e-Participation in Russia: Developmental Difficulties and Recent Achievements

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A High Level Joint Expert Group Meeting by UN DESA

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Content

- e-Participation Studies
- Open Government Rankings
- Policy Measures and Methodological Framework
- Pilot Projects
- Conclusions and Recommendations

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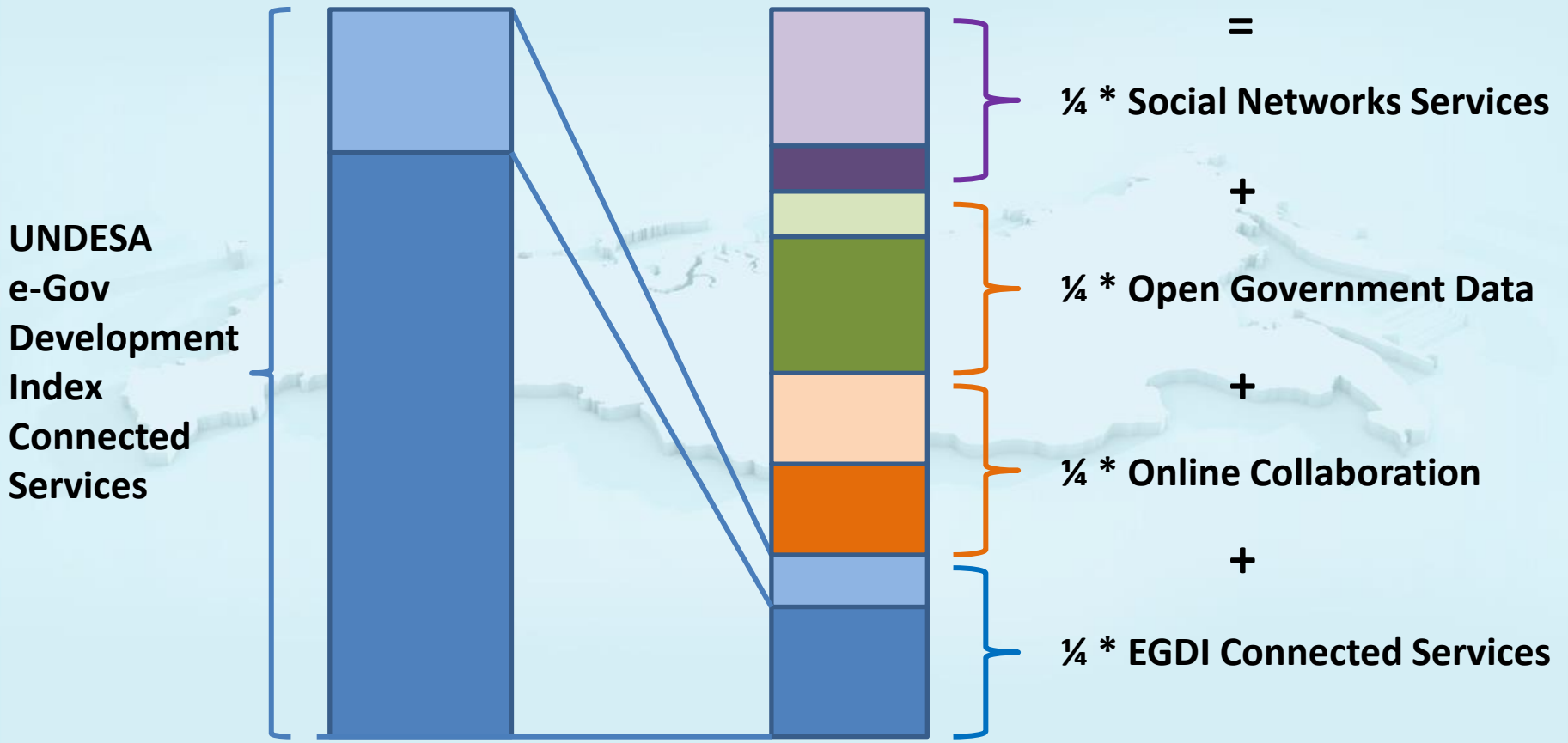Information Society

e-Participation Studies

- **2007-2009** Institute of System Analysis of the Russian Academy of Sciences and Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology
- **2009** Institute for Information Freedom Development
- **2010** Graduate School of Management of the St. Petersburg State University
- **2012** Public Opinion Foundation

- Monitoring on the feedback completeness and quality with respect to e-participation in Russia

- Rankings of transparency of federal and regional authorities
- Russian youth and public participation

- Survey on Open Government in Russia

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Open Government Rankings

- **2012** Institute of the Information Society initiated the pioneering ***Index of Russian Regions Governments Openness***, which was a meter of using open government tools by executive authorities in 82 regions (subjects of the Russian Federation)

- **2013** RIA Rating, a rating agency, and PRIME, an agency for economic information, in cooperation with RBC Group and under the auspices of the Advisory Council at the Government of the Russian Federation conducted a study, which made a basis for the ***Openness Ranking of the Federal Bodies of Executive Power***

Open Government and Citizens Engagement Index

OG&CE Index

UNDESA e-Gov Development Index Connected Services

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¼ * Social Networks Services

+

¼ * Open Government Data

+

¼ * Online Collaboration

+

¼ * EGDI Connected Services

Russian Regions Open Government & Citizens Engagement Ranking 2012

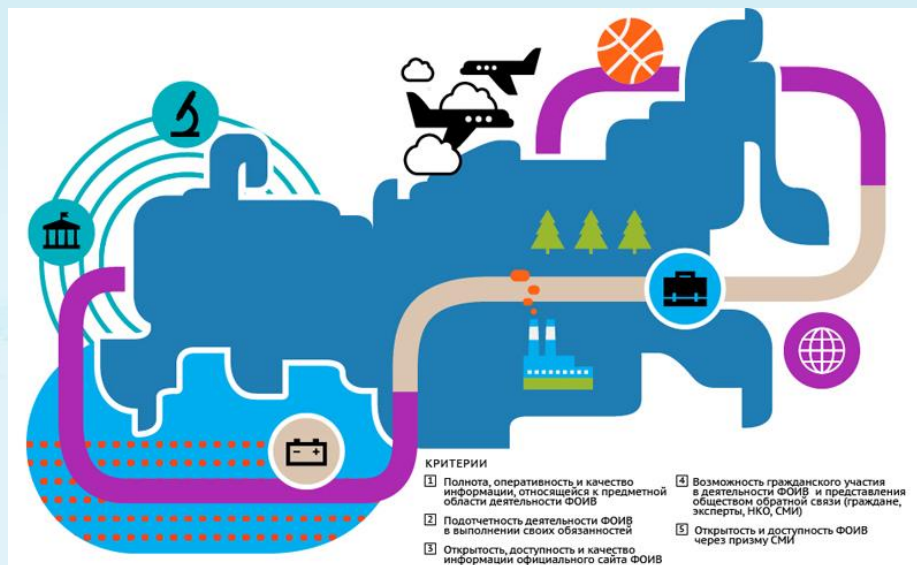| Rank	Region	Score	Using social networks	Open government data	Online collaboration with citizens	Integrated / network services
Leaders						
1	Ulyanovsk region	0,3067	29	20	0	22
2	Moscow	0,2211	4	20	2	20
3	Penza Region	0,2103	25	19	0	7
4	The Republic of Buryatia	0,2069	4	13	1	25
5	Ivanovo region	0,2012	10	24	0	13
Outsiders						
78	The Republic of Mariy El	0,0867	0	18	0	3
79	The Republic of Bashkortostan	0,0856	16	3	0	2
80	Altai Republic	0,0748	0	15	0	3
81	Primorsky Krai (Territory)	0,0714	0	9	0	7
82	Chukotka Autonomous Okrug	0,0675	3	5	0	7

Source: http://opengov.eRegion.ru

Russian Federal Agencies Open Government Index

The evaluation criteria used by RIA Rating, PRIME and RBC Group:

1) completeness, efficiency and quality of information related to the subject area of the respective federal executive body

2) accountability of the federal executive body

3) openness, accessibility and quality of the official web-site of the federal executive body

4) the possibility of civil participation in the activities of the federal executive body and of public presentation of the feedback from citizens, experts, NGOs, media

5) openness and approachability of the federal executive body through the prism of the media

КРИТЕРИИ

1 Полнота, оперативность и качество информации, относящейся к предметной области деятельности ФОИВ

2 Подотчетность деятельности ФОИВ в выполнении своих обязанностей

3 Открытость, доступность и качество информации официального сайта ФОИВ

4 Возможность гражданского участия в деятельности ФОИВ и представления обществом обратной связи (граждане, эксперты, НКО, СМИ)

5 Открытость и доступность ФОИВ через призму СМИ

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Russian Federal Agencies
Open Government Ranking 2013

Rank	Federal Agency	Total	1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ministry of Civil Defense, Emergencies and Disaster Relief	**6.83**	6.96	6.71	7.11	6.52	6.87
2.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	**6.04**	6.12	6.16	6.02	5.39	6.51
3.	Ministry of Economic Development	**6.01**	6.13	5.92	6.39	5.65	5.96
4.	Ministry of Finance	**5.96**	6.01	6.18	6.42	5.21	5.97
5.	Federal Anti-Monopoly Service	**5.82**	6.08	5.91	6.01	5.25	5.84

Source: http://большоеправительство.рф/events/5508033/?sphrase_id=25544

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Policy Measures and Methodological Framework

- On **21 May 2012** a new position was introduced into Russian Government: Minister for Open Government **Mikhail Abyzov**
- In 2013, Russia joined the top ten countries on the **Open Budget Index** of the International Budget Partnership
- Concept of Openness of the Federal Bodies of Executive Power (Draft)
- Standard of the Federal Executive Power Openness (Draft)
- Methodology of Monitoring and Assessment of Openness of the Federal Bodies of Executive Power (Draft)
  - indicators of development of openness mechanisms;
  - indicators of effectiveness of openness mechanisms introduction;
  - indicators of importance (utility) of openness mechanisms use;
  - indicators of efficiency of openness mechanisms use.

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Pilot Projects

- *Russian Civil Initiative*. Dimension: E-Participation. Internet resource for placing citizens' proposals on the socio-economic development, improvement of state and municipal government. Implemented on the federal level (http://www.roi.ru/).

- *Government: Instructions for Use*. Part of federal 'locomotive' project 'The Intelligible Government'. Dimension: Information Transparency. Implemented in the Tula region.(http://openregion71.ru/power-application-instructions/)

- *Open Budget*. Dimension: Information Transparency. Implemented in Moscow(http://budget.mos.ru/), Republic of Bashkortostan, Leningrad region (http://budget.lenobl.ru/) and Tula region (http://dfto.ru/www/open/).

- *Region without Fools*. Dimension: E-Participation. Implemented in the Republic of Bashkortostan (https://bezdurakov.openrepublic.ru/).

- *Voice of the Region*. Dimension: E-Participation. Implemented in the Republic of Bashkortostan.

- *Regional Open Data Portal*. Dimension: Open Data. Implemented in the Republic of Bashkortostan, Republic of Tatarstan, Krasnodar Krai (Territory) (http://krd.ru/opendata), Perm, Tula (http://openregion71.ru/otkrytye-dannye/) and Ulyanovsk regions (http://data.ulgov.ru/), the Yamal-Nenets Autonomous District and Moscow (http://data.mos.ru/).

- *Domouprava*. Dimension: Open Data. Improving the quality and accessibility of public housing and communal services. Implemented in the Tula region and in Moscow (http://dom.mos.ru).

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Conclusions and Recommendations

- Russian government has little accountability to its citizens and citizens' attitude towards participation in public decision-making

- The main reasons are traditional citizens' mistrust in government and paternalistic model of social organization in Russia

- Emerging e-participation activities have a potential to become "Potemkin e-villages" used to communicate to the international community democratic image, openness of government and modernization of Russia

- Introduction of a special ministerial position in the Government of the Russian Federation and the formation of the methodological framework for citizens engagement at the federal and regional levels can be considered to be necessary and timely measures and should be strengthened by consistent efforts of all stakeholders

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