

**The Institute for Information Freedom Development
Freedom of Information Foundation**

**Annual Report
2009**

Dear friends and colleagues:

The reporting year was, no doubt, landmark for our organization: we managed to achieve one of our principal goals. In 2009, the first Russian FoI law was passed, – the Federal Law “On providing access to information on the activities of government bodies and bodies of local self-government”.

This act has a long and complicated history. The draft law was first designed by the Russian Ministry of Economic Development as early as in 2002. In 2005 it won approval of the Russian Government, but more than 18 months passed before it finally appeared in the State Duma. In April 2007 the draft law was passed in the first reading, but its further progress was suspended again. So this law draft was among the longest-considered ones in the State Duma. Such tardiness was caused by the unwillingness of some governmental agencies to disclose any information concerning their performance as well as the closeness of the governmental administration in general.

In 2007 – 2008, we prepared the National Report on Freedom of Information in Russia offering theoretical grounds for the necessity of such a law. In addition, our experts initiated a broad public campaign to support this law. We also cooperated with officials of the Ministry of Economic Development (the agency responsible for the draft law in question), with State Duma members, and with Federation Council members.

On 21 January, 2009 the draft of the FoI law was finally passed by the State Duma, later it was approved by the Federation Council and was signed by the President on 9 February, 2009. The law is a revolutionary act by its nature, for it provides Russian citizens with a totally new right, the right to have an access to the information held by authorities and their subordinate organizations.

Another notable event of the last year was the launch of the state services web portal. Despite lots of complains concerning the efficiency of the resource, we still look upon it as “a firm step” made by the authorities in the right direction. We can definitely conclude that developing the Government-on-line, or e-Government, was among the top priorities set by authorities in 2009. On the other hand, it may be noted that forming the e-Government is somewhat an artificial objective for the authorities.

However, the e-Government is not a goal in itself, but rather a means for achieving other, more important social objectives. One of such objectives is to provide openness of the authorities and to guarantee simpler contact between residents and governmental bodies. What the authorities should really aim at is eliminating long queues in the officials’ waiting rooms and the most efficient way to do it is providing residents with the opportunity to address a state agency through the Internet. Take another example: the officials’ goal should be fighting corruption and providing public control over the administrative bodies, while a way to achieve this goal is providing the access to information on officials’ performance through official websites operating 24/7. So, 2009 was quite eventful in terms of getting access to information and these events directly affect each Russian citizen. All this allows us to be optimistic about the future.

On 1 January, 2010, the new FoI Law came into force. But whether it will work or not, depends on us; on our activities, on how persistent we are in realizing our right. We do hope that the citizens will start using the opportunities granted by the newly-adopted information access legislation.

In order to provide effective functioning of the legal mechanisms it is vitally important that citizens should take initiative in protecting their rights including the right to have access to information. The legal mechanism will not function without such a locomotive.

Ivan Pavlov
Lawyer, Board Chair

Our position

The Institute for Information Freedom Development is a non-profit NGO whose activities are aimed at studying and solving problems related to realizing the right to have access to socially significant information.

Foundation for the Support of Information Freedom Initiatives (Freedom of Information Foundation) is a non-profit organization aimed at supporting civil initiatives in the sphere of protecting citizens' rights to have access to the information concerning the activities of government bodies and local self-governing bodies.

Among our principal objectives is encouraging the process of forming and developing e-Government tools in Russia that should provide access to information concerning the performance of government bodies and local self-governing bodies. Official Internet websites of governmental bodies are a striking example of such a tool. Today such official websites of administrative bodies have become a popular source of information concerning the performance of government bodies and local self-government bodies, and in the near future the cyberspace will play a critical role in providing contacts between the authorities and the public. Such conclusion may be made basing on the following factors:

- firstly, the governmental information resources are the most sought-after in the society;
- secondly, it is the governing bodies that hold most socially significant information;
- thirdly, as the number of Internet users grows, the official websites are becoming the most efficient means of cooperation between the governmental bodies and the residents, the most convenient, the fastest and the most economical way of spreading the information relating to the government activities and of spreading the official viewpoint in the society;
- and, finally, the fact that the state bodies have their own websites makes them socially as well as legally responsible for the data published on these websites.

Open access to the official information allows us to analyze the data, to compare them with the alternative sources, to question and to criticize them. In other words, getting access to the information concerning the activities of the governmental bodies, the citizens also get an opportunity to take an active part in social and political life of the country, participate in decision-making and to support the efforts aimed at building an open information society and a law-based democracy.

In turn, the authorities that are compelled to give on-line account of their activities have to become more responsible towards citizens.

Realizing the concept of information development program will result not just in improving the efficiency of the authorities themselves but will also contribute to providing the citizens' access to the state information resources and will make the government more transparent, as foreign experience clearly illustrates. It is the way the governmental official websites are maintained that indicates the state openness/closeness rate, the accessibility of the state information resources, decision-making and procedure transparency and also the inclination of a particular agency to corruption.

Our organization cooperates with media members, academic and scientific groups, sociologists, lawyers, historians and other experts who are interested in forming an open information society in Russia.

We maintain our website www.svobodainfo.org publishing all relevant information concerning the research done by the organization as well as lots of other news reports, analytical and legal materials, and practical recommendations.

On e-Government and information development:

"...those who won't make any steps towards it just show they are not prepared to work in the present conditions. This statement may seem quite tough but that's true because the whole world is moving in this direction today. We have fallen behind and we have to compensate for this retardation as soon as possible, otherwise we will find ourselves absolutely non-competitive".

Dmitry Medvedev, President of Russia

9 February, 2009 president Dmitry Medvedev signed Federal law "On providing access to information on the activities of government bodies and bodies of local self-government" (the FoI Law) that was passed by the State Duma in the third reading 21 January and approved by the Federation Council 28 January. The law came into force 1 January, 2010.

Basic principles of the Institute performance

- All the information related to our activities should be open and publicly available.
- We are always prepared to offer help to citizens and organizations facing difficulties in gaining access to socially significant information held by the governmental authorities or by local self-governing bodies.
- We are seeking effective partner relationships and we highly value cooperation with other groups that are also aimed at forming an open information society.
- We are trying to achieve high professional level and we apply scientifically grounded, transparent and clear standards in our operation.
- It is the principle of our organization to stay beyond politics and we are not connected to any political parties. We DO NOT RECEIVE any funding from sources that are aimed at political struggle.
- Anyone can familiarize himself or herself with the result of our research on our Internet website free of charge. We DO NOT CHARGE anyone for the information provided or for the help that we offer to the citizens facing difficulties in gaining access to socially significant information.
- We receive financial support from Russian and foreign sponsors. The detailed information on the funding sources is available at www.svobodainfo.org.
- We are constantly searching for new ideas and consider the opinions of our staff members, partners, associates and anyone who shares their ideas with us.
- We do our best to respond to the urgent problems that Russian citizens face and we are constantly looking for new ways of development.

Projects

Research work

Monitoring of the governmental official websites

The Institute has been doing monitoring of government bodies' official websites since November 2004. In 2009 the Institute conducted regular cycles of monitoring Russian federal bodies' official websites as well as those of regional authorities of the Russian Federation (executive and legislative bodies as well as the official websites where the government contract information is published).

The 2009 monitoring of administrative bodies' official websites differed greatly from the previous ones. 21 January, 2009 the federal law “On providing access to information on the activities of government bodies and bodies of local self-government” (hereinafter referred to as the FoI Law) was passed and it came into force 1 January, 2010. Article 13 of the said Law sets the content of the information concerning governmental bodies and local self-governing bodies that has to be placed in the Internet on official websites. Despite the general nature of the list of the data that have to be disclosed, it still covers all the aspects of the operation of state governmental bodies and local self-governing bodies making it possible to meet the initial demand for information concerning the performance of the authorities.

Also important is the fact that all governmental bodies as well as local self-governing bodies are subject to the FoI Law. Before the law was passed, there were no statutory acts that would oblige the governmental bodies in the Russian Federation subjects or local self-governing bodies to disclose any information concerning their performance in the Internet.

So, the 2009 monitoring focused primarily on analyzing the current situation: the content of the official websites of the federal and regional authorities was studied for conformity with the provisions of Article 13 of the Federal law “On providing access to information on the activities of government bodies and bodies of local self-government”.

A whole year was officially given to Russian governmental agencies to create their own websites or to reform the existing virtual representative offices and to fill them with update information required by law, and, in general, to provide open access to information for public. Positive examples of developing open official information space are not rare: European countries, where local access to information acts have been in force for a long time, can boast highly-transparent and well-designed websites of governmental agencies which allow citizens to save lots of time when contacting official institutions.

“The information offered to the people should not differ from the reality of a particular agency everyday operation. Otherwise our project will compromise itself from the very beginning”.
Vladimir Putin, Russian Prime Minister

However, the results of the research conducted show that Russian officials prefer to go their own way, making little use of foreign experience.

Our organization has developed methods of assessing official websites of governmental bodies that suggest analyzing each website by more than 100 parameters. Each parameter is evaluated not only in terms of the data presence or absence, but also in terms of the data completeness, social significance, relevance and accessibility. The competence of each specific agency is also taken into account.

The work done resulted in making information openness ratings of federal and regional governmental bodies (available at the Institute website), as well as making recommendations to improve the efficiency of governmental bodies’ websites.

The Institute workers spent a lot of time campaigning for passing the FoI Law by means of research work, lawsuits, expert analyses of statutory acts, and social work. However, passing a law does not automatically mean enforcing it in everyday practice by the authorities, unfortunately.

The conclusions made by the Institute in the course of research are not too optimistic: despite having enough time to make all the necessary arrangements before the FoI Law came into force, the governmental bodies did not do that and the vast majority of official websites contain minimum of the data required by law.

Most government officials still do not see their websites as a convenient and accessible information source for citizens: virtual representative offices are often created for themselves, and whether the website is user-friendly or not, is not an important factor when designing an official website.

Top ten most informative official websites belonging to federal executive governmental bodies of the Russian Federation in 2009

<i>Rating position</i>	<i>Federal executive governmental body (short name in brackets)</i>	<i>Official website</i>	<i>Information openness (%)</i>
1	Federal Service for Intellectual Property, Patents and Trademarks (Rospatent)	http://www.rupto.ru	55.00
2	Federal Migration Service (FMS)	http://www.fms.gov.ru	53.55
3	Ministry of the Russian Federation for Civil Defense, Emergency Management and Natural Disasters Response (Emergency Ministry, or MChS)	http://www.mchs.gov.ru	46.49
4	Federal Agency for Technical Regulation and Metrology (Rostechregulirovaniye)	http://www.gost.ru	45.64
5	Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MID)	http://www.mid.ru	45.60
6	Federal Supervision Agency for Customer Protection and Human Welfare (Rospotrebnadzor)	http://www.rospotrebnadzor.ru	43.69
7	Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring (Rosgidromet)	http://www.meteorf.ru	42.93
8	Federal Anti-Monopoly Service (FAS)	http://www.fas.gov.ru	42.55
9	Federal Service for Ecological, Technological and Atomic Supervision (Rostekhnadzor)	http://www.gosnadzor.ru	42.27
10	Ministry of Healthcare and Social Development (Minzdravsotsrazvitiya)	http://www.minzdravsoc.ru	41.90

Top ten most informative official websites belonging to legislative governmental bodies of the Russian Federation subjects in 2009

<i>Rating position</i>	<i>Russian Federation subject</i>	<i>Legislative body</i>	<i>Official website</i>	<i>Information openness (%)</i>
1	St.-Petersburg	Legislative Assembly	http://www.assembly.spb.ru	80.86
2	Kirovsk Oblast	Legislative Assembly	http://www.zsko.ru	70.40
3	Tyumen Oblast	Regional Duma	http://www.duma72.ru	65.21
4	Khanty-Mansijsk Autonomous District (Yugra)	Duma	http://www.dumahmao.ru	60.49
5	Samara Oblast	Provincial Duma	http://www.samgd.ru	60.15
6	Republic of Tatarstan	State Council	http://www.gossov.tatarstan.ru	60.01
7	Republic of Buryatia	People's Khural	http://hural-buryatia.ru	59.81
8	Moscow	City Duma	http://www.duma.mos.ru	59.68
9	Irkutsk Oblast	Legislative Assembly	http://irk.gov.ru	59.55
10	Khabarovsk Territory	Legislative Duma	http://www.duma.khv.ru	59.33

Top ten most informative official websites belonging to government executive bodies of the Russian Federation subjects in 2009

<i>Rating position</i>	<i>Russian Federation subject</i>	<i>Executive body</i>	<i>Official website</i>	<i>Information openness (%)</i>
1	Khanty-Mansijsk Autonomous District (Yugra)	Government	http://www.admhmao.ru	59.26
2	Rostov Oblast	Administration	http://www.donland.ru	58.40
3	Vologda Oblast	Government	http://vologda-oblast.ru	55.28
4	Udmurtian Republic	Government	http://www.udmurt.ru	54.39
5	Voronezh Oblast	Administration	http://www.govrn.ru	54.04
6	Republic of Karelia	Government	http://gov.karelia.ru	52.25
7	Kamchatka Territory	Government	http://www.kamchatka.gov.ru	51.79
8	Murmansk Oblast	Government	http://gov-murman.ru	50.46
9	Krasnoyarsk Territory	Government	http://www.krskstate.ru	48.62
10	Orenburg Oblast	Government	http://www.orenburg-gov.ru	47.79

Another field of the Institute research work is monitoring official websites that publish information concerning government contracts at both federal and regional levels. Since 2008 such monitoring has been done annually. In 2009 the information openness of the state procurement official websites was estimated as 52.5%. It should be noted that while the content parameters are met by 90%, the requirements for possibility of searching the state procurement information on the official websites were obeyed by less than 40%.

Today the availability of the government contract information is a necessary condition for both fighting corruption and for overcoming the crisis in the economy. It should be noted that the very fact of making official government contract websites available for broad public created a lot of positive precedents: media members and experts were searching the government contract websites, analyzed the obtained data and drew the public attention to most controversial government contracts. This resulted in saving considerable budget funds.

The research methods are based on the requirements of the relevant statutory acts related to state procurements, as well as obvious needs of individuals and legal entities – potential suppliers – for providing the data placed on the official state procurement websites.

The research results proved that despite publishing all the necessary data concerning government contract by the governmental bodies, this data are still hard to access due to program tools and technological features of the official websites.

Top ten most informative official websites for disclosing government contract information at federal and regional levels of the Russian Federation government bodies in 2009

<i>Rating position</i>	<i>Russian Federation subject</i>	<i>Official website for disclosing government contract information</i>	<i>Information availability coefficient (%)</i>
1	Amur Oblast	www.gz.amurobl.ru	77.35

2	Rostov Oblast	www.torgi.donland.ru	76.07
3	Kemerovo Oblast	www.ugzko.ru	73.50
4	Official website of the Federal state authorities bodies	www.zakupki.gov.ru	73.50
5	Stavropol Territory	www.torgi.stavkray.ru	73.25
6	Khabarovsk Territory	www.gzk.khv.ru	71.62
7	Novosibirsk Oblast	http://oblzakaz.nso.ru	71.58
8	Kamchatka Territory	http://zakaz.kamchatka.gov.ru	71.26
9	Pskov Oblast	www.gz.pskov.ru	70.72
10	Khanty-Mansijsk Autonomous District (Yugra)	http://ozhmao.ru	69.74

The organization is determined to continue its dialog with the authorities concerning information cooperation with the public. In 2009 some regional authorities (for instance, executive bodies of Voronezh, Ulyanovsk, Orenburg Oblasts) held consultations with our experts in order to improve the quality of their official websites. Other agencies expressed their own opinions as for what information they should publish on their websites and how it should be done.

Detailed information concerning the Monitoring of the official websites belonging to federal and regional governmental bodies in 2009 can be found on the Institute website at www.svobodainfo.org.

National Report on Freedom of Information in Russia

In 2008 our organization released National Report on Freedom of Information in the Russian Federation – the first ever research of such a scale. The electronic version of the Report in Russian as well as detailed reports on legal and sociological studies conducted while preparing the Report are available at www.svobodainfo.org, section "National Report on Freedom of Information in Russia".

Actual access to the information concerning the governmental bodies operation requires lots of time and efforts, lots of nerves and money. People believe that their right to have access to the information has to be "proved" or that the information needed can be received only through personal relations or with a lot of money, in other words, only through alternative – not necessarily legal – means of influence on the officials.

Our experts believe that passing the FoI Law is an important "consequence" of publishing the National report, for among the ultimate ends of the conducted research was to promote and to lobby the relevant law draft. Throughout 2009 the National report attracted, and is still attracting, great interest of public, NGOs, and the media.

"...corruption must not be merely made illegal. It should become dishonorable. Perhaps, that's the most difficult task"

Dmitry Medvedev, President of Russia

Expert activities in 2009

In June, the Institute experts by request of the Russian Ministry of Economic Development participated in the expert analyses of the draft of the Ministry decree # 470 of 16 November, 2009 titled “On requirements for technological, program and linguistic supporting tools for using the official websites of the federal executive bodies”.

In late June – early July, our experts, also at the request of the Russian Ministry of Economic Development took part in preparing and expert analyses of the new draft for the Russian Federation Government Decree “On access to information on the work of the government of the Russian Federation and federal executive bodies”.

Since September 2009, Ivan Pavlov, lawyer and the organization Board Chair, has been a member of the expert consulting group of the Council for the Development of the Information Society at the Khanty-Mansijsk Autonomous District (Yugra) Governor.

In September, Elena Golubeva, the organization director, prepared an expert report and recommendations on amendments in the draft for the Administrative procedure for providing by the Federal State Statistics Service the state service titled “Providing the users with the official statistics and other data in accordance with the established procedure and basing on the contracts for providing information services”.

In December, Ivan Pavlov together with our trainee Michael Simon Goecken was developing a large-scale project titled “Analysis of the laws concerning freedom of information”. Within this project they had to evaluate the research done by the World Bank experts that studied the laws of different countries in terms of providing access to information.

Practical assistance to citizens and organizations seeking to realize their right to access to information

The main principle that our staff are guided by when resolving conflicts is still “making them work rather than punishing them”. All the practical activities carried out in 2009 can be divided into two main directions:

- strategic direction – involving the organization’s lawyers in the legal actions that affect the right of the wide public to have access to the socially significant information or that may become precedents when hearing other cases;
- tactical direction – helping individuals and organizations in matters related to gaining access to the socially significant information.

Strategic practices

Case of illegal charging for providing data from EGRUL and EGRIP

The Uniform State Register of Legal Entities (or EGRUL) and the Uniform State Register of Individual Entrepreneurs (or EGRIP) are the registers that accumulate all the information about legal entities, individual entrepreneurs, the details of their establishing, reorganizing and

winding-up, along with the relevant documents as required by the Federal law “On state registration of legal entities and individual entrepreneurs”.

Our lawyers noticed that much of the data from the above-mentioned registers can be made available to public at request only and at extra charge. As for the electronic form, providing information costs 50,000 roubles per one time, each data update costs 5,000 roubles while year-long subscription services for one workplace costs 150,000 roubles. The “paper form” is much cheaper – 200 roubles per document and 400 roubles for compact procedure when issuing a required extract. But it may be called “cheaper” only if we do not take into account the time spent to receive this paper: waiting in a queue in the tax inspection office takes a few hours and countless nerve cells.

The above-mentioned tariffs have been set by two acts: the Government Decree of 19.06.2002 # 438 and the Government Decree of 16.10.2003 # 630.

The data of the registers fall into category “the data concerning the performance of governmental bodies and local self-governing bodies”, and therefore charging money for providing such data is possible only “in circumstances and on conditions stipulated by federal law”. Government Decrees, however significant they are, are not such acts, while the Federal law “On information, informatization, and the protection of information” guarantees free and unrestricted access to the information concerning the governmental bodies’ activities placed in the information and telecommunication networks, in other words, in the Internet. So, what are the grounds for charging citizens for providing them with the data contained in EGRUL or EGRIP?

23 November, 2009 the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation heard the case on illegal charging for providing citizens with data from EGRUL and EGRIP. Unfortunately, the court of first instance rejected the lawsuit. The cassation appeal prepared by our lawyers is going to be considered later.

The legal action is still going on; unfortunately, the list of chargeable information services offered by governmental bodies is expanding all the time. Our ultimate goal is full elimination of chargeable access to any information concerning governmental agencies and local self-governing bodies.

In fact, the court protected the business of the dubious companies that buy the complete databases and then provide the required extracts ordered by third parties, usually through their websites. But frequently the real price of such services is far from that indicated in the advertisements so the customers deceived by the trick have to pay between 300 and 500 roubles for each statement (or extract). www.fontanka.ru

The EGRUL/EGRIP case affects the right of the general public to have unlimited and free access to information. Extracts from these registers are required when preparing a package of documents for nearly all business transactions. If charging for providing this information is abolished, life of citizens will become much easier and the individual entrepreneurs will be spared another bureaucratic barrier.

Case of accessibility of the national standards: a multipart epic

In 2009 within the strategic direction our experts continued working over the case on the accessibility of the national standards (GOSTs). Unfortunately, the long-drawn issue of free access to the GOST texts has not been solved yet.

Let us remind that in 2006 we won a lawsuit against the Federal Agency for Technical Regulation and Metrology. Krasnogvardeisky district court in St.-Petersburg and later the St.-Petersburg city court satisfied the claim filed by our lawyers and ruled that the Federal Agency for Technical Regulation and Metrology, or Rostechregulirovaniye, has to publish the national

standards and national classifiers on their official website. 29 December, 2007 the Russian Government issued Decree # 962 titled "On amending the Regulation on publishing national standards and national classifiers of technical, economic and social information". According to this document Rostechregulirovaniye is obliged "to provide constant publication of the texts of national standards on their official Internet website and also to provide free and unlimited access to these texts".

In March 2008 another complaint was filed against Rostechregulirovaniye to the Federal Service for Supervision of Mass Media, Communications and Cultural Heritage Protection (or Rossvyazokhrankultura). The object of the complaint was that the Rostechregulirovaniye website started compulsory registration of users requiring that their personal data should be entered. Rossvyazokhrankultura supported the lawyers' position; in May the official reply was received saying that "measures are being taken to eliminate the server that practices ... collecting personal data".

In February 2008 we sent a complain to the European Court of Human Rights: in spring 2006 some bailiff stopped the enforcement proceedings concerning Rostechregulirovaniye, basing solely on the claims by the agency itself that it had fully provided the execution of the court ruling of 8 June, 2006 although it was not the case at that moment. Russian court authorities refused to declare the bailiff's actions illegal.

2 June 2009 the Russian Government submitted a draft for Federal law "On amending the Federal law "On technical regulation" # 210859-5 to the State Duma for review. Unclear wording of some of the provisions in the draft law may allow the agency to start selling the national standard texts again. Despite all the work done by the Institute experts and the initiated public campaign, the draft law was passed intact.

On 23 October, 2009

another complaint was filed, this time against "the Statute on the federal information fund of technical regulations and standards and on uniform information system for technical regulation", approved by the Government Decree # 500 of 15.08.2003.

"The way how the GOSTs were published is widely criticized by specialists: to see the published materials you have to log in entering your personal data, the format of presenting the content is not user-friendly and prevents them from being used efficiently". www.cnews.ru

The court ruling in the GOST case provoked public outcry; it was the first time ever when the right to have access to information that concerns millions of consumers and manufactures was successfully protected in court. However, the fact that the court hearings on the Russian national standards accessibility lasted for years gives negative characteristic to the efficiency of the present-day tools for protecting civil rights.

The said Statute stipulates charging citizens for providing information from this particular information fund. The Information Fund includes GOSTs, national classifiers, and other technical documentation that contains the necessary requirements for manufacturing products, execution of work, and offering services.

"Thanks to" the Fund Statute approved by the Russian Government, the information from the Fund cannot be obtained free of charge, it can only be purchased: according to paragraph 18 of the Statute, Rostechregulirovaniye should provide individuals and legal entities with the data only on a fee-paying basis.

The Supreme Court hearing is scheduled for 2 February, 2010.

“Sadly, we still have to admit that the state agencies’ lobbyists have found a new way to push “loopholes” in the context of the President initiatives – it would have been much more difficult to do so in the Government due to scrupulous procedure of getting the drafts approved by all the interested agencies”.

Anatoly Semenov, advisor of the chairman of the Subcommittee for Economy and Innovations at the Culture Committee of the Russian State Duma

Finally,

shortly before the New Year the State Duma of the Russian Federation promptly passed another draft law (to the effect of expanding opportunities of using international documents for technical regulation and granting powers to adopt technical regulations to the federal executive body) – 23 December, 2009 it was passed in the second and the third readings and was signed by the President on 30 December.

The draft law contains a provision that obviously limits the access to information, what’s more, the data in question is really important and concerns standardization sphere.

Contrary to the existing Russian law and the declared openness and transparency policy, they are trying to push a provision that would allow Rostechregulirovaniye to sell the information openly.

A few days before the New Year, our organization launched an Internet campaign and wrote an official address to President Dmitry Medvedev asking him not to sign the law in this version. However, all our efforts led to no result; the document was adopted and the above-mentioned provision was not excluded from it that may result in limiting the access to information.

Case of illegal search in *Memorial* research center

Since December 2008 Ivan Pavlov, the Board Chair, as a lawyer, represented NGO *Memorial*, a human rights group and a research center. The cooperation of the two NGOs proved to be successful: we managed to defend the rights of *Memorial* in court.

Memorial research center is a NGO that carries out research, human rights, and educational activities both in Russia and abroad – in Germany, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Georgia, and Ukraine.

4 December, 2008 the *Memorial* premises were searched by the officers of the Investigative Committee of the Prosecutor's Office; 12 hard PC discs, the organization archive, and lots of CDs containing the group’s materials were confiscated during the search.

Ivan Pavlov appealed against the search as groundless and illegal and also appealed against the seizure of *Memorial* documents and property. The world community was closely following the case for a few months. Prominent historians, scholars, archive workers, journalists, politicians and public members expressed their support to *Memorial*.

Finally, Dzerzhinsky district court of St.-Petersburg declared the search illegal. 12 hard discs, optical discs and the materials that had been illegally confiscated were returned to *Memorial* staff.

Surely, even the positive court decision cannot compensate for the damage inflicted to *Memorial*: the group was unable to operate normally for five months because of the absence of the necessary materials. However, the *Memorial* case definitely illustrated that NGOs can and should defend their rights in courts. It also proved that public campaigns are an effective means for protecting rights, too.

Case of Professor Mikhail Suprun and Alexander Dudarev, head of the Archangelsk Oblast police information center: research work or a crime?

In 2009 our lawyers' attention was attracted to an unusual case: Archangelsk Mikhail Suprun, head of the Russian history department at the Pomorsky State University who, while doing his research, got an access to valuable archive materials, was accused of committing a crime. In fact, he was charged with getting access to information.

The professor was participating in joint Russian-German project titled "Ethnic Germans in Russia who were repressed in the 1940s". He was working in the premises of the regional police information centre gathering the personal data of the repressed persons to be placed in the "Memory Book" later.

Criminal investigation was initiated against Suprun on Article 137 of the Russian Criminal Code (Violation of inviolability of privacy), and also section 4 of Article 33 and Article 286 of the Russian Criminal Code (Inciting an official to abusing powers). In the same case, Alexander Dudarev, head of police information center in Archangelsk Oblast who helped the professor, has also been accused of violating Article 286 of the Russian Criminal Code (Abuse of power).

The law enforcement officers searched the professor's apartment and confiscated his personal archive on the 20th century history including materials related to absolutely different research topics.

Rights of Mikhail Suprun are represented by lawyer Ivan Pavlov.

In early November the Suprun and Dudarev case was handed from the regional Investigation Committee to the next higher authority – Investigation Department of the Prosecutors' Investigation Committee in the North-West federal district.

The fact of transferring the case was explained by its specific nature and also by the fact that it provoked public outcry both in Russia and abroad.

The case is being investigated in St.-Petersburg. No charges have been brought yet.

"The case may affect the starting processes concerning openness of Russian authorities on the whole and accessibility of the state archives in particular: the fact of starting a criminal investigation sends a clear message to all state archives staff that would prevent them from cooperating with independent historians or from making the important historical data accessible to general public".

lawyer Ivan Pavlov, the Board Chair

"No matter what the Suprun-Dudarev case will end with – whether it will disappear or they will be able to fabricate it, it has already seriously affected all the victims of political repression. ... A project that concerns the fate of five thousand people has been suspended at least "till the investigation is finished" with clear underlying signal 'Remember that investigations may take years' ".

Yulia Kantor, PhD in History. "Vremya Novostey" (www.vremya.ru)

Tactical practices

Cases of contesting illegal refusals to provide information

Throughout the year a lot of activities were being done as part of regular consulting services given to individuals and organizations to offer legal and organizational support to those seeking access to the socially significant information.

Membership in housing societies: the right to know

In 2009 experts of the organization focused on protecting the rights of cooperative housing society members to have access to the information held by the society management boards. The long list of “unavailable” data includes financial reports, records of the management board meetings, minutes of housing society meetings, and lists of housing society members.

In such cases we had to face new unexpected challenges. All the petitions filed into courts were initially either returned back to the plaintiffs or no action was taken. The judges explained that it was unclear to them which of the plaintiffs’ rights exactly were violated. In some cases the courts demanded additional documents, in other cases plaintiffs had to file new lawsuits or private complaints. All these obstacles were caused by the fact that Russian courts had no sufficient experience of examining cases concerning violating the citizens’ rights to have access to information.

Today judges are showing more attention and interest to cases concerning access to information. In most cases, however, the plaintiffs’ demands are satisfied partly only.

In 2009 cases related to getting access to the housing society data were examined by Nevsky district court of St.-Petersburg, Frunzensky district court of St.-Petersburg, Krasnogvardeysky district court of St.-Petersburg, and, in cassation proceedings, by St.-Petersburg city court.

Our lawyers are carrying on active action on each of these cases.

During a preliminary session concerning a lawsuit against a housing society on 22 April, 2009 the judge uttered: “Right to information? That sounds funny ...”.

Right to information: citizens’ and officials’ opinions

Throughout 2009 lawyers’ requests for providing information were rejected on the grounds that such data “do not directly affect the plaintiff’s specific rights and freedoms”. Lawyers regularly filed requests for providing socially significant information related to various urgent issues to federal and regional authorities. In 2009 the following complaints were filed:

■ to Moskovsky district court of St.-Petersburg: against nonfeasance of St.-Petersburg Health Committee that failed to give full response to the request about carrying out the federal target program “Preventing and treating socially significant diseases (2007-2011)” in St.-Petersburg. 15 June, 2009 the Moskovsky district court rejected the lawsuit and the cassation appeal was also turned down 31 August, 2009.

■ to Frunzensky district court of St.-Petersburg: against the refusal of the Frunzensky district Department of Internal Affairs to provide information. The hearing was repeatedly postponed before on 6 July the court rejected the claim. The St.-Petersburg city court examined the cassation appeal 18 November, 2009 and altered the original decision admitting partly the nonfeasance of the Frunzensky district Internal Affairs Department in non-responding to one of the requests.

■ to Leninsky district court of St.-Petersburg: against the refusal of Admiralteysky district administration to provide information. 12 August the court satisfied the claim partly, obliging the Admiralteysky district administration to provide the plaintiff with the information about the number of large families that are registered as those needing residential apartments. Also assistance was offered to Mr. P. who tried to get an access to the information directly related to his rights – he needed to have a transcription of a standard rate of his pension for a certain period. Our lawyers filed a suit against the military commissariat in Oktyabrsky district court of St.-Petersburg. The court rejected the suit, but a representative of the military commissariat gave Mr. P. the required certificate in the courtroom.

Apart from that, legal assistance was offered to Mr. I. who demanded that St.-Petersburg Committee for Municipal Improvement and Public Road Facilities should provide data concerning the construction of West High-Speed diameter. The required data directly affected the plaintiffs' rights for his garage was to be demolished because of the road construction. 4 June 2009 Kuibyshevsky district court of St.-Petersburg satisfied the claim in part. Seeking full satisfaction and full access to information, the plaintiff filed a cassation appeal. 28 July the St.-Petersburg city court satisfied it in full, obliging the St.-Petersburg Committee for Municipal Improvement and Public Road Facilities to provide information to Mr. I. in full.

Hopefully, after passing the FoI Law, the practice of routine refusals by authorities to provide information for public will be ceased. In addition, it may become easier for citizens to protect their rights for information in courts.

In our opinion, the most effective means of protecting the rights for information today is using complex measures: applying administrative and court appeal procedures supported by the results of professional scientific research as well as attracting public attention to realizing the rights to information and getting the citizens involved in realizing and protecting their rights.

"In addition to your internal regulations you also have to obey the law!" A judge's remark at a session in Oktyabrsky district court of St.-Petersburg.

“Precious” pedestrian underpasses

In 2007 St.-Petersburg media spread the statement of the chairperson of the city Committee for Municipal Improvement and Public Road Facilities saying that construction of each pedestrian underpass costs the city budget 550 million roubles.

A group of city residents addressed the Committee demanding access to full estimates for constructing and maintaining pedestrian underpasses. The Committee refused to provide such data on standard grounds that “this information does not directly affect the applicants' rights and freedoms”. Our lawyers offered their help to the citizens, for according to law the information on budget expenditures should be available and there must be no restrictions in access to this data.

“The cost of constructing one pedestrian underpass is half the price of a Boeing or a whole nine-storey apartment building in terms of market price of apartments”, – Philip Kulin says. “At first we even thought that there was an error in the article. So we wrote to Committee to check whether the price had been indicated correctly” www.mr7.ru

1 September, 2008 a lawsuit was filed to Primorsky district court of St.-Petersburg asking that the decision of the Committee for Municipal Improvement and Public Road Facilities of the city government to refuse to give the required data should be declared illegal. 25 December, 2008 the court sided with the officials.

In early 2009 a cassation appeal prepared by our lawyers was filed to St.-Petersburg city court. The appeal was rejected, too.

In July 2009 a supervisory appeal was filed to the Presidium of St.-Petersburg city court. According to the Presidium there were no grounds for satisfying the plaintiffs' demands and so the request to declare illegal the nonfeasance of the Committee for Municipal Improvement and Public Road Facilities was finally rejected.

Government contract: right to information

31 December, 2008 our experts filed a lawsuit to Oktyabrsky district court of St.-Petersburg asking to declare illegal the nonfeasance of the St.-Petersburg Committee for Economic Development, Industrial Policy and Trade. The reason for the lawsuit was the absence of the city state contracts register on the official website where the data concerning placing government orders in St.-Petersburg (www.gz-spb.ru) should be published. According to the valid law, the Committee should have published the register on its official website so that to provide unlimited and free access to it for citizens.

The Committee violates Federal law #94-FZ of 21 July, 2005 titled "On placement of orders to supply goods, carry out works and render services for meeting state and municipal needs" and the decree of the Government of the Russian Federation #807 issued 27 December, 2006 titled "On adopting the Provision on introducing registers of state or municipal contracts signed as a result of placing the orders and on the requirements for technological, program, linguistic, legal and organization supporting tools for using an Internet official website where the above-mentioned registers are available".

The state contracts register is an information system containing data on the contracts signed and allowing to search for information by each of the available parameters. At the time of filing the lawsuit the isolated data that were published at St.-Petersburg state procurements website could not be considered such a system. What's more, the official website designed for publishing the government contract information in St.-Petersburg did not allow the information search by different criteria thus violating the right to have access to information.

21 July, 2009 Oktyabrsky district court of St.-Petersburg rejected the complaint noting that despite the absence of the information on the official website the citizens can address the agency in person or by phone or make a written request.

The lawsuit was rejected by the courts of first and second instance and now a supervisory appeal has been filed. However it should be noted that despite not being able to reach a positive decision in court, our experts' efforts led to the required and long-awaited result: the state contracts register was placed at the official website in early August 2009. Full access to all the necessary data has been provided and the navigation has been considerably improved and simplified. We need to understand that quite often the very fact of filing a lawsuit specifying a problem helps to achieve the desired result and to improve the situation.

*Our lawyers believe that the "comments" advising citizens to find other way to get the information – by phone or through a written request – devalue the very idea of a governing body's being obliged to **spread** certain information on their activities, replacing it with the idea of **providing** the information by such body at request from a citizen.*

Contesting unlawful personal data gathering

While monitoring the regional official websites releasing the government contract information our experts discovered that the appropriate website of the Republic of Ingushetia (www.goszakaz-ri.ru) provides access to the information only after a user has registered entering his/her passport details, tax payer identification number, bank account number and other personal data.

In December 2008 our lawyers filed a complaint to the Federal Supervision Agency for Information Technologies and Mass Communications (the agency was called Rossvyazkomnadzor at that time). In early 2009 we received an official reply from Rossvyazkomnadzor saying that all the information at www.goszakaz-ri.ru is offered in accordance with the provisions set by the Law on placing orders and no violations of Law on personal data were found by Rossvyazkomnadzor in course of the check.

2 June, 2009 Frunzensky district court refused to accept the lawsuit ruling that the plaintiff's rights and freedoms are not violated for, after all, any citizen can find the required data "in the official printed publication issued by the subject of the Russian Federation". This decision was appealed.

While examining the case it became known that two government contract websites in the Republic of Ingushetia existed at that moment: the one in question, www.goszakaz-ri.ru, and www.goszakazri.ru that is considered to be the official one today. By the way, such uncertainty in wording and confusion in official and non-official websites often creates problems for citizens.

By the time of the court hearings the official government contract website of Ingushetia stopped demanding personal data of the users. The Institute has grounds to believe that it resulted from the complaint submitted by our organization's expert to Russian Federal Antimonopoly Service. Anyway we did achieve certain positive result that is of no less importance than winning a legal case.

Such collecting personal data is illegal for it violates both the federal law "On personal data" and state procurement legislation that requires that the data on the official websites that publish the information concerning placing government and municipal orders must be available to users without any restrictions.

Information and education activities of the Institute

Developing the Institute website www.svobodainfo.org

While doing annual research of the official websites of the governmental bodies we have to provide free access to the necessary and useful information at our own website, too. In 2009 we continued to improve our virtual representative office www.svobodainfo.org. Latest news concerning the freedom of information in Russia and abroad, analytical reports on access to information as well as the materials of the research conducted by our experts have become traditional content of our website. We are constantly renewing the databases of legal acts that regulate the legal relationships in information sphere and judicial precedents in cases related to the information access including those where our lawyers and experts participated.

In 2009 our specialists concentrated on preparing and publishing their own analytical derivation based on the results of their research activities and the accumulated experience in protecting the citizens' rights to information.

The English version of the website is also regularly renewed and expanded due to the volunteers' participation. In particular, the Russian FoI Law has been translated into English with the assistance of Collin Daffy, our trainee.

Our experts are constantly tracing all the amendments made into the Russian law relating to structure of federal and regional authorities or determining their powers and competence and all these alterations are promptly represented at the schemes placed at our websites.

Public campaigns launched by the Institute

In 2009 a new public campaign promoting the GOSTs accessibility was launched. The principal goal of the campaign is to draw the attention of authorities to the negative situation related to the accessibility of the national standards texts (GOSTs) as well as other regulatory documents concerning standardization and technical supervising.

The campaign was caused by the fact that the Federal Agency for Technical Regulation and Metrology (Rostechregulirovaniye) is still attempting to restrict the access to the national standards and other documents belonging to the Federal information fund of technical regulations and standards for individuals and organizations: this time they are trying to do it by amending the national legislation.

Our group believes that social apathy and lack of belief in the effectiveness of legal right-protecting tools can only be overcome if attention is constantly drawn to the painful problems and broad audience is involved in the legal process.

2 June 2009 the Russian Government submitted the draft for the Federal law "On amending the Federal law "On technical regulation" to the State Duma for review. One of the provisions of this draft law included "vague" wordings that could be interpreted in different ways and that could ultimately lead to restricting the access of the interested parties to the GOST texts. According to the Institute lawyers, these wordings did not directly prescribe charging for providing the information while not excluding this scenario.

All the citizens interested in finding a faster solution for this problem were recommended to post a relevant address to the President of the Russian Federation and to draw attention to the situation that emerged.

Charging citizens for providing access to the information resources (especially in the technical supervision sphere) may and should be considered just another administrative barrier for developing the small business in the Russian Federation and contradicts the anti-crisis measures taken by the Russian Government at the moment.

Unfortunately, the draft law was adopted intact.

In the weeks preceding the new year the State Duma of the Russian Federation hastily passed in the second and the third readings another draft law titled “On amending the Federal law “On technical regulation” (to the effect of expanding opportunities of using international documents for technical regulation and granting powers to adopt technical regulations to the federal executive body). This draft law includes a provision that obviously restricts access to the important information related to standardization. The organization experts supported the public Internet campaign and composed the official address to Russian president Dmitry Medvedev.

Sadly, the desired result was not achieved.

So why did the public campaign “work” for the FoI Law and why did a similar campaign fail in this case? One principal reason is that when the draft law has already been submitted to the State Duma of the Russian Federation or if it has been introduced by the President or by the Government, making any amendments to it becomes extremely difficult. Therefore, active measures have to be taken at the stage that precedes introducing a draft law in the State Duma; in this case achieving certain positive results will be much easier.

We are grateful to those who participated in the campaign; despite not being able to achieve the positive result – the determination of citizens to protect their rights is in itself a powerful stimulus for further development and a tool for fighting corruption.

Participating in events

In 2009 our staff member attended a number of conferences, roundtable meetings, workshops and working meetings. During these events we presented the results of our work attracting the public attention to the information freedom issues and the importance of the citizens’ right to have access to the socially significant information, first of all to that concerning the activities of the governmental bodies and local self-governance institutions.

January

On 29 January lawyer Iraida Zakharevitch participated in the press-conference organized by *Rosbalt* news agency covering the issues related to the Ring road construction. One of the most urgent questions was mentioned: paying compensations to the real estate owners whose property was confiscated due to the road construction works and the access to the relevant information.

February

6 February: Ivan Pavlov, the Board Chair, attended a theoretical seminar at the Information law section of the Moscow Institute of State and Law at the Russian Academy of Sciences titled “Right to information as a basis of realizing the constitutional rights and duties of Russian citizens”.

11 February: our experts held a press conference in St.-Petersburg to present the results of monitoring the governmental bodies’ official websites in 2008 that provoked great media

interest. Most media attention was drawn to the rating of accessibility of the official data concerning placing the government orders.

19 February: Ivan Pavlov successfully defended his thesis titled “Legal basis for the access to official data”. Mr. Pavlov was awarded a PhD degree in law.

March

11 March: journalist Anastasia Pestova attended a workshop conference titled “Transparency of decision-making in carrying out large-scale road construction projects” (St.-Petersburg branch of the State University, Higher School of Economics).

The event was organized by: Faculty of Applied Political Science of the St.-Petersburg branch of the State University, Higher School of Economics, the Researching Committee for Public Policy and Civil Society of the Russian Political Science Association, Saint-Petersburg Center for Humanities and Political Studies “*Strategy*”, “*ECOM*” expertise center at the St.-Petersburg Natural Scientists Society, and “*Rosbalt*” news agency.

26 March: Elena Golubeva, Director of the organization, participated in the conference titled “Information and communication technologies in the governmental sector” (Moscow). The conference was organized by *CNews Conferences* marketing communication agency and *CNews Analytics* research group. Elena took part in discussing one of the most urgent problems – that of openness (or, rather, closeness) of the official websites belonging to governmental bodies. The discussion was based on the data obtained when doing the 2008 monitoring of administrative bodies' official websites.

April

24 April: Ivan Pavlov participated in the session of St.-Petersburg Ombudsman' Advisory Council. The meeting was devoted to journalists' rights to have access to information concerning activities of the governing bodies.

The event was attended by members of the municipal bodies and main media communities of St.-Petersburg.

May

8-11 May: Ivan Pavlov visited Georgia to participate in the international workshop conference held in Telavi, organized by National Security Archive covering issues of accessibility of the archive materials.

The conference was attended by delegations from Russia, Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan. Apart from Ivan Pavlov, Russia was also represented by experts who cooperate with our organization – PhD in law Viktor Monakhov (Institute of State and Law at the Russian Academy of Sciences), prominent human rights activist Yuri Vdovin (*Civil Control* human rights group), and Yan Rachinsky from *Memorial* Moscow branch.

13 May: Ivan Pavlov took part in a press briefing organized by *Memorial* prior to conducting an independent expertise of the hard discs that had been confiscated from *Memorial* offices to check their working capacity and the safety of the recorded data.

June

1-4 June: Elena Golubeva, director of the organization and our expert, head of the monitoring project concerning administrative bodies' official websites Vladimir Golubev made a working visit to the Republic of Azerbaijan to discuss cooperating between both countries' NGOs in issues related to information freedom. In particular, a roundtable meeting was held in *Multimedia* Center for Information Systems and Technologies (Baku) on 2 June as part of the project titled “Monitoring of the information openness of the public information subjects”. Our experts shared the experience that they had accumulated in doing this kind of research.

7-10 June: Ivan Pavlov attended a meeting of coordinators of legal human rights programs of the *Open Society Institute* titled “Right to information: a way to the open society”. 9 June Mr. Pavlov made a speech at the session dealing with accessibility and transparency of state services.

24 June: Ivan Pavlov participated in the international workshop conference titled “Trends and stages of the information law development”, devoted to the 10th anniversary of the Information Law, Information Technology and Mathematics Department of the Russian Law Academy at Russian Ministry of Justice.

July

7 July: a meeting of the Russian Federal Protection Service (FSO) officials and the Legislative Assembly of Leningrad Region members took place. The event focused on FSO’s plans to open an Internet website providing official publications of the whole Russian legislation ranging from federal laws to municipal acts. Leningrad Region was supposed to become the first Russian region to publish its legislation on this website giving the official status to this publication.

The meeting was moderated by Ivan Pavlov.

August

6 August: journalist Anastasia Pestova participated in the presentation of the analytical review titled “Russia: on the way to equal opportunities” ordered by the UN and concentrating on providing the disabled persons’ rights for education and employment. The St.-Petersburg presentation was organized by UN Russian office with the support from Saint-Petersburg Center for Humanities and Political Studies “*Strategy*” and Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russia.

September

15 September: our staff organized a press-conference in St.-Petersburg to announce the results of monitoring the official websites that should disclose the government contract data in 2009. Apart from our experts, a presentation was made by a guest speaker, Mr. Mesrop Arutyunan, an expert of the Committee for Protecting Freedom of Speech. (Yerevan, Armenia) who gave an account of the current situation concerning the access to official information including that of government contracts in Armenia.

30 September: Ivan Pavlov made a report titled “New laws regulating information access” at the workshop “Cooperation of courts and mass-media in terms of new legislation” arranged by the St.-Petersburg NGO “*Civil Control*”.

Summarizing the results of the workshop, Yulia Andreeva, head of press service of the Constitutional Court who also made a report at the event offered us cooperation in promoting information cooperation between the Constitutional Court and the public.

October

5-7 October: lawyer Iraida Zakharevitch attended a conference titled “NGO legislation: challenges and prospects for improving” and contributed to the activities of the Rights Advocates School. Both the conference and the School were organized by the independent information and legal services NGO “Human Rights Resource Center”.

9-10 October: Elena Golubeva and journalist Anastasia Pestova attended a workshop “The FoI Law: problems and solutions” (Murmansk) arranged by the Murmansk Female Journalists Association as part of the project “Access to information for public and media members”.

Elena Golubeva made a report “The content of the FoI Law”. In 2009 – 2010 a number of accessibility-related media publications have been prepared basing on Golubeva’s report in different regions of Russia.

November

19 November: Ivan Pavlov gave a lecture on legal aspects of information accessibility for third-year students of the Journalism Department at the St.-Petersburg State University.

The Institute experts are expected to take part in designing the Department's curriculum including developing recommendations for enforcing the journalists' right to information.

19 November: lawyer Darya Nazarova presented a report titled "Experience of Russian Federation in designing and adopting the law "On providing access to information on the activities of government bodies and bodies of local self-government" at the international conference "Access to public information in Kazakhstan" directed in Astana by United Nations Development Program. The materials presented at the conference including those prepared by Darya Nazarova became a foundation when making recommendations for designing a FoI law in Kazakhstan.

19 November: Anastasia Pestova participated in a video roundtable conference arranged by the St.-Petersburg Office of the Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous District (Yugra). The video conference came as part of the eighth interregional workshop conference titled "Information technologies and solutions for promoting information society in Russia" (the main conference events took place in Khanty-Mansiysk) to discuss practical implementation of the Strategy for information society development in Russia as well as new laws aimed to provide both information accessibility and its protection.

20-21 November: Anastasia Pestova attended the forum titled "NGO-Media Cooperation for developing a civil society" run in St.-Petersburg by the Association for Cooperation with Nordic Countries "NORDEN". During a roundtable meeting "NGO-Media Cooperation" Ms. Pestova participated in discussing the urgent problems and searching for possible solutions.

24 November: Ivan Pavlov and Darya Nazarova attended the 11th International Conference "Law and Internet" (Moscow) arranged by ICO "Information for All" in cooperation with Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, *Garant* company and the Partnership for Developing Information Society in North-West of Russia.

At the first plenary session Ivan Pavlov made a report titled "New acts on the access to information – information society characteristic" and co-moderated the section "Access to socially significant information and e-Government".

Darya Nazarova presented a report titled "Accessibility of the state information resources: practitioner's viewpoint".

30 November: Iraida Zakharevich represented our Institute at "Social St.-Petersburg: New Solutions – 2009", a forum arranged by the Centre for Developing NGOs with the support of the Committee for Youth Policy and Cooperation with NGOs.

On the same day Anastasia Pestova took part in the Students' employment event "Ambitious talents' Day" run by the Russian PR Association and SPN Ogilvy communication agency.

December

8 December: St.-Petersburg hosted a workshop titled "Enforcing the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights in Russia: problems and possible solution approaches" arranged by the "Public verdict" foundation in cooperation with the NGO "Civil control" supported by the Non-commercial partnership "Regional Media Institution".

The Institute was represented by Ivan Pavlov, the Board Chair, and lawyers Darya Nazarova, Iraida Zakharevich and Evgeny Smirnov.

16 December: the Institute ran a press conference in St.-Petersburg to unveil the results of monitoring the administrative bodies' official websites in 2009. The Institute experts noted growing information openness on official websites.

17 December: Ivan Pavlov appeared in the *Open studio* program on TV-5 channel (<http://www.5-tv.ru/video/504325>). The program was called “Get your document online!” and covered the issues of developing e-Government and prospects for providing governmental services in electronic form.

18 December: Ivan Pavlov, Elena Golubeva and Darya Nazarova participated in the program “Chas pressy” (or “Media Hour”) at radio “Svoboda”. The program focused on the new Russian laws – the FoI Law and the Law on personal data as well as the Russian official state services portal. Our experts were actively involved in the discussion answering numerous questions from the host and the audience.

21 December: Tatyana Tolsteneva, an expert of the Institute conducted a roundtable meeting for students and professors at the Nizhny Novgorod State Lobachevsky University concentrating on accessibility of information concerning the performance of the federal executive bodies and the results of the research titled “Monitoring of administrative bodies' official websites in the Russian Federation in 2009”.

24 December: Upon invitation of the deputy rector of Nizhny Novgorod State University, Tatyana Tolsteneva presented the results of the 2009 Monitoring at the seminar on information law that was held at the University law department.

Notable events of 2009

January

20 January: Dzerzhinsky district court of St.-Petersburg partly satisfied a complaint of *Memorial* research center concerning illegal and ungrounded search made in the center's premises on 4 December, 2008. Consequently the Prosecutor's office appealed against the court ruling.

21 January: the State Duma of the Russian Federation passed the FoI Law in the final reading.

28 January: the FoI Law was approved by the Federation Council.

February

9 February: the Russian President signed the FoI Law (the Federal Law "On providing access to information on the activities of government bodies and bodies of local self-government").

24 February: after examining the cassation appeal filed by the Prosecutor's office the St.-Petersburg city court returned the *Memorial* case for reconsideration to Dzerzhinsky district court of St.-Petersburg.

March

20 March: Dzerzhinsky district court of St.-Petersburg again declared that the search in *Memorial* premises was made with violations of law, however the search warrant itself was not declared illegal.

31 March: the court acquitted the journalists whose interests were protected Mr. Ivan Pavlov, the Board Chair. Maxim Kuznetsov, reporter of MR7.ru website (St.-Petersburg Internet version of the "Moi Raion" newspaper), and Yevgeny Utkin, freelance reporter of "Novaya Gazeta" newspaper were detained on 12 March during an unsanctioned rally of opposition in Nevsky Prospect despite the fact that they were not participating in the event but were just providing its media coverage following their editors' instructions. It should be noted that no participants of the rally were detained whereas administrative prosecution on charges of disorderly conduct was initiated against Kuznetsov and Utkin.

31 March: the St.-Petersburg city court upheld the decision issued by Primorsky district court of St.-Petersburg on 25 December, 2008 confirming the legitimacy of denying the resident an access to the data concerning the price of constructing pedestrian underpasses and the list of state contracts for constructing them ordered by St.-Petersburg Committee for Municipal Improvement and Public Road Facilities.

April

8 April: Nevsky district court of St.-Petersburg satisfied a resident's complaint against refusal to provide information by the housing society #840 management board: valid statute of the housing society #840, as well as the list of apartments resided by the housing society members were presented.

May

6 May: the St.-Petersburg city court rejected the appeal submitted by the Prosecutor's office against the decision issued by Dzerzhinsky district court of St.-Petersburg on 20 March declaring the search in *Memorial* research center premises unlawful. On the same day the confiscated discs containing data were returned to *Memorial* in presence of the St.-Petersburg ombudsman representative.

13 May: Smolninsky district court of St.-Petersburg rejected the appeal submitted by the Prosecutor's office against acquitting the journalists detained during the unsanctioned opposition rally in Nevsky prospect.

On the same day Frunzensky district court of St.-Petersburg satisfied a resident's claim concerning the housing society management board's failure to provide information: copies of all contracts with supplying and maintaining organizations were provided as well as minutes of the society members' general meetings, records of management board sessions and auditing committee meetings.

Later our lawyers representing two residents who demanded access to the housing society data managed to succeed: the decisions issued by Nevsky district court of St.-Petersburg on 8 April and by Frunzensky district court of St.-Petersburg on 13 May were appealed in cassation proceedings. In both cases we managed to get complete satisfaction of plaintiffs' claims concerning access to information.

In May, the Rostechregulirovaniye official website www.gost.ru began to publish the databases of certificates and conformity declarations. This was caused, in part, by our efforts: our experts had repeatedly addressed Rostechregulirovaniye and other state agencies seeking open access to the relevant data.

June

2 June: the Government submitted a draft of the Federal law "On amending the Federal law 'On technical regulation'" to the State Duma for review. The draft law includes some vague formulations which may in practice lead to restricting the interested parties' access to substantial part of the national standards.

We launched a public campaign "Free access to GOSTs" seeking to draw President Dmitry Medvedev's attention of to the fact that the existing wording of the provisions may be interpreted in different ways.

2 June: Frunzensky district court of St.-Petersburg dismissed a lawsuit prepared by our lawyers demanding that collecting the users' personal data on the official website designed for providing information concerning placing government contracts in the Republic of Ingushetia should be declared illegal.

4 June: Kuibyshevsky district court of St.-Petersburg declared legal the claim of Mr. I to provide access to official information concerning West High-Speed Diameter construction.

15 June: Moskovsky district court of St.-Petersburg rejected the complaint filed by the Organization lawyers against the refusal of the Health Committee of the St.-Petersburg Government to provide information.

15 June: the Russian Government adopted the Decree # 478 "On the integrated system of information and reference support to citizens and organizations on matters of interaction with executive agencies and local self-government bodies using the information and telecommunication network Internet".

The Decree approved the Concept for centralized system of information and inquiry support for individuals and organizations in issues concerning the cooperation with the executive bodies and local self-governing bodies in the Internet. The Concept should guarantee the information

openness of the state institutions including both executive bodies and local self-governing bodies as well as improving the quality and accessibility of governmental and municipal services provided by them.

July

The Federal Service for Alcohol Market Regulation (Rosalkogolregulirovanye) opened its website at www.fsrar.ru.

A new page was added to <http://freedominfo.org/> website covering the Russian FoI Law and its implementation. It symbolized Russia's joining the "coalition" of states that seek maximum transparency.

3 July: the State Duma passed the Federal law "On amending the Federal law 'On technical regulation'" that was approved by the Federation Council 7 July. Unfortunately the text of the law continues to include unclear wording and applying it may lead to restricting access to information including restricting access to the text of many national standards.

21 July: Ochyabrsky district court of St.-Petersburg legitimized the refusal of the city Committee for Economic Development, Industrial Policy and Trade to publish the register of St.-Petersburg state contracts on its official website at <http://www.gz-spb.ru>.

However, the positive result has been achieved even without the appropriate court decision: the register has been published on the official website.

27 July: the Government adopted the Decree # 614 "On amending the regulations of giving grants to Russian Federation subjects in order to promote achieving and/or stimulating achieving the best possible indicators of the executive bodies in the Russian Federation subjects".

Following parameter have been added to the list of indicators: "providing residents' access to the information concerning the operation of the executive bodies in the Russian Federation subjects (regions), relevance of the information placed on the official websites of the federation subjects' governing bodies including the presence and the completeness of the data concerning the state functions, state services and administrative procedures, its accuracy, renewal, and existence of the interactive information exchange".

Let us remind that since 2008 our experts have been doing monitoring of the official websites of the regional governing bodies trying to provide citizens with due access to their activities. The adopted act proves that the Government, on its part, is aimed at promoting the information openness of the governing bodies taking into account increasing transparency when evaluating the performance of the regional authorities.

28 July: the St.-Petersburg city court ruled in favor of Mr. I. confirming his right to have access to the official information concerning the construction of the West High Speed Diameter and canceling the earlier decisions made by Kuibyshevsky district court of St.-Petersburg on this case.

August

5 August: the St.-Petersburg city court obliged Frunzensky district court of St.-Petersburg to examine the case concerning invalidating the practice of collecting the users' personal data on the official websites for disclosing government contract information for Republic of Ingushetia.

12 August: Leninsky district court of St.-Petersburg obliged Admiralteysky district administration of St.-Petersburg to provide the plaintiff with the information concerning the total number of large families registered as those needing residential apartments.

27 August: Anna Popova, State Secretary, Deputy Minister of the Economic Development, chaired a meeting to discuss the suggestions made by the Federal Communications Agency (Rossvyaz) on using the existing post offices and infrastructure designed for providing postal and

communication services (including public Internet access outlets) for offering state and municipal services for the residents. During the meeting it was concluded that opening regional and district multifunctional centers at the post offices would provide ready availability of state and municipal services for citizens both in cities and in remote settlements.

Our experts have sufficient grounds to believe that this means the support of our practical conclusions at the state level: we have repeatedly voiced the idea of using post offices for providing state and municipal services, mentioning it in the National Report on Freedom of Information in Russia and in our research work including those carried out by request of the Russian Ministry of Economic Development.

September

The official website containing the government contracts information in the Republic of Ingushetia stopped requiring personal data, including passport details for providing access to the information placed there.

October

14 October: Frunzensky district court of St.-Petersburg legitimized the practice of collecting the users' personal data on the official website containing the government contracts information in the Republic of Ingushetia.

November

A new website of the Federal Archive Agency (Rosarkhiv) was launched at <http://archives.ru/>.

12 November: a Russian Supreme Court judge ruled to provisionally defer acceptance of a claim filed by Ivan Pavlov to partly disable paragraph 18 of the Provision on the federal information fund of technical regulations and standards set by the Government Decree # 500 issued on 15 August, 2003. This paragraph sets the tariffs for providing information containing in the fund. In her ruling the judge required the plaintiff to "specify where exactly the provision of the contested regulation violate or may violate his rights, freedoms, and legal interests presenting the relevant evidence".

16 November: the Russian Government adopted Decree # 936 "On amending the Standard procedure rules of federal executive bodies internal structure" which requires all ministries, federal services and federal agencies to publish the information on their activities in the Internet on a regular basis. The Decree comes in force on 1 January, 2010 and all provisions of the document have been brought in line with the Russian FoI Law.

23 November: the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation legitimized the provisions of the Government decrees setting the tariffs for providing data from the Uniform State Register of Legal Entities (or EGRUL) and the Uniform State Register of Individual Entrepreneurs (or EGRIP).

24 November: the Russian Government adopted Decree # 953 "On access to information on the work of the government of the Russian Federation and federal executive bodies" Its coming into force on 1 January, 2010 will invalidate Decree # 98 issued on 12 February, 2003 that currently regulates the operation of official websites of the federal executive bodies. The new act sets stricter and more modern requirements for the executive bodies concerning disclosing information on their activities.

"Specify where exactly your rights have been violated" - this commonplace phrase clearly illustrates the present situation concerning the access to official information: quite often judges believe that the fact of existing of a regulatory legal act that violates the citizens' constitutional right to have an access to information is itself not a sufficient ground to initiate a lawsuit.

December

The Russian Federal Service for State Registration, Cadastral Records and Cartography (Rosreestr) launched its website at <http://www.rosreestr.ru/>.

2 December: the Russian Government adopted Decree # 984 “On the list of paid services provided by organizations for the purpose of rendering public services by federal executive bodies”. The list of chargeable state services has been reduced significantly as compared to the previous one but pricing procedure has not been clearly explained.

Chargeable services include “Providing information (copies) from the state information systems for the purpose of providing public services if such information (or such copy) is, according to the Russian law, necessary and mandatory for providing the appropriate public service”.

3 December: the Russian Government adopted Decree # 987 “On measures for enforcing the Presidential decrees #559 issued 18 May, 2009, #561 issued 18 May, 2009, and # 1065 issued 21 September, 2009”. According to the Decree, all the data concerning the state officials’ revenues and property should be available in the Internet.

Media coverage of our experts' activities

In 2009 our activities attracted a lot of media attention. One of the reasons behind it is that broad state campaigns promoting the implementation of information technologies, the development of state services portal, and the e-Government at both federal and regional levels were underway throughout the year.

The results achieved through research and through legal practice were commented on by printed media resources including “Izvestia”, “Kommersant”, “Novaya Gazeta”, “Delovoy Peterburg”, “Moy Raion”, “Delovoye Povolzhye”, “Ploschad Truda”.

Radio presentations became a good tradition: grounds for discussions over most pressing issues were provided by “Echo Moskvy”, radio “Svoboda”, “City-FM”. Vladimir Golubev, our expert, made numerous comments on a most urgent issue: accessibility of information concerning state procurements.

Note that *Memorial* case attracted a lot of media attention. Let us remind you that since December, 2008 Ivan Pavlov as a lawyer represented the interests of the *Memorial* human rights group. The cooperation of the two public organizations proved to be successful: we managed to protect the *Memorial* rights in court.

For months this case was closely followed by both Russian and international community. *Memorial* was supported by historians, scholars, archive workers, journalists and politicians. Actions of Ivan Pavlov in this case and the conflict in general were covered by the following online resources: www.rian.ru, www.rosbalt.ru, lenta.ru, www.ng.ru, www.utro.ru, www.newsru.com, www.tv100.ru, www.kommersant.ru, www.echomsk.spb.ru, www.interfax.ru, www.regnum.ru, www.novayagazeta.spb.ru, www.baltinfo.ru, www.gazeta.spb.ru, www.bia-news.ru, www.lenizdat.ru, www.polit.ru, www.zaks.ru, www.fontanka.ru, www.regions.ru, www.vremya.ru and others. TV also showed interest in our activities. Reports and comments on various topics were aired by NTV, Ren-TV, Russia TV channel, TV-5, 100-TV and Vesti-RTR.

On 12 November, President Dmitry Medvedev said in his address to the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation that to develop our country we have to be guided by the people's actual needs including the access to information.

Maria Mescheryakova, www.lenizdat.ru

“Yesterday I read the comments that our citizens wrote following my video addresses in blogs and in livejournal.com forums. They say: it is great you started that. Some agencies have excellent websites, easy to use, containing good data. But others are really awful. Incomprehensible. Complete nonsense”.

Dmitry Medvedev, President of Russia

Great public attention was attracted to the results of the 2008 Monitoring of administrative bodies' official websites. Russian President Dmitry Medvedev is also showing great interest to accessibility of information on official websites.

Electronic media of various kinds are continuing covering the Institute activities and accessibility of information issues. A lot of publications were made in 2009 in online resources

cnews.ru, www.lenizdat.ru, www.zaks.ru, www.baltinfo.ru, www.bia-news.ru, www.kavkaz-uzel.ru, www.metronews.ru, www.gorzakaz.org.

Do you want to help us?

You can help Russian authorities to become more transparent and responsible!

You can participate in our activities in different ways:

Financial

Our organization is funded through grants, target and charity donations. Your financial support can provide our non-commercial activities. For more details on rendering us financial support please contact us at support@svobodainfo.org.

Advice

We do need your opinion on how we can operate more effectively! Please share your opinions, ideas, comments, and suggestions at support@svobodainfo.org.

Personal participation

Take part in our public campaigns to protect freedom of information. The information concerning our public campaigns can be found on our website at www.svobodainfo.org.

With your volunteer work

We welcome all volunteers, especially:

- Translators (English/Russian)
- Lawyers
- Journalists, bloggers, writers
- Sociologists
- IT specialists
- Russian and foreign students who are interested in the issues of information freedom

NGO checks by the Russian Ministry of Justice

In 2009 the St.-Petersburg and Leningrad Region Administration of the Russian Ministry of Justice conducted a routine check of NGOs. Such checks usually end in making a conclusion on whether the activities of a particular organization (especially in terms of budget spendings and use of property) are in compliance with the Russian legislation and the constituent documents of the organization.

In 2009 among those checked was the Institute for Information Freedom Development. Within the check, the Ministry of Justice inspectors required full documentation for the accounting period (years 2006-2008). All the required documents were timely presented by the organizations.

The check resulted in cautioning our organization accusing us of violating the valid law.

According to the Ministry inspectors, the principal violation was that the organization activities “are not aimed at providing assistance to the partnership members as required by the Law on NGOs but are rather aimed at any number of unspecified persons”.

The accusation that our activities are aimed at the society on the whole rather than at the partnership members is absurd since the activities of any NGO are to a certain extent aimed at achieving social goals i.e. at any number of unspecified persons.

In addition, to conclude whether the organization is aimed at providing assistance to its members in performing activities in favor of the society on the whole, the inspectors had to define what exactly our staff members are engaged in. However, the Ministry officials did not require proper explanations from the staff members; neither did they examine any documents related to the nature of their activities.

It should also be noted that the strictness of the checks of some local NGOs including our organization attracted the attention of the Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. The President told the Council for the Promotion of Civil Society Institutions and Human Rights on 23 November, 2009, that he would personally control the issue concerning the Ministry of Justice checks in three most notable organizations including ours.

Appealing the caution in the superior body, the Russian Ministry of Justice gave no result; so the lawyers of the Institute filed a lawsuit. The case involving our lawyers' complaint will be heard in 2010.

Organization prospects for 2010

1 January, 2010 the new Federal law titled “On providing access to information on the activities of government bodies and bodies of local self-government” came into force; and another the act called “On providing access to information on the activities of courts in the Russian Federation” will come into force since 1 July, 2010. Consequently, our main task is to develop a positive experience of applying the provisions of these statutory acts.

- Monitoring government bodies' official websites remains the key project of 2010. The research methods will be brought in line with new requirements set by the regulatory legal acts. Expanding the list of research subjects is also planned: apart from the official websites of the federal executive bodies, executive and legislative bodies of the Russian Federation subjects, the official websites belonging to local agencies of certain federal executive bodies, courts of general jurisdiction, and arbitration courts will also be analyzed.

While analyzing the information placed on the official websites, our experts are going to evaluate it not just by the main parameters (its availability and quality) but also to check whether the format and ways of presenting the data are in conformity with the technological, linguistic and program requirements set by the valid law.

The analysis of the accessibility of information on the governmental bodies' official websites designed for disclosing government contract data will also be continued.

- In the coming year our experts will develop and publish methods for preparing and conducting monitoring of the information openness of the governmental official websites that would include theory and practice of analyzing the websites' content. The publication will be of interest for the specialists interested in promoting availability of information concerning governmental bodies' operation in the Internet.

Our nearest plans include launching a social monitoring system. Creating a user-friendly forum is planned for discussing authorities' official websites where visitors would be able to leave comments and make suggestions aimed at improving and developing the governmental agencies' official websites.

- Regional development in regions will become a priority for organization activities in 2010.

The project goal is getting more interested citizens and organizations involved in discussing and solving problems related to information access in Russia.

One of the reasons accounting for the weak public interest to this problem is insufficient legal literacy of the population. In order to promote it, our staff members are going to arrange educational workshops.

We shall also continue cooperating with the groups concerned with providing access to information in the post-Soviet countries (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan).

■ Protecting citizens' right to have access to information remains to be our main priority. A number of lawsuits are planned to be filed this year, in particular, aiming at:

- contesting subordinate legislative acts stipulating chargeable access to the governmental information that is contrary to the federal law;
- contesting nonfeasance of the governmental bodies that fail to place their information systems in the Internet although this is required by law;
- providing researchers and other interested parties with the access to archive materials;
- providing access to information that has been groundlessly classified as state secret or official secret.

■ In 2010 the following materials prepared by the Institute staff will be published: methods book "Access to information in the Russian Federation", comments on the Federal law "On providing access to information on the activities of government bodies and bodies of local self-government" and to the Federal law "On providing access to information on the activities of courts in the Russian Federation".

In 2010 a new website of the organization will be launched; the quality changes will allow us to increase the number of analytical materials prepared by our experts and to provide feedback between the users of the website and the organization staff.

New interesting sections will be created. We plan to release a database of the state officials' income and property declarations so that we could conclude whether the officials perform their duty to disclose their income data in the Internet scrupulously.

We hope that many of our initiatives will be supported by the socially active citizens who will start using the opportunities granted by the new legislation concerning access to information.

OUR SUPPORTERS FOR 2009

Charitable Foundations

The Tides Foundation

www.tides.org

The Tides Foundation has been working in the US since 1976 with the goal of investing in positive social change. The Tides Foundation believes that through progressive measures, such as the observance and promotion of human rights and justice, as well as the creation of a stable and prosperous environment, it can make positive changes in peoples' lives. Tides Foundation grants to IIFD come through the generous support of the Gagarin Trust. The Gagarin Trust is the philanthropic legacy fund of Andrew Gagarin, a long-time human rights activist and supporter of development of NGOs in Russia. IIFD is particularly grateful to the Gagarin Trust for providing seed funding to make the work of our organization possible in 2004.

National Endowment for Democracy

www.ned.org

The National Endowment for Democracy is an independent and non-profit organization that was founded in the US in 1983 with the aim of assisting and strengthening democratic institutions around the world by supporting non-governmental organizations and groups. The fund is run by a board of directors that is fully independent, meaning that it does not share any form of partnership with any association or political party. The Fund operates on the principle that freedom is humanity's universal goal and it can be achieved through the growth of democratic institutions, systems, and values. It believes democracy cannot be achieved through a single election and need not be based upon the model of the United States or any other particular country.

Open Society Institute

www.soros.org

The Open Society Institute (OSI) is a private operating and grant making foundation created in 1993 by investor and philanthropist George Soros. Today, its offices work in 60 countries on all continents. OSI aims to shape public policy to promote democratic governance, human rights, and economic, legal, and social reform. On a local level, OSI implements a range of initiatives to support the rule of law and development of civil society institutions. At the same time OSI works to build alliances across borders and continents on issues such as education, public health, independent media, and combating corruption and rights abuses.

European Instrument for Democracy & Human Rights (EIDHR)

The European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights was created by the European Parliament in 1994 to support both the activities of civil society working for human rights and democracy and the efforts of international organizations. It was renamed the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) in December 2006. The EIDHR works with Russian and European NGOs as well as with international organizations in addition to traditional co-operation between Russian and the EU. The key objectives of the EIDHR are: enhancing respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in countries and regions where they are most at risk; strengthening the role of civil society in promoting human rights and democratic reform; supporting and strengthening the international and regional framework for the protection of human rights; building confidence in and enhancing the reliability and transparency of democratic electoral processes.

Oak Foundation

Oak Foundation Ltd. is a group of charitable and philanthropic organizations established in various countries. It commits its resources to address issues of global social and environmental concern, particularly those that have a major impact on the lives of the disadvantaged. Among the Oak's program priorities and areas of particular emphasis there are: climate change issues; marine conservation; protecting rights of women, children, and homeless people.

Oak Foundation's overall approach includes: target root causes; demonstrate solutions that can be adopted by permanent providers and/or by government; promote collaboration among organizations and funders; involve the target population in the planning and implementation of the projects.

The Oak's activities are primarily aimed to implement long-term projects, especially within overcoming the world economic crisis consequences.

2009 Financial Statement

Institute for Information Freedom Development

Revenues

<i>Source</i>	<i>2008 Balance (thousand rubles)</i>	<i>2009 Revenue (thousand rubles)</i>	<i>Total (thousand rubles)</i>
National Endowment for Democracy	224		224
EIDHR	338	576	914
Total Revenues	562	576	1138

Expenses

Program expenses (thousand rubles)

Salaries	281
Taxes and duties	122
Printing expenses	7
Experts' fees	561
Total program expenses	971

Administrative expenses (thousand rubles)

Salaries	39
Taxes and duties	17
Bank fees	2
Office expenses	59
Communication and Internet	42
Literature	8
Total administrative expenses	167

Total Expenses for 2009 **1138**

2010 Balance **0**

Freedom of Information Foundation

Revenues

<i>Source</i>	<i>2008 Balance (thousand rubles)</i>	<i>2009 Revenue (thousand rubles)</i>	<i>Total (thousand rubles)</i>
Tides Foundation	-	1336	1336
Open Society Institute	515	4877	5392
National Endowment for Democracy	-	2334	2334
<i>Total Revenues</i>	515	8547	9062

Expenses

Program expenses (thousand rubles)

Salaries	2158
Taxes and duties	863
Travel expenses	154
Experts' fees	2016
Communication and Internet	77
<i>Total program expenses</i>	5268

Administrative expenses (thousand rubles)

Salaries	276
Taxes and duties	126
Bank fees	20
Office rent	186
Office expenses	72
Office equipment	106
Communications and Internet	91
Literature	11
Postage	25
<i>Total administrative expenses</i>	913

Total Expenses for 2009

6181

2010 Balance

2881

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