

# Comparative analysis of the role of NGOs and the State in Social Inclusion of Older Adults in Russia

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# Who is an older person in Russia?

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Pensionable age

- 55 Women
- 60 Men

Life expectancy (2008)

- Women 73
- Men 62

- **Education:**

- 90% secondary education
- 60 % professional and higher education

Number of older persons 30mln (of 141 mln)

Minimal pension at 46% of official cost of living

USSR

Russian

Federation



# Welfare State / Welfare Society Ideology

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- Disjunctions of past Soviet ideology and present capitalist mentality
- Skepticism and fear of any civic engagement activities and volunteering independent of Government
- Funding (no culture of giving)
- Historical dependence on governmental solutions
- Authorities' fear of responsibility and any organized activities



# Paternalistic Approach

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- “older persons need assistance, need rest, need to be taken care of, cannot contribute to the society any more, have to be respected for their previous contributions to the society”.
- “older persons are helpless victims, are the poorest, have rigid stereotypes, do not possess the qualities necessary to survive within the new capitalist paradigm, and therefore are a financial burden for the young”.



# Policies

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- Driven by Declaration of Rights of Older Persons
- 1995 the law “About Social services for older persons and pensioners” **based of the principles of “humanity and mercy”**.
- 1997 the Federal Program “Older Generation” with the declared objective **«to create conditions for improving the lives of older adults with the development and improvement of the network of social service organizations, educational, leisure and other services and enabling older people to fully participate in the social life and activities»**.



# State Agencies Dealing with Ageing

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- ***Ministry of Healthcare and Social Development***
  - Federal Supervisory Authority on the Consumer Rights and Personal well being
  - Federal Supervisory Authority on Healthcare and Social Development
  - Federal Supervisory Authority on Labor and Employment
  - Pension Fund of the Russian Federation
  - Social Insurance Fund of the Russian Federation
  - Fund of Obligatory Health Insurance of the Russian Federation

***BUT***

***NO agency or program working specifically with the elderly***



# The Ministry's Agenda

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- To improve demographics, and the situation of families with children, and children in difficult life conditions.
- To raise the level of the wealth in the nation, to decrease the levels of poverty and inequality of income.
- To improve the quality and accessibility of healthcare and drugs prescription, especially for the low-income groups of the population, to ensure a safe medical and sanitation environment.
- To improve the effectiveness of the systems of social security and social services, especially for older persons and persons with disabilities.
- To assist citizens in job security and ensure observance of the labor code and citizens' rights in the job market.



# **R** *Social Service Centers for retired persons and persons with disabilities*

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- Dining services and day care facilities.
- Food and clothes shelf or monetary support
- Social work
- Temporary living facilities

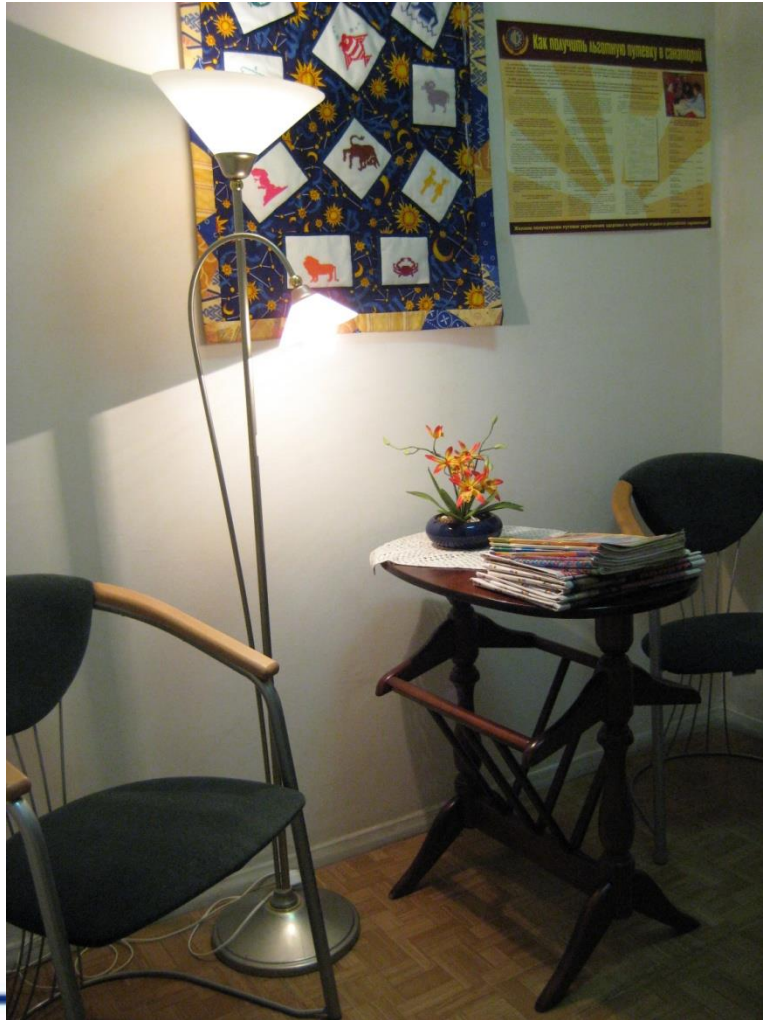


# *Social Service Centers*





# Social Service Centers





# Nursing Homes

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- The last resort if nothing else is available



# *Problems of the public sector*

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- Low quality of services
- Lack of financial resources
- Lack of variety
- Mixed attitudes



# Role of Civil Society / NGO's / Private Sector

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- Filling the gap!



# Types of NGOs

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- Clubs and universities of the “third (older) age”
- Charities and nonprofits
- Partisan and advocate organizations



# Types of NGOs: Older Persons' Associations

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- Veterans' councils
- Pensioners' Alliance
  
- Pensioners' Party





# Senior Resource Center Wisdom Ripening





# Senior Resource Center Wisdom Ripening





# Senior Resource Center Wisdom Ripening

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# Senior Resource Center Wisdom Ripening





# Coalition “For the Rights of the Elderly”

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- Advocacy
- Policy
- Integration of efforts

# **R** *Problems of the Nonprofit Sector*

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- Mistrust by the population
- Lack of publicity and presence in the media
- Lack of donation culture
- Lack of civic engagement. Post-Soviet “allergy” towards volunteering
- Uncertainty of relationships with the government



# State vs NGOs

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- Basic needs vs Social inclusion



# Thank You!

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