>13</sup>). In the papers written by D. Volkov, S. Goncharov, I. I. Ivanova, E. S. Petrenko, P. V. Shevchenko volunteerism is described as a resource to update the development, as a form of civil participation push among the citizens of the Russian cities<sup>14</sup>, in the scientific papers of E. V. Onishchenko, I. A. Klimova, A. A. Kuzminshuk, A. V. Shapovalova, O. N. Ianitskii<sup>15</sup> it is believed to be a volunteering movement.

National scientific thought, scientific papers of L. V. Abdalina, M. V. Grigorovich, L.I. Sikorskaia, N. V. Tarasova focus on pedagogic aspects of volunteerism<sup>16</sup>. Volunteering is considered to be a learning technology, special attention is paid to the specific nature of the volunteer organization among teenagers and youth, which is characterized as practice resulting in successful socialization of the youth (N. A. Ageeva, A. N. Ershova, K.H.T. Zagladina, L.F. Kozodaeva, U. P. Kosova, M. A. Novikova, G. V. Olenina, Yu. V. Parshina<sup>17</sup>).

Challenges concerning the introduction of volunteerism in social work are illustrated in the scientific papers by L. V. Bolotova, L.V. Vandysheva, E. Yu. Menshchikova, Z. Kh. Saralieva, N. I. Skok, I. A.

<sup>10</sup> Fund of Public Opinion <http://fom.ru/>

<sup>11</sup> Yu. Levada Analytical Center (Levada-Center) <http://www.levada.ru/>

<sup>12</sup> A Research Group "Zirkon" <http://www.zircon.ru/>

<sup>13</sup> Mersianova I. V. Korneeva I. E. Charities and participation of the Russians in civil society practices: regional dimension. M.: NIU VSHE, 2013; Mersianova I. V. Yiakobson, L.I. Philanthropy practice in Russia: involvement and attitude from population M.: FU VSHE. 2009; Kholina O. I. Institutionalization of volunteerism into a structure of the Russian civil society. Krasnodar. 2012.

<sup>14</sup> Volkov D., Goncharov S. Civil participation potential in solving social problems: consolidate analytical report. M. 2014; Ivanova I. I., Petrenko E. S. Avangard groups are the basis of the Russian volunteerism M.: 2012; Shevchenko P. V. Social role of Moscow Underground // Sotsis. 2013. No. 8.

<sup>15</sup> Zborovskii G. E., Kuzmenchuk A. A. Social solidarity of volunteers through strategies of their behavior // Vestnik SurGPU. 2014. No.2 (29); Onishchenko E. V. Development perspectives of volunteerism in Russia // Vestnik MGOU. Series "Psychological sciences". 2011. No. 2; Klimov I. A. Design and protest movements as a resource to change social practices and institutes // Social Policy Research Journal. 2014. V.12. No. 2; Shapovaliv A. V. Institutionalization of volunteering movement in the north of Caucasus. Stavropol. 2015; Ianitskii O. N. Public activism in Russia: yesterday and today // Vlast. 2015. No. 2.

<sup>16</sup> Sikorskaia L.I. Pedagogic potential of volunteer organization in socialization of students. Elets. 2011; Abdalina L. V., Grigorovich M. V. Psychological aspects of volunteerism in teenage time // Vestnik of Tambov State University. Tambov. 2011. No.7 (99); Tarasova N. V. Volunteerism as a history pedagogic phenomenon // Pedagogic education in Russia. 2012. No. 4.

<sup>17</sup> Ageeva N. A. Professional volunteerism as an effective tool for students' socialization // Humanities Works. 2015. No. 1-2(41); Ershov A. N. Microenvironment to develop leadership skills // Vestnik of Kazan. Technological University. 2014.V. 17. No. 23; Zagladina Kh. T. Volunteering and social potential fulfillment of children and youth in the context of a Russian educational policy // Educational practices. 2014. No. 4(66); Kozodaeva L. Ph. Volunteerism as the basis to nurture moral qualities in youth // Vestnik TGU. Tambov. 2010. No. 11 (91); Kosov U. P. Psychological qualities of volunteering // higher education today. 2009. No. 12; Novikov M. A. History, problems and perspective in development of youth volunteering in Russia // Issues of theory and practice. Tambov. 2011. No.6 (3); Olenina G. V. Pedagogics is social-cultural design and updating the civil initiative for youth. Barnaul. 2011; Parshina Yu. V. Moral development of a senior teenager in volunteering. Voronezh. 2011.

Stepanova<sup>18</sup>, this being justified by a feature of this professional area, background consumptions of development and institutionalization of this professional activity, common altruistic grounds in its basis and in the basic volunteerism principles. It is looked upon as one of the elements in the professional development in the area of social work, as well as in the social technological area - as a management function in social area<sup>19</sup>.

Some regional non-profit organizations design some initiative research projects, publish materials of some regional studies on volunteerism, charity, etc. It is important to emphasize that the problem of volunteering is mainly considered in the frameworks of large research projects devoted to the analysis of civil activity and its development<sup>20</sup>.

For example, a report "Volunteerism in the Russian Federation. Development Analysis" prepared by the Regional Charity Public Organization "Perm Center of Volunteerism Development"<sup>21</sup> within the project "Socially important practices of the Russian non-profit organization to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals" is one of the latest studies. 46 out of 85 subjects (regions) of the Russian Federation participated in this research from March to April 2016. The study focuses on the analysis of the databases and state registers referred to volunteering, on questioning the volunteers and charitees, expert surveys of the volunteering organizers<sup>22</sup>.

A report of the Expert Institute of Social Studies is also presented. It was supported by a fund project "Public opinion" which examined a civil society for a decade from 2007 to 2017. According to the data of thematic report, today the upper part of the "civil society ladder" consists of 5% of the Russians - participants of volunteerism with the work experience in non-profit organizations or public associations, as well as "experience in participating in politics". 30 % of the respondents are local activists involved into solving the local problems, the problems of the local communities. Nearly the same percentage - 29% - can be referred to as "assistants" in sociological terms: those people who happened to help strangers or people from the nearest surroundings or to donate money on charity in the nearest 6 months or a year. Finally, more than 36% of the aged Russians are involved into no civil participation practices ("outsiders").

These studies can lead us to conclude that compared with 2007 the growth in the number of those involved into volunteering social practices and volunteer projects was 10%. These people strive to

<sup>18</sup> L.V. Bolotova. Organization of volunteering as an aspect of higher education to prepare future social workers. Tambov. 2007; Vandysheva L.V. Family volunteerism as a promising area in the social work with a family // New science: current state and development paths. 2015. No. 1; Menshchikova E. Yu. Social work and volunteerism: valuable and practical aspect of interaction in the context of higher school // Scientific research in education. 2008. No. 1; Saraliev Z. Kh. A system of social work: structure, functioning principles // Vestnik Nizhnegorod. University N. I. Lobachevskii. 2001. No. 1; Skok N. I. On the question of impact of limited health capabilities on adaptation // Vestnik Chelyab. University. 2014. No. 13 (342); Stepanova I. A. Developing mobility of future specialists in the social area in volunteering. M. 2010.

<sup>19</sup> M. V. Pevnaya. Volunteerism as a social phenomenon: managerial approach  
<https://diss.unn.ru/files/2016/615/diss-Pevnaya-615.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> M.V. Pevnaya. Attitudes of the Russians to volunteering: important characteristics.  
"http://elar.urfu.ru/bitstream/10995/34199/1/pevnaya\_vestnik\_2015\_2\_64-69.pdf"

<sup>21</sup> Regional Charity Public Organization "Perm Center of Volunteerism Development"  
<http://www.dobrovoblago.ru/>

<sup>22</sup> Volunteerism in the Russian Federation. Development Analysis / editorial committee: V. N. Baranenko, V.V. Saburova; scientific editor E.B. Plotnikova, S.S. Solovoyv; RBOO "Perm Center of Volunteerism Development"; Perm State University - Perm, 2016. - 35 p.

improve their life or to help more vulnerable people - physically disadvantaged, children, elderly people

23

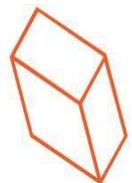
## 8. ETHICS AND QUALITY STANDARDS FOR VOLUNTEERING

Volunteerism is grounded on high moral. Volunteers exercise self-giving deeds on their good will and are guided in their activities by enthusiasm coming from their heart. This enthusiasm is based on their moral qualities, such as empathy, mercy, mutual aid, and profound spiritual need of love.

Volunteering helps to look at the relationships existing in the world at a completely different angle. The relationships "products - money - products" are looked upon from business perspectives and appear to be one-sided, lacking participation and empathy typical for highly ethical people. Good will volunteering helps people fulfill their needs in being humane.

Majority of the volunteers is characterized with the following moral qualities:

- Being socially active is about a personal quality, conscious attitude to the life of the society, its social values, which is expressed in being energetic, hard working, not indifferent to what is going around, in a desire to trigger an initiative of people, involve them into the social pedagogical process.
- Tolerance is a personality's desire to recognize the value of the ideas different from one's own visions, even those ideas which are completely inconsistent with people's ideas; tolerance increases to the environment impacts due to the decrease of sensitivity.
- Empathy is an ability to understand the inner world of the other person, to indulge into the feelings, respond and sympathize with them; an ability to place yourself in the shoes of other person, share his/her interests and concerns, see the problems from the angle of the other person, his/her relationships with other children.
- Altruism is a principle in personality's life which presupposes that the wellbeing of the other person is more important and more valuable than one's own interests and wellbeing.
- Moral responsibility is about the needs and abilities of a person to behave in accordance with the objective needs of the nearest surrounding, motherland, nature, work, to maintain progressive world phenomena on the basis of reflecting one's own objective responsible status in the society.
- Patience is a skill to adopt one's negative emotions and feelings and stream them in a constructive area to provide positive motivation for further cooperation.
- Being communicative is about interaction with people while socializing and sharing the information. This is not only about speech addressed to a person, but also about comprehending it.



Moral principles:

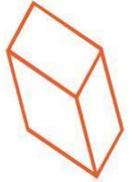
1. In his/her activity a volunteer respect the rights of other people:
2. In his/her activity a volunteers does his/her best to avoid any discrimination regarding age, gender, nationality, religion, this or that physical or psychological disorder, language, social economic status or other quality;
3. A volunteer does not have a right to exercise any actions which can be considered to insult or to humiliate the honor and dignity of people.

<sup>23</sup> Civil society in Russia expands by 10%. <https://iz.ru/619941/tekst-rozhkovo/>

4. Volunteer's activity must be aimed to achieve general goals, not contradict them;
5. A volunteer who takes the responsibility to do this or that work must do his/her best to complete it.
6. A volunteer's activity must not violate the legislation of the Russian Federation.

The procedure to attract volunteers to volunteering on a regular basis:

1. Inform the candidates about the coming event;
2. Collect the applications (resumes) and interview the candidates;
3. Do the training and preparation for the event;
4. Participation in an event is followed by an offer to volunteer on a regular basis (within a particular organization, in a volunteering team, provide a targeted aid, etc.).



## 9. AWARENESS OF VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

In Russia, there are a number of opportunities for volunteer work in almost any field. Since 2017 an online platform "Volunteers of Russia" to search for volunteering vacancies works over the territory of Russia.

"Volunteers of Russia" is a user-friendly system to accompany volunteering in Russia, an information platform for volunteers and organizations which shows the latest news from the life of the volunteering community in Russia. "Volunteers of Russia" gives an opportunity for mutual work, socializing, training, as well as helps to collect requests and offers for volunteering aid in one place.

How can volunteers use this platform?

- Volunteers can find out the latest news about volunteering.
- They can have an opportunity to contact the volunteers, organizations and volunteer centers over the whole Russia.
- They can visit training sessions, including special webinars and online-lectures.
- They can participate in different events, competitions, campaigns and collect the scores\*.
- They can independently evaluate the quality of the performed events.
- They can socialize with all participants of the system in social networks.
- They can be aware of the true volunteering in the form of one e-document.

How can the platform help an organization?

- The platform gives an opportunity to create a page of the organization in the system and to post detailed information about its activities and projects.
- It is helpful in creating events in the system and inviting the volunteers.
- It gives an access to methods and the best practices in volunteerism which exist today in Russia.

Besides online-platform to search for volunteering vacancies "Volunteers of Russia", there are a lot of ways to find the information about volunteer possibilities.

The main sources of information about volunteer possibilities are the following ones:

- Social networks  
In Russia, there is a national social network "VKontakte", which is the most popular social network in the country. Almost everyone has his/her own page there, and for young people it is an integral part of daily communication. With this in mind, organizations, interested in volunteers (the majority of volunteers in Russia are young people), create a page of project on

the social network, including publishing volunteer vacancies there. Volunteer centers also have pages there, where they post information and offers of volunteer help from the various projects.

- Educational institutions or companies

If the educational institution has a volunteer center, the news about volunteer opportunities is posted on the website and on bulletin boards on campus. Also, the student volunteer centers have offices where anyone can have all the necessary information within working hours.

If the employer supports the idea of corporate volunteering, information about volunteer opportunities can be placed on a corporate website, in the company newsletter and on bulletin boards.

- City Volunteer Centers

It has already been said that in many cities there are volunteer centers established with the support of local government or independent initiative groups. There are volunteer center web-sites, groups or public pages in social networks, media partners and, in some cases, offices where you can get information about volunteer opportunities.

## 10. ADDITIONAL COUNTRY SPECIFICITIES

Considering the features of volunteerism development in Russia, several priority volunteerism areas with the support are worth writing about.

- *Ecological volunteerism*

A President Order established 2017 to be the Year of Ecology in the Russian Federation to attract the society's attention to the issues of ecological development. The Year of Ecology is characterized with extensive attraction of the population into the project devoted to the environment protection, to cleaning the sites from garbage, to the increase of ecological awareness among citizens, as well as to the protection of natural reserves.

- *People search*

Every year about 70 - 100 thousand Russians disappear, including about 25 thousand people who are not found at all. By the end of 2017 the Center of searching for missing people and regional centers in every federal subject will be organized, also a quick interaction between departments and volunteers in the field of looking for missing people is going to be established.

- *Law clinics*

Every year more than 8 thousand charge free law consultations are delivered to the citizens in more than 200 law clinics organized by students and professors at law faculties at the Universities. At the end of the year a number of measures to develop the institute of law clinics will be designed and approved of, also information campaign about the possibilities for charge free legal help will be carried out.

- *Forest protection*

Presently, the register contains more than 900 thousand volunteer firefighters, including more than 450 thousand ones insured. By the end of 2017 methodological recommendations to organize the interaction between the volunteering forest firefighters and executive authorities will be designed and approved of, and some regular events on providing the information to the local population about forest fire extinguishing will be carried out.

- *Social entrepreneurship*

Recently Russia has been practicing social entrepreneurship for several years, but these practices are not as widely spread as it is in foreign countries. However, the development of this area helps to involve vulnerable social strata into business due to the expansion of the

limits in payable demands and to create new objects of the economic infrastructure. Still a lack of legal regulations and a lack of information about the activities of many innovators hinder the development in this segment.

Here are a number of projects illustrating the enthusiastic social entrepreneurship.

- Restaurant "V temnote" ("In the Darkness"<sup>24</sup>).  
2006 saw the opening of a restaurant in Moscow with sight disadvantaged people being employed there. The rooms are dark, visitors eat "by touching food". The owner of the restaurant is an ophthalmologist who sticks to the main principles of social business. He solved a social problem and provided sight disadvantaged people with well-paid jobs. An average purchase sum in the restaurant is 2500 rubles.
- Karton Chernozeme, a company.  
The company was founded in 2009 by two entrepreneurs who used to work in construction business. They lived in the town of Semiluki, Voronezh Oblast. They thought about making the town clean and started to collect and recycle garbage. In 2013 the company won the competition of social entrepreneurs held by "Nashe Budushchee" ("Our future") fund and was granted an interest-free loan of 4.25 mln rubles for 3 years. They bought containers for separate garbage collection. Later the owners started to manufacture the garbage containers in Voronezh Oblast. Today the businessmen work with network retailers who provide them with cardboard which is recycled, pressed. These recycled material becomes a raw material to manufacture, for example, toilet paper Zewa.
- Yarkamarka, a charity brand<sup>25</sup>.  
The goods under Yarkamarka brand are souvenirs with children drawings printed on them. The drawings edited by the professional designers are placed on charity goods: T-shirts, covers for cell-phones, fashionable pin-labels, cups, covers for suitcases, stylish clothes, bed linen and many other "good" goods. The raised money helps the organizers to prepare a training system for specialized professional who will assist physically disadvantaged children to fulfill their potentials in arts and will teach them some professions which can be helpful in our life.
- *Inclusive volunteering*<sup>26</sup>  
Anton Mysliaev, a Russian volunteer, was awarded with an official label "Volunteer of Perm city", was the first and the only public doer in Russia. He delivered a speech at an international conference "EDUCATION#INFOCUS" held in the UN Geneva Branch in June 2017 and devoted to social innovations in education and its expansion, as well as to joining the efforts of the stakeholders in achieving 17 Sustainable Development Goals declared by the UN. Anton told the participants about his successful experience in volunteering. For example, he presented a project "International Inclusive Camp "Friendly". This is a unique site for the interaction of children and youth with different level of physical, psychic and intellectual abilities. The Camp was organized in 2016 in Perm by National Association for Education Development "Tetradka Druzhby" ("Notebook of Friendship").

<sup>24</sup> Restaurant "V temnote?!" (In the Darkkrness?!). <http://v-temnote.ru/>

<sup>25</sup> Yarkamarka, a charity brend <http://yarkamarka.ru/>

<sup>26</sup> The first volunteer with Down sindrom who took part in the UN Conference was from Russia <https://www.asi.org.ru/news/2017/06/21/oon-konferentsiya-sidrom-dauna/>

- *International film festival of socially oriented short films, videos and social advertising «LAMP»<sup>27</sup>.*

International film festival "LAMP" is a cinematography platform representing volunteerism and charities in films. The film festival has been held since 2014 within the International Forum "Volunteer of Russia" in the city of Perm. "Human. Deed. Choice" is the main theme of the film festival. Lives of volunteers, real life stories of the people who have changed the world around them, timely help - these are only some topics being the main ideas of the plots for short films, social videos and social advertising received by film festival jury. "LAMP" is a yearly platform which attracts both amateurs and professionals in the field of short films promoting socially valuable ideas both at the local and international levels.

- *Promoting and positioning the importance of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.*

We can observe a growth in the number of the projects from the volunteer organizations, non-profit organizations with social focus, funds which activities are aimed to support the UN Sustainable Development Goals, to effectively implement the agenda points in the area of sustainable development for the period of up to 2030, to extensively inform the local communities about global agenda, to award the volunteering for a multifaceted, overcovering and non-political approach to reach Sustainable Development Goals. National Association for Education Development "Notebook of Friendship" plays the key role in distributing the information about Sustainable Development Goals among the pupils of the country. Since 2016 this project has conducted a regular information campaign and serves to be the federal consulting center on this issue.

## 11. RECOMMENDATIONS

Volunteerism Development Strategy in the Russian Federation up to 2025 focuses on the main development points giving the recommendations for the non-profit companies and for implementing the opportunities provided by the authorities in the area of volunteerism.

For example, capacities of the volunteering organizations will be supported by the following measures:

- contest-based subsidies from the budgets of volunteering organization at different levels, as well as from non-profit organizations attracting volunteers for the projects in a social area;
- tax privileges at the regional level given to the volunteering organization and legal entities acting as charities for the volunteering organizations;
- property support to the volunteering organizations, including renting the facilities with privileges or with no charged fees;
- supporting the idea of including the volunteering theme and development of collaboration with volunteering organizations in the courses of the main and additional education, in the educational programs of the resource centers supporting non-profit organizations, in the corporate social responsibility programs;
- promoting the idea of distributing the information about volunteer activities, including the best practices of volunteering, for example, via mass media and social advertising;
- expansion of analytical support for volunteering, including the analysis of the surveys done among the consumers of the volunteering services, monitoring the involvement of citizens and other stakeholders in charities and volunteering activities;

<sup>27</sup> International film festival of socially oriented short films, videos and social advertising "LAMP"  
<http://lampakino.ru/>

- upgrading the statistics of the volunteering, including the development and application of the methods to count the contribution of the volunteers in gross domestic product.

Up to 2025 in Russia, the state and local authorities are planning to provide support and develop the centers of volunteerism support, youth volunteer centers, volunteer associations, resource centers of the non-profit organizations with social focus in order to create the favorable conditions for the volunteering. Pupils are considered to be the main and the key subject of volunteering in Russia, therefore the programs aimed at attracting the pupils to volunteering and at organizing their participation are developed.

Hence, the volunteering should be developed through mentoring institute in the education system, including senior patronage over the youth in children-youth environment (students - volunteers of the volunteer centers at the Universities and pupils), acting as a tutor by the senior volunteers, development of pro bono volunteering in the context of joint charity programs of the education organizations, non-profit and profit organizations.

The implementation of a priority project of the Russian Federation Government "Universities as the special centers to create innovations" and students' public associations supported by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation should trigger the development of volunteerism infrastructure.

However, the involvement of the citizens of different ages is top priority now. Therefore, such areas as volunteering among people of "grey" age, working youth and middle-aged citizens are being more and more developed.

The experts of the volunteering believe that the country lacks qualitative information campaign making volunteerism popular. It is important to speak about the possibilities for the citizens of all ages and social status to participate in volunteering and about some positive changes in the lives of beneficiaries from the volunteers' activities.

In 2009 Russia saw a volunteer personal book - the main document recording the volunteering activities of the citizens (the information about the volunteering activities, awards and additional courses is stated there). At the moment the Russian Federation is known to have a great number of types of these volunteer personal books: besides the federal type of record book, near half of the regions in the country have their own books. In 2015 more than 33,000 books of different types were issued in Russia. The information about the applicants' volunteering is taken into account upon entering some higher educational institutions, and an additional score is added. Therefore, presently one unified system to popularize a volunteer personal book as the main document in volunteering area over the whole territory of Russia is being developed.

To involve the Russian business companies into the volunteering development, to promote the corporate volunteering, the performance of the corporate volunteer centers is going to be scaled, the practices in providing pro bono services within corporate social responsibility programs are planned to be extended. National Corporate Volunteer Council supports the design of the replicated solutions in launching and development of the corporate volunteer programs, the development of the best practices and scaling the volunteer projects provided by or supported by the business.

Federal, regional and local levels will support public recognition of the corporate volunteerism.

Worldwide, including Russia, the development of the volunteerism presupposes the readiness for the international collaboration based on the provisions of the UN General Assembly Resolution of 17 December, 2015, "Integrating volunteering into peace and development: the plan of action for the next



decade and beyond", and this resolution is a theoretical platform to develop the cooperation with other countries to achieve the sustainable development goals.

International cooperation in volunteerism in Russia is performed:

- to support the integration processes in the Russian Federation and other countries;
- to encourage friendly and cultural connections between the Russian volunteers and volunteers from other countries, the development of the folk democracy, to create the atmosphere of trust to the Russian volunteers;
- to consolidate the efforts of the volunteers from different countries in developing and implementing the joint volunteer projects and initiatives, including the ones on the territory of the Russian Federation.
- The main areas of international cooperation in "Volunteerism Development Strategy in the Russian Federation up to 2015 are the following ones:
- the development and inclusion of the joint volunteer projects and initiatives into the plans of events for the integration structures (CIS, EAEU, BRICS, SCO, etc.);
- sharing the experience in the area of development and implementation of the volunteer projects, as well as in the area of coordination and support for the organizations performing the volunteering area;
- expansion of the volunteer's mobility - participation of the Russia volunteers in volunteering projects and programs in the countries from the former Soviet Union and and far-abroad countries, as well as foreign volunteers in volunteering projects and programs in the Russian Federation.

Volunteerism Development Strategy in the Russian Federation up to 2025 will give the following results:

- the opportunities to participate of the RF citizens in volunteering;
- more efficient implemented volunteering programs;
- expansion in volunteers' participation in providing the services in a social area;
- bigger contribution of the volunteering organizations into gross domestic product of the Russian Federation.
- more support in the society and more participation of the citizens and organizations in volunteering.

Recently, Russia is characterized by the fact that the state, business, mass media means, citizens focus their attention on the development of the volunteering and socially important initiatives in the country. Such a support and active participation of the non-profit organizations and volunteering associations will move the volunteerism in Russia to a new development level in the nearest time.