

A. Title of the Paper

Civic engagement of older people in Russia.

B. Background.

The number of older people is growing very fast. The number of Russians aged 60-64 increased in 2040 by 60% and over 80 years - more than 120%¹. Today we can see, that the role and participation of older people in various organizations and social movements through which they can convey to the public their positions are increasing. But this situation is typical only for West countries, but not for Russia. The image of ageing in Russia is negative. It is believed that when a person reaches old age (or having retired) he lives out his years, not realizing that life can start in this period. So older people are below the public life. That is why the problem of civic engagement of older people requires extensive research.

C. Objectives.

There are two main purposes:

1. To study how the civic engagement is developed in Russia and abroad.
2. To see what can be useful in foreign experience, and how it can be applied in Russia.

According to these objectives there are three aims of the research:

- a) How is the inclusion of senior citizens realized in the discussion of political, social programs?
- b) How are the decision-making and control over it's execution realized?
- c) How are the older people involved in self-government at the local level?

D. Methods.

Data Collection, Processing and Analysis. It includes:

- a) Conducting interviews.

Conducting expert depth interviews with active members of the older people, non-profit organizations, representatives of municipal and public administration.

- b) Conducting surveys.
- c) Comparative analysis

Comparative analysis of foreign practices

E. Results.

¹ The project «Creating the conditions of realizing the social potential of senior citizens at the municipal level» HSE, www.hse.ru/science/scifund/proekt_ts/14691283/

Older people in Russia connect most of their problems not with the material well-being (45%), but with the psychological moments (55%)². About 40% of interviewed older Russian people have a proactive stance and participate in several organizations.³ Not only NGO's but also state authorities declare that the Western (mostly Scandinavian) system of working with the elderly is the best.

F. Conclusions.

1. Civic participation of the elderly in Russia is at a low level.
2. There is a potential for the development of the civic participation, which is incorporated in the pensioners themselves, because they become more active.
3. Some useful experience is accumulated in Western countries, which can be successfully adapted in Russia (volunteering, older people as consultants and other)

G. References.

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² The results of the interviews with the representatives of organizations specializing in working with older people.

³ Based on the depth interviews with the older people in several Russian countries.