

Project Phases

The project involves three main phases, during which the partners analyse the current situation in the housing sector and develop innovative schemes and mechanisms of dialogue between local authorities and homeowners and further implement them in St. Petersburg and Domodedovo.

- ➔ **Analytical Phase** – serves to examine the Russian housing market, the effectiveness of the housing management system as well as the current local governance and the existing dialogue with the civil society groups.
- ➔ **Concept and Programme Phase** – aims at the modelling and designing of new communication tools and mechanisms improving the future dialogue. Thereby, special focus is on the establishment of homeowners' associations, the creation of the more effective information system for homeowners as well as the education of housing administrators.
- ➔ **Pilot Implementation and Dissemination Phase** – aims at the dissemination of new models of dialogue in St. Petersburg and Domodedovo, the implementation of educational seminars and the execution of training programmes for housing administrators as well the organisation of public awareness campaign.

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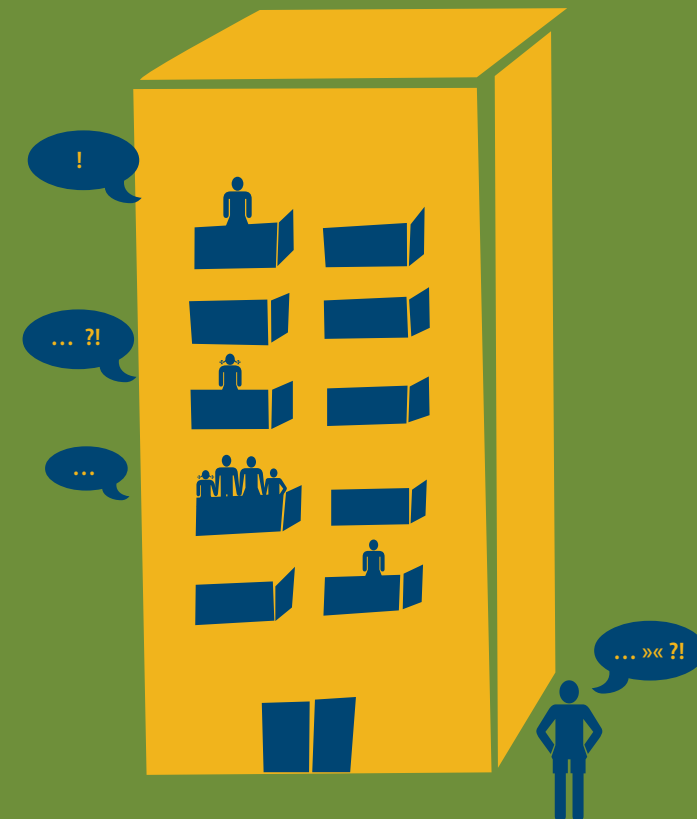
- ➔ The project »Grassroots Housing Policy« started in March 2007 and has a duration until March 2009 (24 months).

Further information

The project has been realised under financial support of the TACIS Institution Building Partnership Programme (IBPP) of the European Union. IBPP is promoting the civil society in the Russian Federation.

GRASSROOTS HOUSING POLICY

Improved Local Governance in Housing Policy by Promoting Dialogue between Civil Society and Local Authorities



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Project Idea

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Russian housing sector has experienced tremendous changes, of which the privatisation of flats to the sitting tenants has been the most obvious one. This transitional situation required improvements in the legislation.

In 2005, an important new instrument for the reorganisation of the Russian housing sector has been introduced: the new Housing Code (Zhilisnyj kodeks), which aims at activating the citizens to organise the management of their buildings. A key aspect in this Housing Code, the establishment of homeowners' associations, meets the fact that there are almost no experiences in the organisation of housing management.

The implementation of the housing reform on the local level causes a lot of conflicts between the involved actors and requires good local governance between homeowners, their – only recently founded or even not existing – interest groups and the responsible local authorities. Particularly, effective legal, administrative and institutional mechanisms are absent which allow to promptly deal with matters of dispute between the above mentioned parties. Besides, there is a lack of experts in housing management and of relevant educational programmes.

The idea of the current project is the promotion of housing reforms implemented by local authorities through the encouragement of dialogue between local municipalities (housing committees) and civil initiatives.

Objectives

The project »Grassroots Housing Policy« is seeking to:

- ➔ Strengthen the capacities of the involved housing committees for better local governance.
- ➔ Develop the institutional dialogue between homeowners' associations and homeowners, local authorities and other state and civil interest groups.
- ➔ Support the development of a fair and market-oriented status of homeowners as consumers in the market. Increase the awareness of homeowners about their rights and duties.

The achievement of these goals shall lead to the more active participation of civil society in the reform of the housing sector.

Partners

One partner from Germany and five partner organisations from the Russian Federation in particular St. Petersburg and Domodedovo (Moscow Region) are involved in the project, representing state and civil organisations. Such a partner constellation enables on the one hand the exchange of experiences with German colleagues and on the other hand provides the possibility to compare the procedures in different cities and structures within Russia. As a result, the implementation of concepts, strategies and mechanisms, developed in the project shall be realised.

Russia

St. Petersburg



Local Municipality
St. Petersburg,
Housing Committee

Association
of housing cooperatives and
homeowners' associations

Association
»Housing Complex«

Local self-administration of
the district »Grazhdanka«

Domodedovo, Moscow Region



Local Municipality
Domodedovo,
Housing Committee

Germany

Berlin



Housing Initiative for
Eastern Europe (IWO e.V.)