

International and Russian Experience of Volunteer Activity: History, Modern Situation and Future ProspectsNina Mikhailovna Pestereva*¹, Olga Sergeevna Nadeina², Larissa Aleksandrovna Savinkina¹¹Department of Personnel Management and Labour Economics, Far Eastern Federal University, Russia²Department of State and Municipal Management, Far Eastern Federal University, Russia* Corresponding author: pnm_06@mail.ru

Abstract: Volunteering is the powerful international movement represented by the organizations almost in the whole world. Development of volunteering in every country depends on historic, demographic, cultural, social, economic, natural and other specific features. Volunteer Movement (VM) is becoming more and more popular and demanded; the level of engagement into VM in the different countries varies from few to 33-35%. Unfortunately, in Russia the volunteering still has not become a normal routine practice, however in the last decade the volunteering has also been growing in our country. Unfortunately VM Engagement Index of Russian citizens is still below 9%, despite the fact that society is facing a lot of socially significant tasks, fulfillment of which is directly associated with the VM. In this article we try to summarize the leading foreign countries experience in the area of volunteering institution development as the important social and economic factor of citizens volunteering activity by engaging them into the disinterested activity. We have considered the main types and forms of the VM support including the governmental supporting measures, regulatory framework, private and public partnership and international cooperation. This article is an attempt to summarize the leading foreign countries experience in the area of volunteering institution development as the important social and economic factor of citizens volunteering activity. Creation and successful development of the volunteering institution in Russia at the modern stage of social development is performed taking into account the foreign countries experience.

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1. Introduction

Volunteering is the powerful international movement represented by the organizations almost in the whole world. United Nations define the concept of volunteering as the wide variety for actions services including the conventional forms of mutual aid, self-aid and other forms of the civil engagement performed by the citizens (individually or collectively) in favor of the third parties or society in general without remuneration based on the free and conscious choice [1]. The governments of many countries are using the volunteering resource by financing its projects and supporting its contribution into implementation of governmental programmes on youth support and solving of public problems [2]. The youth volunteering has gained gain widespread in the whole world and its role in the social development of the community has been highly praised at the international level [3].

The important property of the volunteering activity is its bidirectional nature, i. d. it is useful not only for those the assistance is rendered to, but also for volunteers themselves. This is the reason, why the motives causing the volunteering activity can be both altruistic and corresponding to the human needs, which is especially important for young people and students. This allows them to feel their social

significance, find support for their initiatives, gain new skills and knowledge, implement their own ideas, try themselves in the different field in order to determine their future profession [4, 5].

In Russian Federation (RF) the volunteering has the centuries-long history, its own specific features and forms of appearance [6]. Especially active this phenomenon has developed since 1990 and up till now. The important influence upon the development of modern volunteer movement (VM) in Russian Federation is exerted by the experience of foreign countries [7, 8]. Nowadays there is a need for consideration of the main stages and peculiarities of the volunteering development both in RF and abroad, evaluation of the foreign countries experience, governmental and public support measures, determination of the international integration role and assessment of the VM development prospects in Russia.

2. Methodological aspects and approaches

Social and Historic Pre-requisites for Volunteer Movement Origination. In general, the volunteering as an idea of social service is as ancient as the society concept itself. The history of mankind can hardly name the society unfamiliar with ideas of voluntary and disinterested assistance. In any society there

always have been the people, for whom the labor for the benefit of community they have born and lived in is the way of self-actualization, self-improvement, connection and communication with other people [4].

In some countries the volunteering system that had existed before the introduction of compulsory universal military obligation was the main way of recruiting to the army (e.g., in United Kingdom before the World War I in 1914-1918). The volunteer battalions and squadron integrated into the regular army existed in Austro-Hungary, Italy and France in the XVIII – first half of the XIX. In the second half on the nineteenth century the volunteering system lost its significance almost in all states; as a way of recruiting it preserved only in United Kingdom (since 1961) and as additional to the regular armed forces, especially during the war, in some countries [7,8, 9].

It is absolutely certain that in all pre-historic societies mutual aid was necessary condition for survival in the rural area. People gathered the harvest, constructed the houses and repaired the roads together. Probably, in the XIX century the industrialization, increased role of money, and, consequently, autonomy and anonymity following the urbanization impoverished such values as mutual aid.

In 1920 these values were revived as an antidote from hate born by the World War I. That summer a group of volunteers from Austria, England, Germany and Sweden – some of them were the former soldiers, i.e. former enemies – has gathered together in order to restore the village near the Verdun destroyed in a battle that had taken more than million of lives. This first in the whole history of the mankind international volunteer camp gave birth to the first volunteer movement that still exists nowadays. It has a French name Service Civil International (International Civil Service), shortly S.C.I. [10]. Volunteer service quickly gained widespread in 1920s and 1930s. In that time such volunteering organizations were considered to be the way of establishing the friendly relations between the young people of different European countries. During the severe economic crisis of 1929 many outcries from USA to Bulgaria organized the volunteer work in order to occupy the unemployed young people with something useful to a society and provide them with bed and the food [10]. In 1934 S.C.I. sent four European volunteers in India to help the poor people. This team became a predecessor of such organizations as British Volunteer Program, US Peace Corps, German Development Service and other groups performing long-term volunteer actions. These organizations, in their turn, preceded the United Nations Volunteer Program. After the World War II young volunteers made significant contribution to the restoration of Europe. Their activity under such projects as Warszawa City Center building, Western

Europe destroyed cities restoration and Fraternity-Unity Motorway construction in Yugoslavia promoted the establishment of friendly international relations.

International Experience of Volunteer Movement Development. An important step in the development of international volunteer movement was taken by the UNESCO and its Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service founded in 1948. At the beginning of 1960s Americans participated in the international volunteer working camps in Soviet Union, GDR and Hungary. Volunteers from the East also took part in the international volunteer camp activity. The dawn of the volunteer movement of 1970s accounts for UN Volunteer Program [3]. Japan, USA, Canada, Austria, England, Italy and other developed countries believe that volunteering activity promotes maintaining and supporting the main principles of democracy, first of all by engaging the large number of citizens into the process of decision-making [11-17]. The governments of those countries provide the every possible diversified support to the volunteer movement inter alia by adopting the various statutory acts promoting its development, creation of the governmental volunteer center system and special volunteer programmes. Thus, in Japan there is a system of volunteer centers which incorporates the national, prefectural and municipal centers opened at the all municipal corporations and in private sector. Ministries of Japan are temporary made responsible for volunteering activity activation [12].

On December 17th, 1985 United National proclaimed the International Volunteer Day that is celebrated on December 5th. The main idea of its implementation is to support the youth volunteering; promote and recognize the role and contribution of young volunteers into the social and economic development of the countries; assist the achievement of Millennium Development Goals adopted by the UN Member States on the Millennium Summit (2000), the most important of which is alleviating of poverty [3].

Coordination of the international volunteer movement is performed by the number of the most famous international volunteer organizations:

1. UNV (United Nations Volunteers) – Organization directly cooperating with United Nations and supporting the consistent global development on the planet by promoting the ideas of volunteering and volunteer mobilization for fulfillment specific practical tasks on the planet;

2. SCI (Service Civil International) – International volunteer organization founded in 1920 and represented by the 33 branches in the whole world. Its tasks are to promote the ideas of peace, international mutual aid and solidarity, social fairness and environmental protection;

3. YAP (Youth Action for Peace) – International youth organization that has been operating since 1923 by promoting ideas of peace and cooperation between the countries, while actively campaigning against military conflicts;

4. ICYE (International Cultural Youth Exchange) – ICYE started its activity in 1949 and now is represented by more than 30 Branches in the countries of Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America;

5. Alliance (Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organizations) – Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organizations was founded in 1982. It is the coordinating center for European national volunteer organizations;

6. CCIVS (Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service) – Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service was founded in 1948 under the aegis of UNESCO. CCIVS coordinates the activity of more than 250 national volunteer organizations in 100 countries;

7. AVSO (Association of Voluntary Service Organization) – Association of Voluntary Service Organization coordinates the activity of European volunteer organizations and promotes the volunteering interests at the level of national governments, social institutions and public organization;

8. World4u is the most famous Russian volunteer organization cooperating with many international volunteer associations indicated above. It implements various projects on the territory of Russian Federation and the volunteer international exchange programmes [6].

According to the amount of time spent by the volunteers, the types of the volunteer activity are distributed as follows: fundraising – 50%; cooking and dispensation of food to the poor people – 31%; education, spreading of information – 28%; administration – 26%.

In USA the peak of the volunteering took place in the 30s of XX century when around 3 million of young people participated in the volunteer activity. Volunteer organization called Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was founded by Franklin Roosevelt in order to decrease the level of unemployment. Its activity was supported by almost 90% of population. During the war the CCC activity was ceased. The next peak of volunteer movement was in 1961 when President Kennedy founded the organization called Servants of Peace. This organization gained support of the most part of the universities [18]. In 80s President Reagan did not support the CCC and volunteer movement sunk into degradation. During those years only 8 thousands of young people participated in the movement. Starting with 1993, under the reign of President Clinton, volunteer movement reached its largest incidence. One of the peculiarities of the

Clinton programmes was initiating the involvement of young people into the youth services both before and after graduating from University. USA government actively supports the volunteer movement. In 2003 G. Bush founded the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation and one year prior – the USA Freedom Corps for support and coordination of work volunteer. He also supports the American Corps and National Service Corporation founded by B. Clinton. Under the reign of the previous Presidents the voluntary service center network was founded and the number of governmental programmes based on the volunteer labor was initiated. Those programmes are amended by the corporation volunteer programmes.

The USA was the first country to realize that the volunteer movement can make a significant contribution not only in the solution of social, environmental and other “conventional” problems, but also in the case of fighting the terrorism and ensuring the security. After the 9.11 tragedy Administration of Bush proposed the project of legislation providing the enhancement of the national volunteer programmes aimed at increasing the efficiency of socially useful work performed by the teachers, healthcare professionals, firemen, policemen and officers of emergency service. According to this plan, the volunteers are offered to accept the administrative functions for those who possess the special technical skills could dedicate their time and energy to the tasks, for which they are professionally trained. The millions of Americans, sharing the idea that there was an urgent necessity for participation of volunteers in the ensuring the internal safety, answered the designated task of creating the organized network of volunteers ready and able to deal with the emergency situations regardless of the place where they arose, and first of all, to ensure the security of the houses, residential districts and schools.

The situation with the volunteer movement in USA provides the significant benefits for the volunteers including the facilitated employment into the most prestige commercial companies. The USA possesses the richest experience of the volunteer activity in the whole world where even 4 year old children are involved in the volunteering. The volunteering is also represented by the multiple volunteer movement centers both religious and worldly. These organizations maintain the hospitals for the people who are unable to pay, schools, homeless shelters hospices for medical insurance, telephone crisis hotlines.

The History of Volunteer Movement Development in Russia. In Russia the idea of volunteering throws back to the depth of the Russian history when the Russians brought up on the moral and ethical traditions of the orthodoxy rendered the disinterested

assistance to their fellow citizens. The development of volunteering in Russia started soon after 988 with adoption of Christianity. The tradition of labor to the glory of God where the volunteers came to the monasteries to work for free exists in the Russian orthodox environment even nowadays. One of the brightest pages in the history of Russian volunteering and, in particular, volunteering in Moscow is associated with the Russian and Turkish War. At the end of the 1870s the nuns of the Svyato-Nikolayevskaya Nunnery became the first sisters of mercy in the word who voluntary went to the front in order to provide care to the wounded soldiers. At the beginning of World War I with movement also spread among the volunteer women abroad (Red Cross) [6]. After the October 1917 the volunteering in Russia became of “voluntary-compulsory” nature. The initiative that previously had belonged to the private persons and public organizations was fully seized by government [19]. At the beginning of 90s of the past century the volunteering in RF started to gradually revive facing a lot of problems that are generally unknown to the foreign volunteers, at every step.

The concept, content and form of the volunteer labor in the modern Russia started to develop simultaneously with origination of the third sector of economy (90s) that consists of the nonprofit, public and charity organizations. Their activity is regulated by the federal laws including the Law on Volunteering Activity and Nonprofit Organizations (SL-135 dated July 7th 1995 r.) that gives the following legal definition of the volunteer term: “Volunteers are the citizens who perform the charity work in form of the disinterested labor to the benefit of the beneficiary including the interest of nonprofit organization» [20]. In the following years many subjects of Russian Federation adopted the regional law on volunteering activity [21, 22], on cooperation between the governmental authorities with the nonprofit organizations [23], on charity, arts patronage and sponsor activity [24] and many other. Therefore, the certain regulatory framework was created that allows development and support of the volunteer movement not only by means of the private sponsor donations, but also by means of the governmental support.

Current Situation with the Volunteer Movement in Russia. Nowadays the volunteering in Russian Federation is enjoying a new boom. More and more people realize the necessity for personal engagement into solution of problems, our society and government are facing, and are ready to dedicated their own time, knowledge and experience to this task on a non-repayable basis.

At the end of the 90s the youth and teenager associations of different direction, nonprofit and public organizations directing their activity at the

engagement of young volunteers into the solving of social problems were founded. In opinion of the most researchers, the period between the end of XX – beginning of XXI century is characterized as “the age of the revival of volunteering activity and beginning of establishment of volunteer movement as the factor promoting the civil society development”. Nowadays there is the Union of Russian Charitable Organizations uniting around 3 thousands of the Russian charitable organizations and funds. There are also around 70 major foreign charitable funds currently operating in Russia [25].

Judging by the data of nongovernmental sources, if 10-15 years ago only 1.5 - 2% of Russian population took part in the volunteering activity, then nowadays this figure is around 9%. On the one hand, it is definitely a significant step forwards, but on the other hand, the same figure in the USA and leading countries of European Union is 30-35%. According to the data of Ministry of Sport and Tourism of Russian Federation, the share of young people participating in the volunteering activity in the total number of youth in 2010 equaled to 11 % and in 2012 – 18 %.

Some characteristics of the Russian volunteer movement are provided in [26-28]. In general, 1500 public organizations from the 52 regions of Russia were examined. Directions of their activity cover almost all primary areas of life (social field, education, culture, ecology, security, healthcare). More than half (52%) of such organizations do not have the employees receiving remuneration and the whole their activity is based only on the volunteers. The total number of volunteers in the examined organizations equals to 109286 people. One quarter of them works at the organizations more than 2 times per week (regular volunteers). The typical activities for this category are the work with documentation and arrangement of events. However, the most part (81150 people) perform the volunteering activity only from time to time (temporary volunteers) are attracted by the organization only when it is necessary. In 48% organizations regular volunteer spends 2-2,5 hours of his time daily, while only around 6% of volunteers work on the terms of full employment (8 fours per day) [27, 28].

Another type of the volunteering activity is fundraising, organization of the nonprofit fund for collecting the funds for treatment of the specific patient or child or in order to help the patients suffering from the specific disease. If individual is not able to dedicated his time to the charity, he, probably, will afford to partially finance the saving of someone’s life. Often the fundraisers collect the money necessary for expensive surgery over the whole country literally from the pocket change.

One of the less popular types of the volunteering activity in Russia is cultural volunteering [29]. Now this direction is being slowly implemented into the RD practice. For example, today eighteen volunteers are busy at the State Hermitage Museum. They participate in the museum informational support, work with visitors, sponsors and donors and also help in the arrangement of press-conferences, anniversary events and marketing researches. This direction has very wide prospects. Unfortunately, unlike the countries of Europe, America and Asia, the level of this activity development in Russia remains extremely low. The volunteer labor is almost not used for performing the public works or supporting the nonprofit and governmental organizations [30].

The good sign is the activation of school volunteer movement not only in such large cities as Moscow or Saint-Petersburg, but also in the number of smaller cities. Volunteering movement in schools covers even the youngest students. School volunteering programmes for children implies performance of the re programmes reasonable socially useful work according to their possibilities. School volunteers do the collection of things, arrangement of the holiday concerts for orphaned children and giving the presents to the veterans of war. Besides that the modern school volunteer movement implies the participation of students in the various socially significant projects, for example, actions dedicated to the healthy lifestyle, environmental meetings, etc. School volunteer movement has the great moral and education significance. This is the guarantee that our children will grow honest and open people, always ready to help their neighbors without seeking for profit [31].

The important catalyst of the Russian volunteering movement development at the beginning of XXI century is the major international projects. For example, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit (September 2012, Vladivostok), Universiade (July 2013, Kazan), XXII Olympics and XI Paralympic Games "Sochi-2014" (February-March 2014, Sochi) and others. Around 35 thousands of the Russian and foreign volunteers participated in the preparation and implementation of these events.

For selection and training of volunteers for Sochi-2014 project the state adopted a number of legislative initiatives [32], developed federal program for creation of the Sochi-2014 university volunteer center network [33], created the regional and municipal center of volunteer training [34]. The university Olympics volunteer training network consisted of 26 centers located over the whole territory of Russian Federation: from Vladivostok and Yakutsk to the Moscow, Kaliningrad and Sochi. Ministry of Education and Science conducted the

competitive selection whose participants were 126 educational institutions.

Volunteer training programmer is one of the largest and innovative projects of the Sochi-2014 Olympics that engaged in regions of Russian Federation into Olympics preparation. Unlike the most countries where the Olympics had been previously held, the volunteer movement in Russian Federation was only at the stage of formation. In July 2010, thanks to the initiative of the Sochi-2014 Organizational Committee, the Russian legislation fixed the concept of the Olympics volunteer. It allowed regulation of the administrative issues related to the volunteer work at the major international events (insurance, food and beverage, transportation, attraction of the foreign volunteers).

The emergence of the international sport event volunteer training infrastructure is historic event which significantly changed the current situation with volunteer movement in our country. The possibility to take part in the competitive selection was provided to everyone. The main requirements to the candidates were personal involvement, benevolence, ability to work hard, willingness to help and cooperate to learn and work.

Key Direction of the Olympics Volunteers Training: Transport, Medicine, Technologies, Doping Control, Servicing the Delegations and Teams, Procedures, Linguistic Services, Communications and Press, Administrational Activity and Accreditation, Ceremonies, Service, Servicing the Events and Work with Spectaculars, Special Olympics Peculiarities.

The Russian Olympics volunteer training was performed taking into account the international experience under the aegis of International Olympics Committee (MOK) and Autonomous Nonprofit Organization Orgkomitet Sochi-2014. This priceless experience in the Russian volunteer institution development can hardly be overvalued.

3. Results and Discussion

Motivation of Citizens to Participate in the Volunteering Activity. The most common motivation is the willingness to help the people in need, desire to make the world better, self-actualization, hope to spend a good time, gain new knowledge and professional skills, make new friends. It is possible to determine the prevailing motivation in every age a social group. Thus, for example, the retirees in their volunteering activity see the opportunity to "prove their pertinence and usefulness for society", the chance to "return to the Soviet system of relations between the people based on the mutual aid and collective lifestyle". The survey conducted among the Moscow retirees showed that 8,4% of respondents, being badly in need for social, material other help by

themselves are ready to work in public organization that render to assistance to other people in need on the non-repayable basis [35].

The most common volunteering activity in Russian Federation is helping the children left without care of parents. It can be a single-time actions on collecting the New-Year gifts and throwaway nappies (the purchase of which, by the way, is not planned for the orphanages), or long term regular follow-up of such children even after the graduating from governmental care institutions, or organizations of the animation programmes, or help in the medical care and education of children. The volunteers are welcomed both in the orphanages and temporary care centers for troubled teenager; there are more and more charitable organizations rendering the legal and psychological assistance to the adoptive parents – the most “advertised” national problem does not leave many decent and kind people cold [36].

The volunteer also pay attention to the healthcare institutions that traditionally experience the lack of junior medical personnel. Assistance in patient care, reading aloud, communication, attendance of children with severe diseases who are hospitalized without parents – the attentive and responsible assistants are always needed at the hospital. The movements of helping the poor and sick people are also organized under the churches and other religious institutions [37].

Based on the examined volunteer motivation the following trends can be observed: the youth tends to get the non-financial benefits, people of the middle age want to work in the well-organized group and the older generation seeks for emotional and psychological satisfaction. The survey conducted among the students of schools, colleges and universities of Tolyatti showed the following most common motives of volunteering activity: “desire to do the good”, “desire to help the people in need”, “desire to improve the situation in the city”. Also there are such motives as “getting new experience”, “opportunity to meet the new people”, “intention to solve the personal problem” [37].

Weaknesses of the Volunteer Movement Development in Russian Federation. The main weakness of the volunteer movement development in Russia at the current stage, in our opinion, is insufficient number of the volunteer projects participants (around 9%) as compared to the leading foreign countries.

The next important weakness of the Russian volunteer movement development as compared to the foreign countries is extremely low share of the participants with disabilities. The work on improvement of quality of life of such people is now only being performed. Disabled people are often

considered as those who require support and assistance. But often people with disabilities by themselves have a lot of things to share with the society. Attraction of such people to the volunteering activity is another form of volunteering still quite exotic for Russia. However, it should be noted that the certain success in this direction is observed in the recent years.

The special programmes for people with disabilities called the Barrier-Free Environment was developed during the preparation to the Sochi-2014. All sportive constructions, public enterprises, service organizations, motor-vehicle, etc in the City of Sochi were equipped with the special technologies. The XI Winter Paralympic Games Volunteer training programmes stipulated the special groups for working with people with disabilities. The people with disabilities also undergo the training in those groups and hence fore took part in the activity of Sochi-2014 Winter Paralympic Games volunteer corps. Further, it is also planned to develop this experience and to enhance the specter of attracting the people with disabilities as the volunteers.

The current popularity of the volunteering in Russian Federation, especially after the Sochi-2014, has rapidly grown. One of the main constraining factors of the volunteer institution development is the absence of corresponding statutory acts allowing stimulation the volunteer labor at the legislative.

Unlike the American legislation fixing the various benefits provided to the volunteers including the discounts for organization production and free educational and cultural service, the Russian legislation does not provide for such benefits (according to the Art. 5 of the Law on Volunteering Activity and Nonprofit Organizations the volunteer labor is absolutely unpaid). As a result many Russian organizations in their practice have to deviate from the current legislation by providing volunteers with benefits. Besides that, another negative influence on the national volunteering development is the fact that this activity is not accounted as employment time [3].

Modern Internet Technologies of the Volunteer Movement Development. The distinctive feature of the modern volunteering development in Russian Federation is the spreading of volunteer Internet movement [38]. There is a tendency observed in recent time suggesting the coming of Internet communities into “real life”, and often the reason for such meeting is exactly the charity. The difficulty is that the activity of the separate Internet groups is not legally registered; licensed and generally is of the spontaneous nature. Nevertheless, many Internet communities start to perform the volunteering activity on the regular basis, undergo registration as nonprofit organizations and create their own websites.

Nowadays, powerful virtual volunteer movements can be observed almost in every region of country.

Volunteering can become not only a good reason for travelling, but also a way of getting new professional experience and personal enrichment. Today there are a lot of projects and programmes inviting the people from the whole world to join the volunteer team and, despite the fact that the lion share of them is the paid ones, there also a lot of free opportunities to join the useful good case.

The website of the Lifehacker Company offers the more than 200 free volunteer programmes for the year 2014 both abroad and within the territory of Russian Federation. For example, in Russia these are Valam Island (reservation), Priamurye (Khingansk reservation), Primorye (Leopard Land Reservation) and other. Volunteer projects 2014 abroad include the following: educational park Lzone (South Korea, Pusan), Temple of Tiger (and more 100 projects in Thailand); School of Nepal Project, etc. [39].

Economic Efficiency of the Volunteering Activity.

To evaluate the volunteering activity in monetary representation is quite difficult due to the wide variety of works performed by them and absence of system for their labor accounting and conventional evaluation method. Nevertheless, even the separate data can indicate the economic effect of the volunteering. In Europe the economic activity brings the different countries from 3 to 15% GDP [3]. In Russian Federation this figure is much lower, but the volunteering is rapidly and constantly growing in many cities of the country.

Thus, for example, for the one year of activity under the program called The Small Library initiated by the Institute of Civil Society Problems, the Moscow volunteers have worked more than 14200 hours. Questionnaire survey of the 150 Moscow charitable organizations has shown that 250 the most active volunteers have worked more than 13 thousand hours on the different jobs for the one year. In monetary representation this labor would be evaluated in the amount of around 70 thousand dollars.

Another example is the Olympics in Sidney where each dollar invested in the volunteer program brought 21 dollar of the cost of service of non-repayable basis. During the Olympics in Beijing the government engaged more half million of volunteers: 100 thousand people for sport objects and around 400 thousand city volunteers who worked on the 505 objects in the city.

4. Conclusion.

The volunteer institution in Russian Federation has a century-long history that has witnessed both the periods of successful development and the period of stagnation. Despite the certain success achieved in the

volunteering development during the last decades, the civil society and governmental authorities still have to apply some efforts in order to engage the citizens in volunteering activity at the level of leading foreign countries in the nearest future.

One of the main factors determining the activation of volunteering activity of the RF population in the recent year are the major international events (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit, Universiade, Sochi-2014 Winter Olympics), in preparation of which the volunteer corps played the crucial role. After the Olympics and Paralympic Games the volunteer movement should preserve, be useful to the society and probably be considered as a part of the Sochi-2014 Olympics heritage.

Currently the Russian Federation State Duma considers the federal law On Volunteering Activity. We hope that in the nearest future this law will be adopted at the legislative level, which would give additional impulse to the Russian volunteer movement development and allow bringing it to the level of the leading foreign countries.

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