

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Russia
Program Title:	More Open, Participatory Society
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	118-0211
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2005 Obligation:	\$19,800,000 FSA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$1,799,000 FSA
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:	\$12,280,000 FSA
Year of Initial Obligation:	2002
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2012

Summary: USAID's program fosters a more open participatory society by directing assistance at strengthening civil society and advocacy institutions, increasing citizen participation, and enhancing sources of independent public information. The program also addresses political processes, media freedom, and efforts to eliminate trafficking of persons.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2005 Program: Strengthen Civil Society (\$12,575,000 FSA, \$172,000 FSA carryover, \$627,000 FSA prior year recoveries). USAID will help civil society organizations (CSOs) advance the interests of their constituencies and advocate for policy reform. The program will build support legislative proposals to improve CSOs' tax status and removing barriers to philanthropy. Activities will: promote democratic values among government officials, business and political leaders; build citizenship competence; and promote youth activism. Participant training will be used where appropriate. Wherever possible, USAID funding promotes direct partnerships between Russian CSOs, municipalities, and their U.S. counterparts, among which are 16 core business association coalitions and a network of 12 policy institutes in 20 regions. The U.S.-Russia Volunteer Corps initiative will continue with joint delegations in humanitarian and other activities in each country. Efforts will continue in community development and related assistance to formerly "closed" cities under a USAID-funded sister cities program. Principal grantees: Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC), International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX), Junior Achievement (JA), Civic Initiatives Support Centers, Moscow School of Political Studies, Institute for the Economy in Transition, Moscow Public Science Foundation, Center for International Private Enterprise, Academy for Educational Development (AED), Foundation for Russian-American Economic Cooperation, American International Health Alliance (AIHA) (all prime), to be determined (TBD).

Establish and ensure media freedom and freedom of information (\$4,030,000 FSA, \$100,000 FSA carryover). USAID will: expand training and consultation services to promising private regional broadcasters and newspapers; support activities that contribute to commercial self-sustainability; promote socially valuable content to expand media coverage of public issues; provide legal assistance to regional outlets; and strengthen the capacity of professional industry associations to represent and advocate for members' interests. USAID will also train journalists on political reporting. Principal grantees: Internews Russia, Eurasia Foundation, Foundation for Independent Radio Broadcasting, Association of Independent Regional Publishers, Foundation for Information Policy Development (all prime).

Strengthen Democratic Political Parties (\$2,345,000 FSA, \$300,000 FSA carryover). USAID will support political parties to cope with changes affecting the local political environment. Activities will strengthen the organizational capacities of democratically-oriented parties, improve coalition-building efforts, and promote cooperation between parties and NGOs. USAID intends to design a program to expand youth participation in the political process. USAID will also strengthen think tanks to promote independent political thought. Principal grantees: National Democratic Institute (NDI) (prime), International Republican Institute (IRI) (prime), TBD.

Promote and Support Free and Fair Elections (\$350,000 FSA). USAID will support a leading innovative election and politics watchdog non-governmental organization (NGO) and assist in its institutional strengthening and regional expansion. USAID's partner will monitor the performance of regional legislators and observe regional elections. Principal grantee: Voice Association (prime).

Reduce Trafficking in Persons (\$500,000 FSA, \$600,000 FSA prior year recoveries). USAID will complete its current educational and social-service programs to combat trafficking, and then conduct an assessment of programs and remaining barriers to eliminating trafficking in order to launch a new activity. Principal contractors/grantees: TBD.

FY 2006 Program: Strengthen Civil Society (\$7,000,000 FSA). USAID will initiate a nationwide coalition of leading civic associations and a youth citizenship competence program. It will help 16 coalitions, representing 150 business associations, to advocate on behalf of business and to replicate efforts in other regions and municipalities. USAID will help eight of the best performing think tanks, including three from priority regions, to become financially viable and engage in advocacy on a range of reform issues. Under the U.S.-Russia Volunteer Corps, for the first time, Russian and American volunteers will begin to tackle humanitarian and community development projects in third countries. If continued success is seen, USAID's assistance to closed cities using the sister cities model may be expanded. Same grantees as in FY 2005.

Establish and Ensure Media Freedom and Freedom of Information (\$3,030,000 FSA). USAID will continue work on the sustainability and professional standards of independent media sources through training, professional competitions, and networking. Television, radio, and print news associations will conduct social marketing and service campaigns across Russia. USAID will promote professional, unbiased coverage of political and electoral issues through trainings, dialogue sites, and Internet discussions. Same grantees as in FY 2005.

Strengthen Democratic Political Parties (\$1,650,000 FSA). USAID will support political parties to cope with changes affecting the local political environment. Activities will strengthen the organizational capacities of democratically-oriented parties, improve coalition-building efforts, and promote cooperation between parties and NGOs. USAID intends to design a program to expand youth participation in the political process. Principal grantees: National Democratic Institute (NDI) (prime), International Republican Institute (IRI) (prime), TBD.

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Performance and Results: Over the 12 years of Russia's transition, USAID was a vital catalyst in the emergence of a huge (estimated at 300,000 to 500,000) NGO community. Now these groups are engaged effectively with local and federal governments, and with a broad spectrum of people. In 2004, government competitive NGO grants in the 11 regions of the Siberian Federal District doubled. USAID established eight regional coalitions of business associations whose membership increased by 45%. USAID-supported independent think tanks engaged in developing policy proposals on key economic reform issues as well as in promoting participatory democracy by publicly presenting the consequences of policy options and fostering debate of key issues. In 2004, 502 regional TV stations participated in a campaign against AIDS. USAID supported a Russian association to monitor and report election irregularities in over 10% of voting districts and serve as a key source for international monitors and media.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Russia

118-0211 More Open, Participatory Society	FSA
Through September 30, 2003	
Obligations	23,457
Expenditures	13,310
Unliquidated	10,147
Fiscal Year 2004	
Obligations	1,499
Expenditures	11,707
Through September 30, 2004	
Obligations	24,956
Expenditures	25,017
Unliquidated	-61
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	1,799
Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA	
Obligations	19,800
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005	
Obligations	21,599
Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA	
Obligations	12,280
Future Obligations	0
Est. Total Cost	58,835