



On May 11, 2020 the European Union Delegation to Russia published the Call for Proposals “**EU Solidarity with Russian Civil Society - Protecting vulnerable groups and disproportionately affected by COVID-19**” with an overall budget of € 6 million.

The objective of the call was to enable Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to function without interruptions at a time when their usual funding mechanisms are curtailed by the worsened economic situation, while ensuring continued and enhanced provision of services to the most vulnerable groups and those disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

COVID-19 still remains a worldwide public health emergency severely affecting citizens, societies and economies. The numbers of infections and confirmed cases worldwide are high and socio-economic shocks are negatively affecting people’s incomes, physical and mental wellbeing, and the social integrity of communities as a whole. COVID-19 outbreak has added pressure on the social service delivery systems, and exacerbating the vulnerabilities of affected populations, especially those who are in most need.

Support through experienced CSOs is essential to ensure that these socio-economic impacts on vulnerable groups are mitigated. Yet, many CSOs are also severely affected by the COVID-19 crisis and the conduct of their important activities as well as their organisational survival is put at a high risk as donations drop.

11 new projects with the EU financial support of €5,873,712 have been launched in spring 2021. The European Union will fund social services as well as initiatives that aim at recovering and increasing people’s income and employment opportunities in the Russian regions through financial support, new skills, trainings, work practice and social entrepreneurship.

2021/423-461 Clean air to save climate and health

Brief description:

During the global pandemic, air quality issues have become even more pressing than before. Studies show that air pollution leads to higher mortality rates for COVID-19 patients. According to the Russian state report, more than 50 million people in Russia in 143 cities breathe heavily polluted air. Air pollution is one of the most pressing environmental problems of concern to Russians, along with illegal dumps and forest fires.

In 2021, Bellona launches a project aimed to improve air quality in the most polluted regions and cities of Russia by strengthening local environmental organizations and through environmental education for youth. In the long term, improved air quality will lead to a decrease in population morbidity and mitigation of the effects of climate change.

During the project, local environmental organizations in different regions of Russia will be able to implement local projects to reduce harmful emissions, establish a dialogue with local authorities and businesses to solve environmental problems, and disseminate information about the need to improve air quality.

Key activities and projected results:

The project will be implemented in three areas:

1. Development of strategies and providing support to local initiatives aiming to improve air quality in cities/and regions with the highest air pollution.
2. Stimulating expert discussion and promotion of the electrification of transport, including personal cars and electrification of the construction sites.
3. Environmental education of schoolchildren and students: conducting eco-lessons in schools, organizing a competition on environmental law for law students, making school spaces greener.

Duration:	01/04/2021 – 31/03/2025 (48 months)
Location/s:	Russia
Implementing Partners:	Ecological Rights Centre BELLONA (St.Petersburg, Russia), BELLONA Foundation (Oslo, Norway) and Krasnoyarsk regional environmental organization PLOTINA (Krasnoyarsk, Russia)

2021/423-469 Embracing digital. Building sustainability of Russian CSOs in post-COVID world

Brief description:

The civil society in Russia is living through the social and economic consequences of COVID-19. CSOs' immediate response to the pandemic was tremendous, but now when the funding flow is drying out and life goes back to more normal, CSOs remain even more vulnerable than before.

The key target group of the action are Russian CSOs working directly with people most affected by COVID-19 and its social and economic consequences. In 2020 lockdown CAF Russia held two editions of survey which demonstrated that the most pressing need is support with on-line fundraising followed by equipment to ensure remote work for the team, software and assistance in making it work as well as consultations on the use of social media and other online communication channels.

Quite clearly CSOs find themselves extremely vulnerable in terms of future funding and feel that digital could be a powerful answer for them to remain in business, but still need to figure out how to use digital tools for fundraising purposes. This is exactly the gap and opportunity that the action will address supporting CSOs in becoming more resilient through increased online presence

Key activities and projected results:

Activities

Within the Action we will address the need for digitalization of the CSO sector by providing two key types of support and resources:

1. Funding in the form of small grants of EUR 10 000 -15 000 provided to up to 25 CSOs to implement their projects aimed becoming stronger and more sustainable through digitalization. The grantees will be selected twice during the Action through open grant competition mechanism with special focus on CSOs working in remote and rural areas (Moscow and Saint-Petersburg will be excluded from the competition)
2. Non-financial support of all kinds including
 - Communication support/development of case studies to publish at philanthropy.ru and in other sector-specific and mainstream media that the CSOs can use further in their communication
 - Training through webinars and individual coaching in developing online fundraising campaigns
 - Opportunity to get hands-on experience of running online fundraising campaigns on blago.ru donations platform
 - Other support such as travel grants to attend National Fundraising conference and other relevant events

The Action will also influence the CSO sector at large as we will showcase its results, success stories and best practices in front of relevant audiences to disseminate the experience and portfolio approach used to support CSOs.

Results

20-25 CSOs from across Russia will be better equipped and become more sustainable to carry on with their mission and better serve their target groups in post-pandemic situation due to new skills and capacity in on-line fundraising and communication. The sector will be more aware of the benefits of digitalization and how it can be implemented for CSO located outside capital cities.

Duration: 01/05/2021 – 30/04/2024 (36 months)

Location/s: Russia

Implementing Partners: The CAF Charitable Foundation for Philanthropy Development

2021/423-470 “UCHASTIE - CSOs' involvement in developing sustainable, healthy and inclusive communities in Saint Petersburg and Leningrad region”

Brief description:

Inspired by the European Green Deal and its “From Farm to Fork” strategy, the **UCHASTIE Action** commits on **social entrepreneurship, social and organic farming, and community-supported agriculture (CSA)**, as a key to sustainable local development and **integration of vulnerable people into the economic and society’s life**. The Project is based on the recognition of the **deep links** existing between **healthy people, healthy and fair societies and a healthy planet**, made now even more evident and urgent by the Covid-19 pandemic. These concepts are becoming central in the EU development agenda, and are gaining increasing interest in Russia too, as evidenced, among others, by the recent Russian Law on organic products.

Key activities:

- Mobilisation of the target 35 CSOs, 80 agri-food MSMEs, and 170 beneficiaries (Action’s main target groups)
- Analysis of their peculiar interests and needs, and of the local market demand of organic and fair agri-food products
- Capacity building and technical assistance on how to start and run initiatives in the field of CSA, organic and social farming/processing/logistics/selling/catering, incl. business and service planning and management
- Capacity building and technical assistance to the 80 target MSMEs on organic and social farming (principles, legislation, practises), CSA, short supply chain management, networking, marketing and branding
- Organisation of 2 grant-schemes (for a total amount of 180.000 €) and delivery of mini-grants to the best initiatives and projects developed by the target CSOs, MSMEs and the vulnerable beneficiaries, in the above-mentioned fields, as well as in support of the beneficiaries’ employability and inclusion (work-life balance and other services)
- Implementation, monitoring and follow-up assistance to the awarded initiatives and projects
- Communication campaigns, launch of the brand and involvement of consumers in direct farmers-consumers relationships

Results

- Skills and role of 35 target CSOs strengthened on multi-actor cooperation, CSA, social entrepreneurship and agriculture
- 80 target agri-food (MSMEs) and 35 CSOs supported in engaging in CSA, social and organic farming: at least 20 partnership agreements signed and 20 related initiatives launched
- 170 target vulnerable women and men gain access to new income, social and recreational opportunities, and to work-life balance services, as a result of the newly started partnerships and initiatives (incl. via the mini grants)
- Competitiveness, social, financial and environmental sustainability, and visibility of the target MSMEs and CSOs enhanced, through technical and financial support, and through the creation of collaborative networks and a brand conveying the value of organic and socially fair agri-food production and consumption
- Community awareness raised on benefits of healthy and socially fair food, and at least 200 rural and urban consumers linked to the new initiatives of CSA, and social and organic agri-food production, processing and sales.

Duration: 01/05/2021 – 30/04/2024 (36 months)

Location/s: Russia

Implementing Partners: FELCOS Umbria (coordinator, Italy), A.I.A.B. Umbria – Associazione Italiana per l’Agricoltura Biologica dell’Umbria A.P.S. (Italy), Association for the development of organic agriculture “Union of Organic farmers” (Russia), Autonomous non-profit organization of cultural and social services “DA” (Russia)

2021/423-471 “Uniting Efforts for sustainable support of vulnerable groups”

Brief description:

Russia has dropped ten positions in the Global Gender Equality Index in the last two years and is currently ranking 81st. This development is reflected in the society by the state’s promotion of clearly misogynistic “traditional family values”, including decriminalising domestic violence in 2017 which has led to a worsening situation for victims of DV.

In 2013 a law forbidding “homosexual propaganda towards minors” was passed which has led to an increase of homophobia and violence against LGBTIQ+ in the following years, a group that has also been severely affected by the pandemic.

Despite Russia’s ratification of the 1951 Convention on Refugees, the asylum institute in Russia is practically non-existent. Most of the migrants are involved in precarious work, their labour rights constantly being violated. Additionally, refugees and migrants have no access to the public healthcare system because of the lack of insurance and the prohibitive cost of medical care.

All of the above-mentioned problems are insufficiently dealt with by the State, in some cases even worsened. Thus, the efforts of CSOs to support VGs and to urge GOs to comply with international agreements are crucial. Since the crackdown on civil society following the bolotnaya protests in 2012, resulting in laws about foreign agents and undesired organisations, the financial situation of many CSOs has gotten tense as well. Many “traditional” channels for CSOs to receive money are blocked or you might have to face legal consequences. Therefore, connecting CSOs with “non-traditional” actors in the field like Social Entrepreneurs, the financial situation as well as the impact and outreach can be improved.

Therefore we see a great potential to improve the situation by uniting efforts of different CSO, SEs and friendly GOs and Local Authorities

Key activities and projected results:

The project will bring together NGOs, social entrepreneurs, and government representatives to help women, who became victims of gender based violence, migrants, and LGBTQ+. The project targets several Russian cities, in particular Yekaterinburg, Kazan, Barnaul, Novosibirsk and St. Petersburg.

In the course of two years there will be round tables, trainings and seminars dedicated to the relevant topics for the target groups. Some of them are strategic planning, internal communications, fundraising and SMM.

Regional organizations will be able to share experiences with each other and learn about international examples of effective work with the state and society, among others through international exchanges. That will help connect different actors to each other and create a network for a sustainable development of those activities.

To ensure that socially vulnerable groups with no or insufficient legal protection have better access to information on and help by local CSOs, medical and legal assistance will be provided for migrants, refugees and stateless persons. Sub-grants will help CSOs to improve the access to their socio-economic services for VG in challenging times and awareness rising campaigns as well as trainings on innovative outreach formats will ensure a long-term improvement on the provided

By working together, project participants will also help break down homophobic, xenophobic, and sexist stereotypes for a wider audience.

Duration:	15/04/2021 – 14/04/2023 (24 months)
Location/s:	Russia
Implementing Partners:	Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Regional Non-Governmental Charitable Organization for Help to Refugees and Migrants “Civic Assistance” (Civic Assistance Committee)

2021/423-526 Step forward - new workplaces for disabled, support of social entrepreneurship, complex approach to rehabilitation

Brief description:

Less than a year ago people began to isolate at home because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Pandemic life forced society to do something people with disabilities have been looking for years: communication and collaboration in a multitude of ways. Working from home became commonplace. Virtual access has allowed many wheelchair users to participate in life. They got increased attention and access to social engagements, without having to worry about whether the venue will be accessible or how far to travel to reach the place. However, in post pandemic many wheelchair users have to go back to an exclusionary normal. However, doing things the same way they've been always done is not an option anymore. Lessons are learned on going through pandemic and we have to move forward into a better, more inclusive world and build the back better.

The “Step forward” will create synergies with the ongoing EU co-funded “Ark of Kaliningrad” project, preserve and build on its achievements. The intervention will enable new initiatives from the social entrepreneurs to engage and employ wheelchair users in different regions of Russia. It is very important for the project team in Kaliningrad that the initiative of this all-Russian competition comes from the region, and not from the capital. In addition, the project team will establish social enterprises with a number of new jobs for disabled women and men. The aim is to provide wheelchair users with income generating activities and contribute, in general to the social entrepreneurship development in the Kaliningrad region.

Key activities:

Within two years, the project team has to build open-space landscape and park for the complex social rehabilitation and adaptation of wheelchair users, which is designed in five areas model: a lake with adapted places for fishing, sport rehabilitation area, social and labour rehabilitation area, relaxing area, area for wheelchair riding practice on different surfaces. The compound will be located next to the settlement built within the frames of the “Ark of Kaliningrad” project. The rehabilitation services for the wheelchair users in the territory of newly created complex will be part of the project activities in its early stages.

In addition to the social and vocational consultations, trainings and coaching planned for wheelchair users, the core of the project is the all-Russian call for proposals to support social entrepreneurs in their initiatives targeting and supporting those disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

The project team will establish two social enterprises: sewing enterprise and enterprise for park and garden works and create new workplaces for wheelchair users, provide training and support upon employment.

Projected results:

Improvements in the quality of life of wheelchair users not only from Kaliningrad region, but other regions of Russia as well, in the aftermath of covid-19 pandemic is the essence of the project. We expect it to positively impact the number of a) wheelchair users getting annual complex rehabilitation; b) employed wheelchair users; c) non-governmental organizations dealing with social entrepreneurship and solving problems of people with disabilities and social entrepreneurs (SE) focused on needs of this group; d) financial support rendered to target SEs.

Duration:	01/04/2021 – 31/03/2023 (24 months)
Location/s:	Kaliningrad and other regions of Russia
Implementing Partner/s:	Kaliningrad regional public organization of disable “Kovcheg”

2021/423-527 Step to the future – friendly and comfortable municipalities

Brief description:

Russia is quite progressive in its laws, which guarantee the opportunity to implement civil, economic, political, and other rights and freedoms for people with disabilities (PWDs) on an equal basis with other citizens. The issue is in laws enforcement. It means that several million citizens with disabilities, with different abilities are unable to contribute to the society, lead active lifestyle, and form families or create own life plan. Hence, there are issues with physical obstacles and attitude towards people with disabilities as well as lack of understanding their needs. The COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak was an emergency requiring an adequate response from all of society. However, the problem turned into an opportunity to look for suitable solutions and ways to better help and integrate vulnerable populations into the society. The project “Step into the Future- friendly and comfortable municipalities” balance some practical solutions and tests them in collaboration with involved interested parties in pilot municipalities, having a goal to achieve better conditions for integration and quality daily life for people with disabilities in Kaliningrad region and other regions of Russia. The transfer of know-how and leading expertise between EU and Russia is one of the main methodological approaches. Behavioural and cultural shift in parties concerned caused by project to keep their support and contacts with PWDs after completion stage in very important.

Key activities and projected results:

We are planning to:

1. Reinforce capacity of NGOs and social entrepreneurs in assisting PWDs and their families.
2. Promote an accessible environment for people with different disabilities and improve the quality of life in general and addressed socio-economic services in two municipalities of the Kaliningrad region.
3. Broaden educational access of PWDs.
4. Encourage voluntarism in providing situational assistance and improve the volunteering interaction skills with PWDs.
5. Gain experience and disseminate lessons learned from the exchange between Russian and European partners working with PWDs issues.

We will carry out:

- conferences, round tables and educational webinars for key partners and beneficiaries
- trainings for NGO’s employees and volunteers
- internships in Czech Republic and Poland for key partners and stakeholders
- rehabilitation sightseeing tours for PWDs

We will create:

- adapted greenhouses in two inclusive schools for PWDs
- accessible bird watching site on the territory of National Park “Curonian Spit” for PWDs

We will develop:

- PWD art therapy programmes for painting, pottery and working with amber products
- PWD educational classes on e-commerce, photo and video clips production

We will manage:

- sub-grants to create accessible environment, services, and support for NGOs activities and social entrepreneurs in Kaliningrad region and five regions of Russia.

In general, through various activities of the project, about 1000 people with disabilities and their families will benefit in different ways and learn to be happy again after COVID-19 pandemic, and the opportunity to protect their rights and be more active in society.

Duration: 01/04/2021 – 31/03/2024 (36 months)

Location/s: Russia, Kaliningrad region and other regions in Russia (Republic of Tatarstan, Buryatia, Belgorod, Voronezh etc).

Implementing Partners: Autonomous non-commercial organization the Development centre of Social and Educational Projects «AURA», Coalition Clean Baltic(Sweden)

2021/423-528 Adaptation Accelerator. Strengthening community-based tourism CSOs for sustainable development of rural and marginalized areas of Russia in post- COVID reality.

Brief description:

Despite recent growth in the number of civil society organisations (CSOs), working with rural communities in rural and ecotourism field, the sector remains vulnerable and immature in Russia. In 2020 an external shock — the COVID-19 pandemic — posed many challenges to all, while the community-based tourism (CBT) sector has been especially disproportionately affected. These hardships, nonetheless, can simultaneously represent significant opportunities for the sector. In the post-pandemic reality, tourists demand more specialised conditions, such as non-mass accommodation for affordable price, enhanced safety measures and more tailored approach, where CBT has a considerable advantage due to its inherent flexibility.

The overall objective of the “**Adaptation Accelerator**” project is to help civil society in marginalised areas to mitigate challenges posed by pandemic and to adapt to post-COVID reality through strengthening community-based tourism CSOs in Russia and increasing resilience of rural tourism sites. It aims to support regional and local CSOs, so they can perform their role in adaptation and sustainable territory development. Thus, the project responds to the urgent needs of rural areas, of CBT CSOs at the regional and local levels and through them — to the needs of local people.

Key activities and projected results:

1. Adaptation accelerator and professional network for CBT CSOs: online and offline capacity building opportunities — online education courses, study-tours, webinars, individual coaching and mentoring as well as specially developed ready-to-operate packages to start-up new modern and safe COVID-adapted micro-businesses.
Results: 100+ CSO teams got through the trainings and improved their competences; 40 CSOs developed their strategic plans, incl. marketing strategies, financial plans, COVID-adaptation plans, partnership development plan; methodological materials available for broader CSO public
2. Targeted support to CBT practitioners: online and offline capacity building events, publications, courses, as well as direct financial support through small grant programs.
Results: 40 CSOs improved their capacities to continue operations in post-COVID time; 20+ CSO teams were financially supported to upgrade their tour products to meet post-COVID requirements; visitors benefit from modern COVID-adopted high-quality rural and ecotourism products
3. National-level advocacy and promotion for the CBT sector: support to the CBT sector at the national level through cooperation with federal authorities to improve legislation; conducting national-level marketing research in CBT sector, including analysis of consumers demands in the post-COVID reality; developing and conducting federal-level marketing and PR-campaign to promote CBT.
Results: 5+ policy documents developed and proposed to decision-makers during the project; CBT widely broadcasted in media at national and regional levels; public awareness of CBT and its products will increase by 20% by the end of project.

Duration: 01/04/2021 – 30/09/2023 (30 months)

Location/s: 60+ regions of Russia

Implementing Partners: Autonomous non-profit organization “Agency of rural community development”, “Russian National Rural and Ecotourism Association”, “Environmental – educational centre Zapovedniks”, European Federation of Rural Tourism (EUROGITES)

2021/423-529 Inclusivity Lab

Brief description:

The EU funded “**Inclusivity Lab**” project was developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic that has triggered the most severe recession in nearly a century and is causing enormous damage to people’s health, jobs and well-being all over the world. In Russia the crisis continues to disproportionately affect vulnerable groups and exacerbating gender and regional inequalities, making the achievement of SDGs more critical and urgent. COVID-19 compromises the health status of the majority of people with disabilities and the elderly and social isolation hampers their mental well-being. Domestic violence reports more than doubled amidst the COVID-19 lockdown. Hundreds of thousands of migrants are trapped in Russia's quarantine lockdown, lacking jobs, livelihoods, and free access to healthcare. Civil society organisations (CSOs) working with vulnerable groups report on the increased number of demands from their beneficiaries, while their capacities to provide support have been significantly undermined by the restriction measures related to the spread of the COVID-19 and decreased funding.

Our “Inclusivity Lab” project will contribute to the CSOs adoptive immune response to shocks and crises in the future and will help them to adjust to the post-COVID environment with minimum losses. They will reinforce the skills and competences in social entrepreneurship and explore the potential of new digital technologies to reach out to their beneficiaries, work remotely and/or online and adapt to the new post-pandemic situation. With the help of acceleration and incubation programmes, tailored to their needs, financial and expert support, they will be able to use social entrepreneurship and new technologies for continued, increased and innovative provision of socio-economic services to vulnerable populations.

Through wide-spread media campaigns and partnerships we will improve understanding of social entrepreneurship by the Russian civil society as a tool to achieve financial sustainability, as well as mobilize support of public and private actors. We will build a public space where Russian counterparts continue to support implementation on the new legislation on social entrepreneurship and to encourage income-generating activities by CSOs.

Key activities and projected results:

The **project activities** are split into three interconnected work packages /WP1/ following the logic of social business development from ideas /WP1/ to sustainable growth /WP2/. WP1 and WP2 will allow graduates of the incubator and accelerator to communicate with each other and with the project teams with the help of an online platform, to pitch ideas to potential investors and media in Russia and in the EU, and to ensure a broader public and government support for social entrepreneurship during public events. WP3 is connected to WP1 and WP2, increasing the communication and visibility and allowing to reach and involve broader audience during the events.

WP1– Incubation: A 6-months incubation program for grassroots and CSOs in the target regions, a series of offline and online training sessions, counselling, mentorship and networking. The incubation program will be based on the outcome of mapping and needs assessment of grassroots and CSOs in three target regions /Samara oblast, Novosibirsk oblast, and Primorskiy Krai/, where the Incubator RIT has a strong expert base and enjoys the support of the local public and private actors. Small grants and expert support will be given to the selected grassroots and CSOs in the target regions.

WP2 – Acceleration: Small grants and targeted expert support will be provided to the former graduates of IHM’ incubation and acceleration programmes. A 3-months 2-track acceleration program will be launched for experienced CSOs and social entrepreneurs (SEs) working with PWDs and experienced SEs and CSOs working with other vulnerable groups. Small impact grants and mentorship support will be distributed to the selected graduates of the accelerator.

WP3 – Cooperation and awareness raising: We will launch the Impact Day as an awareness raising and knowledge dissemination activity aimed at promoting impact entrepreneurship and presenting projects by the graduates of the capacity-building programs to potential investors, supporters and peers. Travel grants will be distributed to exchange best practices to the graduates of the acceleration programme.

Duration: 01/04/2021 – 30/09/2023 (30 months)
Location/s: Russia, Samara oblast, Novosibirsk oblast, and Primorskiy Krai
Implementing Partners: Impact Hub Moscow and JSC Incubator "Rehabilitation Industry Technologies"

2021/423-530 Supporting young people with disabilities from Russia in the aftermath of COVID-19 pandemic

Brief description:

Despite some progress made in recent years, lives of people with intellectual and mental disabilities in Russia are still far from perfect. Very often, they lack the opportunities that are enjoyed by their non-disabled peers. This is true both for people living at home and for those who reside in care institutions.

The COVID-19 pandemic hit this group especially hard. Either locked at home with their overwhelmed families or in crowded institutions, denied their usual support networks, young people with disabilities suffered not only from the dangers of the pandemic itself, but also from social isolation and lack of support.

We believe that everyone deserves to lead full and meaningful lives, regardless of their diagnosis and disability status. Everyone should be able to learn, live independently, have fun and enjoy meaningful relationships with people around them. The project will focus on helping young people with mental disabilities in Russia realise their full potential in education, employment and everyday life. It will focus on making a person with disability seen and heard, and on the promotion of ideas of equality and inclusion in all spheres of life. A major goal of the project is to provide the person with the tools they need to lead independent and dignified lives and make informed autonomous choices.

The project author - “Life Route” Charity Foundation, is one of the few organisations in Russia providing all-encompassing support to people with mental disabilities and their families. Based on its good practices the project will not only develop programmes of independent living and supported employment, but will also share the best European and Russian social work practices, provide training to organisations all over Russia, and promote de-institutionalisation and independent living philosophy.

As well as those general areas of activity, the project will promote the rights of women with disabilities, support the volunteering movement, promote self-advocacy, and help the families of people with disabilities in their everyday struggles.

Key activities and projected results:

The key activities of the project will be focused on the person with disability, their rights, well-being, independence and visibility.

- The supported living and supported employment programmes will allow people with disabilities live and work where and how they choose to;
- A special programme will be dedicated to empowerment women with disabilities to learn their rights, find their voices and build their identities;
- Part of the project is promotion of the volunteering movement, finding ambassadors of the independent living philosophy and promotion of the disability movement;
- Families of people with mental disabilities will receive support and advice;
- Educational activities of the project will disseminate best European and Russian social work practices among Russian professionals and the general public, with a special focus on person-centred approaches: practices and tools that help everyone set their own life goals and achieve their dreams;
- Communication activities of the project will promote the image of people with disabilities as visible and independent members of the Russian society, capable of leading full and meaningful lives.

Duration: 01/05/2021 – 30/04/2024 (36 months)

Location/s: Russia, Moscow and other regions in Russia

Implementing Partners: “Life Route” Charity Foundation

2021/424-357 Accessible environment for cancer patients: providing qualified professionals, medical treatment, community support in Russian regions

Brief description:

The project aims at supporting regional cancer patients and their families who are its direct beneficiaries. The issues addressed by the project belong to two overlapping categories: 1) those related to the healthcare system in general: medical personnel in place, its skills, working algorithms of routing from regions/remote areas to major medical facilities 2) those that has been manifested due to the coronavirus pandemic: algorithms of out- and inpatient treatment of cancer patients with ARVI symptoms or with COVID-19, differentiation of COVID-19 vs. other infections. These issues are the cause of delayed diagnostics, errors in the treatment tactics choice, delays in its implementation and, as a consequence, of increased cancer mortality. The goal of the project is to make it possible for regional cancer patients and their families to exercise their right to receive timely and high-quality medical care and the necessary support, despite the remoteness from large settlements and / or large medical centers and the additional challenges the healthcare system has faced. In addition to direct beneficiaries, as well as regional doctors and administrations, the project's important stakeholder is regional socially oriented NPOs. We expect that the project will strengthen their role, and their status of an important systemic regional player, this being crucial in terms of strengthening and developing horizontal connections in the local community, which creates a safer environment for vulnerable groups of citizens. We expect that after the completion of the project, it will be possible, based on the experience of its implementation, to introduce its strategy in additional regions, since the problem of territorial inequality is of top relevance for Russia.

Key activities and projected results:

- promotion, in selected regions, of a free expert service for cancer patients and their families *Just Ask* (ask.nenaprasno.ru) - up to 2000 processed applications during the project
- advanced training and internships for GPs and oncologists from selected regions - 250 doctors who share and implement the principles of patient-centered and evidence based medicine, familiar with current medical research and practices, who can support regional NPOs in their work with direct beneficiaries
- training, consultations, follow-ups, micro-grants for 5-7 regional NPOs selected on a competitive basis, in order to strengthen their sustainability and efficiency of their work aimed at supporting the direct beneficiaries
- creation of routing guidelines for cancer patients from participating regions (5-10) and of one general routing guideline
- routing and follow-ups for 180-200 cancer patients from the participating regions to major regional and federal medical facilities

Duration: 01/06/2021 – 31/12/2023 (30 months)

Location/s: Russia, 5-10 regions - territories of operation of selected NPOs

Implementing Partners: “Worthwhile” Medical Solutions Foundation

2021/424-361 Improving the quality of life of homeless people in Russia during the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences

Brief description:

The project aims to help stabilize and improve the quality of life of homeless people chronically living on the street, labor migrants who came from depressed regions and failed in Moscow and regional centers unable to return home. The Caritas Social Information Center in Moscow will work daily, 5 days a week. On the basis of the center, housing support is carried out. 3 organisations will receive grants for social services and 3 for social entrepreneurship linked to the CSOs.

The second target group of influence will be the sector of organizations helping homeless people. First, NGOs in Russia, which will be invited to participate in activities to disseminate experience and a pilot program of accompanied accommodation for homeless people in the regions of the Russian Federation through a grant competition in 2 rounds. At least 3 NGOs are implementing housing pilot projects on their base, at least 100 NGOs will take part in the project's activities.

In Perm, Samara, Chelyabinsk, a leading technical partner will work, which is engaged in monitoring and supervising projects in the region.

The third part of the project is to describe and disseminate through various channels the Housing First methodology as a good practice and a possible basis for social policy. Public work is planned for the development of the homeless assistance sector: a description of the methodology and its presentation in the format of a detailed report of the pilot phase, legal analysis and a project for introducing this type of assistance to people in the legislation of the Russian Federation, video films and a methodological manual. Holding an international conference in Moscow in 2024.

Key activities and projected results:

- **Over 5000 homeless people have access to diagnostics and treatment of COVID-19, hygiene and laundry, case-management, assistance with housing, psychological support for emotional stabilization.**

Activities: Provide homeless people with access to help with a pandemic prevention and disinfection, washing, humanitarian support; Individual accompaniment and support for more than 3,000 people in 4 regions: Round-the-clock support via the toll-free helpline; Support to creation of social entrepreneurship linked to the CSOs through the small grants scheme;

- **The “Housing First” pilot program was implemented in 4 regions of the Russian Federation: at least 145 beneficiaries went through the housing program, which provides stable housing and flexible support as is required.**

Activities: Individual support and accompaniment of the settlement of 145 homeless people; Updating, monitoring and evaluating the methodology of individual support in housing throughout the project;

- **A social policy has been developed to accompany and provide housing for homeless people in the Russian Federation. It was presented to the Government of the Russian Federation as a social policy strategy regarding this category of citizens**

Activities: Dissemination of the methodology of work among NGOs; Development of proposals for improving social policy on working with homeless people and the creation of a working group for its elaboration and supervision for implementation; Contributing to the creation of a positive image of the homeless people; Development of a social work qualification course on social support of vulnerable groups of population.

Duration: 01/07/2021 – 30/06/2024 (36 months)

Location/s: Russia, Moscow region, Moscow city, Perm region, Perm city, Samara region, Samara city

Implementing Partners: Caritas of Mother of God Archdiocese in Moscow