



EU-RUSSIA CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

The Working Group on Democratic Structures and Processes

1. Stanislav Andreychuk, Foundation of Social support and Civic Initiatives, Russia
2. Anton Pominov, Transparency International, Russia
3. Grigory Melkonyants, Golos, Russia
4. Olga Sadvovskaya, Committee Against Torture, Russia
5. Natalia Taubina, Public Verdict Foundation Russia
6. Tatiana Tolsteneva, Institute for Freedom Information Development, Russia
7. Fraser Cameron, EU- Russia Center, Brussels
8. Jevgeni Krishtafovitsch, NGO Open Republic, Estonia
9. Sergejus Muravjovas, Transparency International, Lithuania
10. Viktor Makarov, EuroCivitas, Latvia
11. Mois Saion, Center for the Study of Democracy, Bulgaria
12. Natalia Sharpovalova, Fride, Madrid
13. Ewa Kulik-Bielinska, Stefan Batory Foundation, Poland

Realising that the establishment of a new platform for cooperation between NGOs in Russia and the EU signifies a new phase of cooperation; considering that the NGOs on both sides possess a unique work experience, the working group on Democratic Structures and Processes has decided on three priority areas for joint action by NGOs in Russia and the EU:

- 1) civic scrutiny of public institution (including fair elections and access to information)
- 2) Anti-corruption strategies
- 3) Civilian control over security services

Within the area of **Monitoring and analysis of elections in Russia and the EU member states**, a subgroup on *Electoral laws and processes* has been formed:

Grigory Melkonyants, Golos, Russia (Coordinator)

Anton Pominov, Transparency International, Russia
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Sergejus Muravjovas, Transparency International, Lithuania

Fraser Cameron, EU- Russia Center, Brussels

Tatiana Tolsteneva, Institute for Freedom Information Development,

Russia

Viktor Makarov, EuroCivitas, Latvia

Stanislav Andreychuk, Foundation of Social support and Civic

Initiatives, Russia

Ewa Kulik-Bielińska, Poland

The subgroup will focus on the following goal: to prepare a comparative study that would examine the electoral systems in our respective countries to

- (1) identify these deficiencies which impact transparency of electoral processes (like system of electoral campaign financing, forms of campaign allowed by the law (billboards, commercials, etc), fair access to the media for the candidates,
- (2) recommend safeguards that will limit possibility of electoral fraud etc.
- (3) and propose provisions in the electoral law that will increase votes turn out and allow the voters to make an informed choice.

In addition, suggestions for the direction of this group were offered by Grigory Melkonyants

The subgroup will focus on the following goals:

- To develop mechanisms for ongoing NGO monitoring of election processes in the EU and Russia according to international election standards;
 - To create an EU-Russia discussion platform on various aspects of electoral processes.

Specific tasks:

- To analyse election legislation in the EU and Russia and to develop recommendations on how to improve it;
 - To conduct long-term and short-term (LTO/STO) election observation;
 - To prepare election observation statements;
 - To exchange and spread information about violations during elections and instances of pressure on NGO activists acting as independent election observers;
 - To inform the governments, NGOs, media, citizens of the EU member states and Russia about the group's positions on important issues related to election processes;
 - To develop and implement joint projects involving NGOs in the EU and Russia;
 - To organise conferences, seminars, roundtables, webinars and other events on electoral issues;
 - To involve other members of the Forum in the activities of the group.

The subgroup on **Financial transparency of government institutions and officials** has set the following goals:

- To shape the anti-corruption agenda in the EU and Russia;
 - To compare anti-corruption regulations and programmes in Russia and the EU member states;
 - To develop legislation packages that would allow the government institutions and civil society to effectively combat corruption in Russia.

The subgroup on **Civilian control over police and security services** will:

- Conduct a survey to identify main challenges to the civilian control over police and security services in Russia and the EU states;
 - Develop a common roadmap for future cooperation to addressing these challenges.

The subgroup also sees it as important to collect and spread information on best practices between NGOs in Russia and the EU. A questionnaire will be developed and distributed to NGOs in the partner countries; the survey data will be analysed and the results publicised.

Area	Event	Deadline	Who is responsible
Election monitoring and analysis	A web conference for the work group on election monitoring		Tatiana Tolsteneva Grigory Melkonyants
Financial transparency	Developing legislation proposals to improve anti-corruption work in Russia		Anton Pominov
Civilian control over police and security services	To identify main challenges in the area of civilian control over police and security services		Natalia Taubina Olga Sadovskaya
	Develop a questionnaire identifying best NGO practices in Russia and the EU		Tatiana Tolsteneva Viktor Makarov