

Analysis of the current situation in local governance and the existing dialogue

developed within the framework of the Project Analytical Phase
with the assistance of all project partners



Project «LOCAL HOUSING POLICY – local housing policy improvement in Russia by means of a dialogue between civil society and local authorities»

Tacis IBPP Programme (Institution Building Partnership Programme)

Development of the dialogue and interaction between civil society and state authorities is one of the key problem solving methods within public and municipal administration and a prerequisite for civil society development in the Russian Federation. Efficiency increase of social policy under present conditions requires using of all available resources of the society, the main of which is the commonwealth itself. That is why, development of the interaction mechanisms of the state executive authorities with civil society, including public involvement into state policy forming and carrying out takes on the priority significance.

Russia has created legal framework conditions for economic state support to civil associations and other non-governmental non-profit organizations through its Federal Laws “On civil associations”, “On non-governmental organizations”, “On placing of orders for goods supply, execution of works and rendering of services for state and municipal needs”, as well as other legislative instruments regulating legal status of non-governmental non-profit organizations of particular forms and types.

“At the same time, the Administrative Reform Concept in the Russian Federation denotes necessity to solve such a task as “interaction efficiency increase of executive state authorities and civil society”. *(Explanatory note of the draft Governmental regulation of St.Petersburg the “Concept for interaction of the executive authorities of Saint-Petersburg with civil associations and other non-profit organizations «Public-Private Partnership” for 2008-2011”)*

The goal of this analytical survey was to scrutinize communication efficiency and dialogue forms at the levels of executive state authorities, municipal bodies of local governance with citizens, non-governmental organizations and public initiative groups in order to elaborate a catalogue of recommendations to improve and increase efficiency of the existing dialogue.

This analytical survey contains an in-depth examination and analysis of the existing dialogue model and forms of the executive state authorities (based on the example of St. Petersburg’s Government and its executive authority – Housing Committee), local governments (based on the example of Grazhdanka Municipality), non-governmental organizations (based on the example of the Housing Complex Association and the Association of building societies, housing societies and condominiums) and inhabitants of St. Petersburg, the city of federal significance and in the municipal district of Domodedovo in the housing sphere.

The analysis also aimed at gathering and assessing the issues of efficiency and communication culture among the subjects involved into the housing sector. As a result, such dialogue forms have been analysed as citizens’ appeals (written and by telephone) to the executive authorities – as a form of direct public involvement into the activities of state authorities, consultations, reception of citizens, applying of live telecasts, virtual Internet and mass media facilities.

Weaknesses and strengths of the existing communications, dialogue and interaction forms between local authorities and initiative public groups were identified based on the analysis carried out. Furthermore, the catalogue of subjects for future dialogue and interaction as well as its instruments have been elaborated that underlay the Dialogue concept for state executive authorities, local governments and non-governmental organizations in the form of condominiums and housing owners associations, that is aimed at interaction of executive state authorities, local governments and civil associations in the form of housing owners’ associations. Implementation of the Concept will allow to stir up the decaying process of condominiums forming that retards the process of housing reforms, to form a new approach of citizens in identifying themselves as housing owners and perceiving their responsibilities related to this ownership.

