# Eurasia Program

## Elements List for 10/5/2015 Portfolio Review –

## Capacity Building for the Russian NGO Sector

**Organizational Grants (16 grants, $875,552)**

AGORA #OR2013-05797; $50,000

*“Emergency Legal Aid to Russian NGOs”*

The purpose of this grant was to provide emergency legal support to NGOs under the Foreign Agents law. AGORA offered legal consultations to any NGO facing warnings or charges from the authorities, and represented NGOs in courts, prosecutor’s offices, departments of justice, and other administrative bodies. OSF funds covered lawyers’ fees for strategic litigation, taking cases to the Constitutional Court, the Supreme Court, and the European Court of Human Rights if needed. AGORA also continued to closely monitor the implementation of the law and disseminate their reports widely in the media. Finally, through a series of seminars in the regions, AGORA advised NGOs on how to minimize the risks to their work in the current political and legal environment.

Charities Aid Foundation #OR2010-28741; $120,000

*“The Best International Legal Experience for Reforming NPO Legislation in Russia”*

The purpose of this project was to disseminate international best practices for the nonprofit sector and to create policy recommendations for the upcoming reforms to Russian NGO law. The preparatory phase included expert discussion and roundtables to identify key issues and to establish partnerships with foreign experts in the field of nonprofit law. CAF then prepared policy recommendations for policy makers and broadly publicized the results of the work.

Charities Aid Foundation #OR2012-00798; $30,000

“*Pathways to NGO Resilience”*

The purpose of this grant was to convene third sector experts and author a report on NGO sustainability in order to build a framework of strategies for the sustainability of Russia’s NGO sector. Further project activities included convening a high-level group of experts involved in the field of NGO sustainability to facilitate their collaboration, both through in-person seminars and ongoing online discussion.

Charities Aid Foundation #OR2013-10399; $32,746

*“Giving Russia”*

The purpose of this grant was to support the commissioning of an in-depth study on the giving patterns and philanthropic attitudes of Russians, in an attempt to quantify the proportion of Russians who give on a monthly/annual basis, compare the prevalence of giving with the prevalence of volunteering, and clarify what causes Russians to give. The final product was released in the form of a report published in both English and Russian and disseminated through CAF’s website, subscribers list, and through partner media outlets in Russia.

Creative Industries #OR2012-35864; $25,000

*“Advocacy Training for Human Rights Organizations”*

The purpose of this grant was to hold an advocacy training in Moscow for OSF grantees, in collaboration with the OSF Advocacy Office. Participants included human rights organizations working on issues ranging from LGBT rights to harm reduction. The training – led by Iva Dobicina, Rachel Hart, and Jeff Goldstein – allowed participating groups to improve their advocacy and strategic communication skills. Creative Industries organized the logistics for the training, including hotel booking and travel reimbursement.

Donors’ Forum #OR2012-01084; $16,350

*“Philanthropic Foundations Transparency”*

The purpose of this grant was to prepare an annual report on the state of institutional philanthropy development in Russia for the year 2012, focusing on transparency of philanthropic foundations in Russia. Further project activities included the organization of a number of focus group discussions on foundations’ understanding of and commitment to transparency.

Human Rights Resource Center (HRRC) #OR2012-35826; $73,544

*“NGO Lawyers Club”*

The purpose of this grant was to develop regional non-profit legal expertise in Russia by developing a web-based platform that aimed to facilitate interaction between the NGO Lawyers Club and lawyers from Russia’s regions. The web platform included a database of NGO lawyers in the Moscow, Northwest, Volga and Southern regions of Russia, in order to encourage networking and exchange. Further project activities included the organization of five seminars for NGO lawyers in Moscow and three other cities to discuss key legal issues affecting NGOs.

Human Rights Resource Center (HRRC) #OR2014-15298; $104,136

*“Building the capacity of the third sector through enhancing the professional expertise of non-profit lawyers”*

The purpose of this grant was to enhance the professional skills of non-profit lawyers through the framework of the NGO Lawyers Club, an interactive online community of legal professionals working in the non-profit sector. Project activities included outreach by this group of non-profit legal professionals to NGOs and non-profit lawyers working in smaller cities in order to ensure network-building, so as to further enhance collaboration on specific projects.

Human Rights Resource Center (HRRC) #OR2013-08441; $15,000

“*Emergency Legal Support for NGOs in St. Petersburg”*

The purpose of this grant was to provide emergency legal support for Russian LGBT organizations and their directors while they contested charges under the NGO law on foreign agents. The grant covered the legal fees for employing two leading human rights lawyers, Dr. Dmitri Bartenev and Dr. Sergey Golubok, to stand in defense of two LGBT organizations (Side by Side and Coming Out) as they moved through an appeals process.

Human Rights Resource Center (HRRC) #OR2013-04711; $99,981

*“NGO Lawyers Club: Assisting Development of Regional Non-Profit Legal Expertise in Russia”*

The purpose of this grant was to develop regional non-profit legal expertise in Russia. Project activities funded through this grant aimed to increase professional interaction among regional NGO lawyers, to build the institutional sustainability of the third sector, and to improve federal and regional policies directly affecting Russian NGOs by developing further the NGO Lawyers Club, holding quarterly capacity building seminars and webinars for NGO lawyers, and by providing legal assistance to NGOs.

Agency for Social Information #OR2010-28738; $123,795

*“Developing Transparency of the Nonprofit Sector and Improving Information Flow”*

The purpose of this grant was to support a series of dialogues on NGO transparency and reporting standards in Moscow and the regions, and to improve dissemination of relevant information to key stakeholders. Project activities included research into the expectations of journalists, government representatives, businesspeople and local donor organizations regarding the forms, means and levels of transparency and reporting of NGOs through dialogues in Moscow and three other regions.

Agency for Social Information #OR2012-35830; $70,000

*“Strengthening of Economic and Financial Sustainability of Russian NGOs”*

The purpose of this grant was to enhance the transparency and efficiency of NGOs in Russia through increased access to information on economic sustainability. The project’s activities included publication of financial resources and methods, expert roundtables, and policy recommendations. The grant funded a survey undertaken by ASI to assess deficiencies in NGOs’ knowledge of current legislation and the tenets of financial stability, the results of which were published on ASI’s website.

Agency for Social Information #OR2013-06048; $50,000

*“Informational Support for Russian NGOs”*

The purpose of this grant was to improve the accessibility and reach of three online informational resources that would help to build the capacity of non-profits to strategically communicate the results of their work. The three websites supported by this grant included ASI’s main site (asi.org.ru). which serves as a news agency about the third sector, raising awareness of non-profit news and achievements; ASI’s website resource for NGOs (nkozakon.ru) which provides information on transparency, good governance, financial management, and strategic planning; and an interactive platform for volunteerism and philanthropy (tak-prosto.org).

NGO Development Centre #OR2010-28480; $15,000

*“Conference: Building Trust in NGOs”*

The purpose of this project was to allow six experts to present at the conference “Building Trust in NGOs” and to cover travel expenses for conference participants from distant regions of Russia. The NGO Development Centre hosted a conference in April 2010 with 86 participants. The focus of the convening was to provide master classes on issues such as transparency and accountability, internal democracy and governance, self-organization, ethics and public relations. A handbook describing NGO best practices was then distributed to conference participants, resource centers, and electronic mailing lists after the conclusion of the conference.

NGO Development Centre #OR2011-34010; $25,000

*“NGO Coalition and Capacity Building”*

The purpose of this grant was to study best NGO practices and develop an online platform for discussion and collaboration among NGOs in St. Petersburg. The NGO Development Centre conducted a study of successful NGOs in St. Petersburg through interviews and site visits in order to create a database of best practices, enhance opportunities for collaboration between new and existing NGOs, and highlight new strategies of networking with internet technologies. The results of the study were published on their website and presented in the forum “Social Petersburg: New Solutions 2011.” Finally, the project also included the organization of a Bar Camp, which allowed NGOs to discuss utilizing the internet for media, design and social networking development.

NGO Development Centre #OR2012-00683; $25,000

*“Common Cause: NGO Coalition Development”*

The purpose of this project was to strengthen the platform for citizen participation and the development of the third sector in St. Petersburg by expanding the work of the coalition of regional NGOs in the realization of the Development Agenda of the non-profit sector. Throughout the project period, NGO Development Centre supported the organizational development of the coalition by introducing a new system of expanded information for NGOs on the work of the coalition, and attracting attention to its work; concretizing provisions designed in the Development Agenda for the non-profit sector through advocacy efforts aimed at local government stakeholders making decisions affecting NGOs. They held a one-day seminar on organizational development, met frequently with working groups, and regularly disseminated newsletters.