

FINAL ACTIVITY REPORT

The Municipal Development Planning and Public Involvement in Russia

by Nikolai Jounda, IPF 2003 Fellow

Research Area: Policy Process

Summary

In this research project, I examined the evolution of local development policymaking in several Russian cities. Each faced the challenges of the transition period in the 1990s and had to adapt their policies and policy processes to the new political and economic realities. Two of the main issues addressed in this research are whether administrative planning was changed by a new system of views on local development and whether it did become more transparent and open to public. The institutional approach used in this research focuses on the political, organizational and governmental aspects of the policy process at the local level. I examine which are the key actors of the process, how they influence decision-making, which mechanisms are used for the provision of citizens' participation and the representation of the diverse interest of the local community.

The structure of the paper represents the work done. In the first chapter, there is an overview of the background for local development policymaking in Russia. In the second, I examine the environmental variables, which influence the process and offer an overview of the context of local development issues which cities experienced in the 1990s. Further on, in the third chapter, I provide case studies from three Russian cities – Saint-Petersburg, Kirov and Cherepovets and briefly overview the practices from 10 smaller municipalities. Finally in the fourth chapter there is comparative analysis various practices of local development policymaking and arguments pro et contra participatory planning model.

A wide amount of data on local development issues and strategic planning practices in CEE (in particular experience of Croatia, and several capitals of CEE - Sofia, Tallinn, Riga and others) was collected during research. Unfortunately, deep insight into Russian background and policymaking environment in the sphere of local development which was undertaken in the research made impossible the comparative study of the practices in CEE in a single project. This interesting research task will be developed up at my further work.

During the fellowship, I prepared six published works on the topic of my research (some of them are written in co-authoring). Most of these works are targeted at policymakers and audience

of the professionals engaged in local development policymaking. The list of articles and published works is provided below.

Throughout the course of the fellowship, the preliminary results of the research were communicated and discussed with both practitioners and experts. I was participant of 5 national and international conferences and 4 workshops on topic of my research (see details below). In particular, results of the research project were presented at the EURA - Eurocities conference on “European urban development, research and policy and the future of European cohesion policy”, and also discussed during round-table “Involvement of the Entrepreneurs into Local Economic Policymaking”, which I co-organized under the framework of All-Russian Forum of the “Cities - Leaders in Strategic Planning”.

Among other outcomes of the fellowship, I consider one of the most significant the establishment of an NGO – Association of the Local Economic Developers (ASSET). The aim of this professional network is to promote best practices regarding local development and governance (in particular participatory strategic planning model) among Russian municipalities. I became one of the co-founders and member of the board - executive director of the association. Dissemination

Major Outputs

I. Participation in Conferences

1. CATO Institute Conference “*A Liberal Agenda for the New Century: A Global Perspective*” (co-sponsored with Leontief Center). April 12, 2004. St. Petersburg, Russia.
2. *All-Russian Forum of the Cities - Leaders in Strategic Planning*, October 19-21, 2003, St.-Petersburg, Russia.
3. EURA – EUROCITIES Conference on “*European Urban Development, Research and Policy and the Future of European Cohesion Policy*” August 28 – 30, 2003, Budapest, Hungary.
4. The Third Volga Forum “*Strategy of Regional Development*”, July 3-4, 2003. Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan, Russia.
5. *Civil Society and Reform of Local Self-government System*. Conference sponsored by State Duma and Presidential Administration. April 17-19, 2003. St.-Petersburg, Russia.

II. Participation in Workshops and Round-tables

1. Round table “*Association of Think Tanks of North-West Region: Current State And Development Trends*” organized jointly by IRIS, MPSF and Leontief Centre. February 13-14, 2004. St.-Petersburg, Russia.
2. Round-table “*Involvement of the Entrepreneurs into Local Economic Policymaking*”, October 21, 2003, St.-Petersburg, Russia.
3. UNDP and NISPAcee training workshop “*How to be a better policy advisor*” October 1-4, 2003, St.-Petersburg, Russia.
4. Workshop “*Strategy of Improvement of Cities Competitiveness*” organized jointly by University of Waterloo (Canada) and Economic Developers Association of Canada. April 8 – 10, 2003. St.-Petersburg, Russia.

III. Research trips and study visits

1. Research trip to City of Cherepovets, Russia.
2. Research trip to City of Kirov, Russia.
3. Research trip to City of Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan, Russia.
4. Study visit to Zagreb, Croatia.

IV. Articles and Publications

1. Jounda N. (2004). Local Development Policymaking in Russia: from Administrative Planning to Participatory Policymaking. – Coming soon.
2. Jounda N. (2004). Evolution of the Local Development Policymaking in Russia: from Administrative Planning to Public Policy? – Coming soon.
3. Jounda N., Batchaev A., et al. (2004). Participation of business community in elaboration and implementation of local economic policy: practice and recommendations. Leontief Centre, St.-Petersburg (in Russian).
4. Jounda N. and L. Limonov (2003). Strategic Planning in St. Petersburg: Lessons After Seven Years of Implementation. Article prepared for EURA - Eurocities conference (in English).
5. Jounda N. (2003) Strategies of the Mining and Other Mono-profile Cities. In Territorial strategic planning in Transition Period: Experience of the Russian Cities. Leontief Centre, St.-Petersburg (in Russian).
6. Jounda N., Zikharevich B. et al. (2003). How to Develop a Strategic Plan? A Practical Guide. Leontief Centre, St.-Petersburg (in Russian).

Activates by Month (August 2003 – March 2004)

August – September

- Preparing interim report.
- Communicating with mentors.
- Arranging visit to Croatia.
- Preparing article for EURA - Eurocities conference “European Urban Development, Research and Policy and the Future of European Cohesion Policy”.
- Participating in EURA - Eurocities conference “European Urban Development, Research and Policy and the future of European Cohesion Policy”.
- Visit to Croatia, meetings with experts of Urban Institute, study of the local experience.
- Starting the analysis of the collected information.

October – November

- Participation in workshop organized by UNDP and NISPACEE on Public Policy Analysis and Advisory (training course “How to be a Better Policy Advisors”).
- Continuing the analysis.
- Arranging the Round table on Participatory Economic Development Policymaking.
- Participation in All-Russian Forum of the Cities - Leaders in Strategic Planning.
- Communicating the preliminary results of the research with other experts and practitioners.
- Setting up contacts with cities - Cherepovets and Kirov.

December – January

- Visits to Cherepovets and Kirov.
- Analysis of the collected data.
- Preparing the second draft of the policy research paper.

February – March

- Participating in Round table “Association of Think Tanks of North-West Region: Current State and Development Trends”.
- Finalizing policy research paper.
- Preparing policy recommendations.
- Participation in IPF March seminar.
- Communicating results with experts and mentors.