

Ars Administrandi. 2022. Vol. 14, no. 4, pp. 607–623.

Ars Administrandi (Искусство управления). 2022. Т. 14, № 4. С. 607–623.

Original article

UDC 323.212

<https://doi.org/10.17072/2218-9173-2022-4-607-623>

IMPACT OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND SOCIO-POLITICAL TRANSFORMATIONS IN RUSSIA ON THE RESOURCE PROVISION OF NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS (CASE OF THE REPUBLIC OF MORDOVIA)

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Abstract. Introduction: the role of non-profit organizations in Russia has been rising gradually, fostered by internal and external developments. However, the trend has failed to attract proper attention. Correcting the situation requires a detailed focus on the status and role-specific characteristics of non-profit organizations based on location and taking into consideration their subjectivity, structure, properties, and qualities. **Objectives:** to assess the status and role-specific characteristics of the non-profit sector in the Republic of Mordovia with further description of its subsequent impact on social and political transformations in the regional space. **Methods:** Huberman's theory of communicative action, the concept of correlation between territorial development profile and the numbers of voluntary organizations by R. D. Putnam, R. Leonardi and R. Y. Nanetti, expert survey, web monitoring, statistical data analysis and hierarchy analysis method. **Results:** the trends of development of the non-profit sector in the intraregional space was analyzed and the status and role-specific characteristics of local non-profit organizations was determined, a differential approach to the analysis of the non-profit sector, taking into account regional specifics, is proposed. The research revealed the resources and potential of the non-profit sector of the Republic of Mordovia, which were grouped in several blocks: quantitative, diversity, influence, public support, budget revenue, competence, solidarity resources. **Conclusions:** the status and role-specific characteristics of the non-profit sector depend on the aspects of the region's socioeconomic development and political regime. Non-profit organizations take guidance in the actual situation to build up resources and put them to work. The authors proved that dislocation of non-profit organizations determines its design, probability of survival and maturity. An organization established in a particular regional space adapts to the local settings and is driven by the change of demand for sociopolitical transformations. That's why the authors proposed a differentiated approach to the analysis of non-profit sector which is to take into account a diverse regional makeup of the country.

Keywords: non-profit sector, non-profit organization (NPO), socially oriented non-profit organization (SO NPO), social sphere, socially relevant projects, intraregional space, Republic of Mordovia



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For citation: Semushenkova, A. S. and Soldatova, A. S. (2022), "Impact of socio-economic and socio-political transformations in Russia on the resource provision of non-profit organizations (case of the Republic of Mordovia)", *Ars Administrandi*, vol. 14, no. 4, pp. 607 – 623, <https://doi.org/10.17072/2218-9173-2022-4-607-623>.

Научная статья

ВЛИЯНИЕ СОЦИАЛЬНО-ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКИХ И ОБЩЕСТВЕННО-ПОЛИТИЧЕСКИХ ТРАНСФОРМАЦИЙ В РОССИИ НА РЕСУРСНУЮ ОБЕСПЕЧЕННОСТЬ НЕКОММЕРЧЕСКИХ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЙ (НА ПРИМЕРЕ РЕСПУБЛИКИ МОРДОВИЯ)

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Аннотация. Введение: роль некоммерческих организаций в России постепенно повышается, чему способствуют внутренние и внешнеполитические события. Однако эта тенденция, на наш взгляд, не получила должного внимания исследователей. Чтобы исправить ситуацию, требуется подробное изучение статуса и ролевых характеристик некоммерческих организаций в зависимости от их местонахождения и учета их субъектности, структуры, свойств и качеств. **Цель:** изучить состояние и ролевые характеристики некоммерческого сектора на примере Республики Мордовия с дальнейшим анализом их влияния на социально-политические преобразования в региональном пространстве. **Методы:** теория коммуникативного действия Хабермаса, концепция корреляция между профилем территориального развития и количеством добровольческих организаций Р. Д. Патнэма, Р. Леонарди и Р. Ю. Нанетти, экспертный опрос, веб-мониторинг, анализ статистических данных и метод анализа иерархий. **Результаты:** проанализированы тенденции развития некоммерческого сектора в пространстве региона, определены статусно-ролевые характеристики некоммерческих организаций, предложен дифференцированный подход к анализу некоммерческого сектора, учитывающий региональную специфику. Исследование выявило ресурсы и потенциал некоммерческого сектора Республики Мордовия, которые были сгруппированы в несколько блоков: количественный ресурс, ресурсы разнообразия, влияния, общественной поддержки, наполняемости бюджетов, компетенций, солидарности. **Выводы:** статус и ролевые характеристики некоммерческого сектора зависят от особенностей социально-экономического развития региона и политического режима. Некоммерческие организации руководствуются реальной ситуацией, чтобы накопить ресурсы и эффективно распорядиться ими. Выявлено, что место нахождения некоммерческих организаций определяет вероятность ее выживания и достижения зрелости. Появившаяся в конкретном региональном пространстве организация адаптируется к местным условиям и руководствуется в своей деятельности изменением спроса на социально-политические преобразования. Поэтому авторы предложили дифференцированный подход к анализу некоммерческого сектора, который должен учитывать разнообразие российских регионов.

Ключевые слова: некоммерческий сектор, некоммерческая организация (НКО), социально ориентированная некоммерческая организация (СО НКО), социальная сфера, социально значимые проекты, внутрирегиональное пространство, Республика Мордовия

Для цитирования: Семушенкова А. С., Солдатова А. С. Влияние социально-экономических и общественно-политических трансформаций в России на ресурсную обеспеченность некоммерческих организаций (на примере Республики Мордовия) // *Ars Administrandi* (Искусство управления). 2022. Т. 14, № 4. С. 607–623. <https://doi.org/10.17072/2218-9173-2022-4-607-623>.

INTRODUCTION

The role and place of the non-profit sector in Russia have recently inspired an active debate. Experts conducting longitudinal research point out that the sector development can be compared to the space flight¹ – for the sheer scope of transformation that occurred to the social institute. The subject gained a new relevance given the rising demand for NPO services as Russian and global developments required a large-scale engagement of non-governmental structures (sports and cultural events (Persson and Petersson, 2014; Akopov et al., 2017; Панченко, 2019), catastrophes, natural disasters, and acts of terror). NPOs are actively involved in the development of civil society and resolving a wide variety of citizens' problems.

The functionality of the non-profit sector is detailed within the framework of C. Brooks's concept (Brooks et al., 2016). Civic leadership has a very specific role to play – it is designed to bridge public, private, and non-profit strategies; therefore, community leaders are becoming an integral part of “joint management”. However, to an extent, socioeconomic asymmetry is present between the territories of Russia; the resource structure in its non-profit sector is accordingly uneven (Toepler et al., 2020, p. 48).

Our objective is to analyze of the status and role-specific characteristics of the non-profit sector in a region in Russia (namely, Republic of Mordovia) with further analysis of their impact on the social and political transformations in the regional space.

Based on the identified problem of the structural heterogeneity of the non-profit sector's resources in Russia, we analyzed three resource center information reports for 2019–2020. The obtained data were supplemented by the results of Internet monitoring of social networks, thematic blogs, forums, media (25 research parameters, 35 Internet loci, chronological framework for 2017–2020). The NPOs websites and profiles in social networks, as well as their promotion strategies in the information space were analyzed. In addition, the systematic study of the local NPOs project activity at presidential grant competitions was carried out. The entire array of data on non-profit practices of Mordovian organizations for the last three years, contained in the official system of the Presidential Grants Fund, was studied.

Based on the information received, we concluded that, with varying degrees of intensity, Russian regions are aiming to bring their non-profit sphere up to the leaders' level. For example, the most comprehensive ranking of the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation shows the variance

¹ Мерсиянова И. В. «Что за зверь такой НКО»? [Электронный ресурс] // Православ. портал о благотворительности «Милосердие.ру». 2015. 23 марта. URL: <https://www.miloserdie.ru/article/chto-za-zver-takoj-nko-2/> (дата обращения: 17.07.2022).

in the final scores by the regions from 52.80 (the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous District – Yugra) to 1.13 (The Republic of Ingushetia)².

Quite indicative is the contrast in NPOs project activity levels. Nearly all operational non-profit structures of Russia take part in competitions to obtain state support through presidential grant programs. Hence, the government aims to invest in the NPOs activist core as an agent of change (Милованова, 2019, с. 71). Here, too, the uneven profile of efforts is obvious. For example, Samara region NPOs won 294 presidential grants in three years, amounting to \$ 7,191,946. Meanwhile, organizations in Mordovia secured funding for 87 socially relevant projects over the same period. Their budget only equaled \$ 557,504³.

A more in-depth discussion of the republic's development component specifics discovers a link between these characteristics and the dynamics of leadership capital. Thus, the main hypotheses of this research are as follows:

(1) the level of activity and success of the non-profit sector depends on a range of internal and external factors, including socioeconomic conditions, the region's political culture, government support framework and NPO leadership competence profile, etc. All these factors combined make up the resource base of the third sector;

(2) keeping their politically acceptable and socially relevant status, NPOs continue to active develop and adjust to the requirements of the social and political system both in the country and in each specific region. Civic leadership has a significant potential required to transform regional landscapes.

To achieve the objective and prove the hypotheses, we applied the following research structure:

- to consider the state of the non-profit sector in the Republic of Mordovia;
- to determine the resource provision components of the non-profit sector in modern intraregional spaces;
- to analyze the ruling elite strategies to consider the non-profit sector potential in making political and managerial decisions;
- to reveal the role of the non-profit sector in the socio-political transformations of Russian regions.

This constitutes the resource support for the functioning of the non-profit sector's structures. The materials significantly contributed to the proof of the hypothesis about the correlation between the non-profit sector's design and the socio-political system's requirements in the regional space.

² *Результаты* расчета рейтинга субъектов Российской Федерации по итогам реализации механизмов поддержки социально ориентированных некоммерческих организаций и социального предпринимательства, обеспечения доступа негосударственных организаций к предоставлению услуг в социальной сфере и внедрения конкурентных способов оказания государственных (муниципальных) услуг в социальной сфере за 2020 г. (таблица) [Электронный ресурс] // Письмо М-ва экон. развития Рос. Федерации от 28.09.2021 № 32750-ТИ/Д04и. URL: https://economy.gov.ru/material/file/dd78a53fad8e80ac842f4ea5b4ec2659/reyting_zh_2020.pdf (дата обращения: 14.07.2022).

³ *Проекты* [Электронный ресурс] // Фонд президентских грантов. URL: <https://президентскиегранты.рф/public/application/cards> (дата обращения: 18.07.2022).

METHODS (THEORETICAL BASIS)

We believe that a mixed research strategy, integrating the principles and methods of collection and analysis of quantitative and qualitative strategies (Arendt, 1962; Putnam et al., 1979; Habermas, 2004; Castells, 2009; Hambleton, 2014; Van der Kam et al., 2015; Budd and Sancino, 2016; Campbell, 2018; Slavina and Brym, 2020; Harrow and Guest, 2021) will help to obtain reliable results on the development of the non-profit sector. Therefore, an expert survey and literature analysis were chosen as the main research methods.

The Republic of Mordovia has been chosen as the experimental ground. Mordovia faces a complicated situation in the non-profit sector. It is further exacerbated by the specificity of political processes in the region characterized by a closed, inaccessible public policymaking and governance and a high degree of the informal influence resource (Kowalev, 2000; Libman, 2017).

The empirical base of the study comprises the findings of the expert survey entitled “The place and role of non-profit organizations in the regional spaces in Russia” conducted in January–March 2020.

The expert survey selected as a research method allowed us to obtain a three-linear assessment of the regional situation reflecting the opinion of the regional elite and public figures, and the point of view of scientists, based on sociological studies of the population. With the data obtained, we highlighted the factors that form the resource provision of the third sector, as well as conducted a direct assessment of its potential – as it is perceived by the authorities, accepted by citizens, and implemented by NPOs.

Three groups of experts were involved into the survey which was carried out in the form of a questionnaire sent to the respondents’ e-mail addresses. It included 30 questions, divided into four semantic blocks.

First: the political space of the Republic of Mordovia: the main actors and problems of civic participation.

Second: forms of participation and the role of NPOs in the formation of civil society in Mordovia.

Third: trends and problems in the development of NPOs in Mordovia.

Fourth: peculiarities of interaction between NPOs and authorities. The obtained data were processed through the “SPSS Statistics” software using one-dimensional, two-dimensional, and multivariate analysis.

Overall, responses to the questions were collected from 58 experts. The first group (25 %) comprised political analysts and sociologists recognized in Mordovia as experts in civic leadership. The second group (25 %) was made up by government officials professionally engaged with the region’s third sector as part of their job. The third group (50 %) included the republic’s NPOs leaders engaged in a variety of fields (50 %).

To address the problem of polar opinions in the study, we used a balanced scale of numerical assessment of possible answers to questions – the hierarchy analysis method. A special section in the questionnaire contained questions in which the experts in pairs compared the degree of importance and certain factors’ influence on the NPOs resource availability. This allowed us to calculate their relative

importance, considering the consistency of answers for each expert. In addition, the problem of evaluating criteria can be structured according to the hierarchy's levels. As a result, a rating of such factors was compiled.

RESULTS

Features of the non-profit sector structure in the Republic of Mordovia

The conducted analysis of the regional outlook revealed several features.

(1) Currently, Mordovia remains a region with a numerous non-profit sector. By the number of NPOs per capita, Mordovia ranks ninth among all constituent entities of the Russian Federation with the figure of 16.5 per 10,000 people⁴.

(2) The region shows a mixed outlook in terms of the distribution of the non-profit sector. Most local organizations are concerned with the social and educational sphere (37 % and 30 % respectively). A relatively significant share of NPOs concentrate on sports, physical education, and rehabilitation (about 15 %), culture is the focus of at least 8 %. The least representative are healthcare, environmental causes, agriculture, patriotic education, and control of socially sensitive diseases (less than 1% each)⁵.

(3) No major authoritative organizations have been established in the republic to be perceived as the leaders of the non-profit sphere. Internet monitoring of NPOs records in the Unified register of legal entities of the Russian Federation showed that most structures were launched in 2016-2018, with the newcomers often turning up as the winners of presidential grants. However, with no exception all of these have problems with permanent funding.

(4) Mordovia does not use many practices that have already been proven in other Russian regions. Also, there are no structures in place to support civil initiatives. NPO specialists are rarely engaged as experts or contributors in addressing local problems (Семушенкова, 2019, с. 35). Quite moderate are the government's efforts to provide support to the non-profit sector through other means. Compared to other regions, Mordovia ranks below average. We came to this conclusion based on a separate comparative study (Семушенкова, 2020, с. 132–133). It is backed up by various Russian ratings and reports from federal ministries and departments⁶.

(5) Despite the big numbers of officially registered non-profit organizations in the republic (total 1,428⁷), real activity is driven by the informal block of civic leadership. Across many social spheres, wide-ranging activities are conducted in city communities in social media.

⁴ *Результаты* расчета рейтинга субъектов Российской Федерации...

⁵ *Информация* о зарегистрированных некоммерческих организациях [Электронный ресурс] // Информ. портал М-ва юстиции Рос. Федерации. 2022. URL: <http://unro.minjust.ru/NKOs.aspx> (дата обращения: 17.07.2022); *Отчеты* некоммерческих организаций [Электронный ресурс] // Информ. портал М-ва юстиции Рос. Федерации. 2022. URL: <http://unro.minjust.ru/NKOResports.aspx> (дата обращения: 17.07.2022).

⁶ *Направления* государственной поддержки [Электронный ресурс] // Система поддержки социально ориентир. некоммерч. орг. (М-во экон. развития Рос. Федерации). URL: <http://nko.esonomu.gov.ru/portalnews/read/4606> (дата обращения: 16.07.2022); *Результаты* расчета рейтинга субъектов Российской Федерации...

⁷ *Информация* о зарегистрированных некоммерческих организациях...

(6) Activity in rural areas and in the administrative capital of Mordovia comes in two different formats. Foundations and diverse autonomous NPOs are extremely rare in municipal areas. This is clearly evidenced by the working documentation of the “Inforum for NPOs” Resource Center of the Republic of Mordovia. Within the framework of this project, the resource center’s employees visited all municipal districts of the republic and held at least five seminars and round tables in each district for the public and socially active citizens. The participant registers allowed us to draw the following conclusion: the professional activities of district NPOs are heterogeneous. In some districts, the level of competence in the field of social design was extremely low; in others, employees were multiple winners of the Presidential Grants Fund competitions. They were able to build successful work with active citizens living in the villages.

Expert survey results

The conducted expert survey confirms the conclusion that the activities of district NPOs are not uniform. The authorities’ representatives were optimistic about the situation in the region, while most of the NPOs experts identified extremely negative trends in the non-profit sector.

This is primarily true for the public political sphere, in particular 27.6 % of experts believe that the intraregional space of Mordovia is a discussion ground for diverse opinions of various actors, while more than 50 % of respondents strongly disagree with that point. Of those, 31 % responded that it is “defined by the dominant regional government structures” and 19% admitted “a limited circle of influential players”. Only 1.7 % denied the existence of a normal public political sphere in the republic.

The regional representatives of political parties (15.7 %) and national public organizations (10.8%) were the most influential. Human rights NPOs were completely excluded from interaction with regional leaders and did not influence political decision-making (0.8 %).

The survey participants considered social protection and urban (local) politics to be the most open spheres. However, the openness of these areas remains extremely low. According to the experts, none of the policy directions indicated in the questionnaire was formed with the full-scale participation of NPOs.

All three groups of respondents agreed that non-profit sector structures (or individual NPOs in certain spheres) could only partially influence policies and management in the region (74.1 % of expert’s responses).

In turn, the authorities actively influence the activities of NPOs in the region. Thus, 77.6 % of the experts noted a high level of the sector’s dependence on the authorities’ actions.

Paradoxically, the issue of informal influence resources was taken for granted. The main difficulty faced by NPOs in Mordovia, according to most experts, was the lack of stable funding sources and diverse resources for operations (41.6 % in total).

In terms of restructuring the relations between authorities and NPOs, the main priorities included a wider support provided by regional authorities and governance (20.2 %) and engaging NPO representatives in addressing socially sensitive regional problems (18.2 %).

A major percentage of experts believed lobbying potential combined with financial resources was the main distinctive feature of effective non-profit structures (38 %).

16.7 % of respondents pointed at the NPOs willingness to address relevant social problems of the region or specific groups of the public. Continuity and consistent operation were mentioned by only 11.3 %, high project quality – by 11 %.

Of a special importance is the expert assessment of the non-profit sector contribution to the sociopolitical and economic developments in the region. 20.7 % of experts said such implemented practices were successful. 63.8 % mentioned a certain number of effective projects and applications. Only 1.7 % denied any impact of NPOs at the regional level.

Overall, the experts spoke highly of the non-profit sector public support resource, mentioning that that difficulties in communication between the society and the non-profit sector stem from the lack of stable funding for organizations to progress on their goals (27.6 %).

Factors affecting the resource availability of the non-profit sector in the Republic of Mordovia

To add to the findings, there is logical data on the non-profit sector actual activity levels. We believe the scope of NPO participation in the competitions of the Presidential Grants Fund can serve as a most indicative criterion. With the underdeveloped intraregional subsidies system, many organizations can rely on presidential grants as the only permanent source of funding.

This mechanism of support was set several years ago. In 2017, \$ 83 million was provided for competitions, and the amount continues to grow⁸.

From 2007 until 2020, 543 applications were submitted by 156 local organizations from Mordovia. With 1,428 organizations in the republic in total⁹, only 11 % of local NPOs proved project active. The requested budget of applications in four years totaled \$ 11,329,222.

Even less inspiring is the data on winners. Only 87 of all project applications were successful (success rate 16 %). Only 60 organizations received funding (some of them twice or thrice). The total amount of grants equaled \$ 1,154, 406¹⁰.

Even compared to the neighboring regions, Mordovia is significantly behind by the level of funds attracted. According to the information generated in the system of the Presidential Grants Fund, project support in the Samara region totaled \$ 7,191,946 (six times the figure of Mordovia), \$ 2,091,797 in the Ulyanovsk region (twice the amount), \$ 1,911,521 in the Penza region (one and a half the amount of Mordovia).

The most popular project areas remain the sphere of social services, social support, and civil protection (up to 25 %). This sector obtains smallest grants among the municipal districts of Mordovia. Not a single project concerned with environmental, or animal protection has ever won in the competition.

The study of the weighted expert assessments with the help of the hierarchy analysis method allowed us to build a rating that affects the resource availability of the non-profit sector (table).

⁸ Проекты...

⁹ Информация о зарегистрированных некоммерческих организациях...

¹⁰ Проекты...

Rating of factors in terms of their impact on the resource availability of the non-profit sector based on the hierarchy analysis method / Рейтинг факторов по их влиянию на ресурсообеспеченность некоммерческого сектора, основанный на методе анализа иерархий

Analyzed factors	Factor's importance, %	Factor's importance, estimated using the MAH, weight
Unwillingness of the region's population to participate in NPO initiatives and projects	18.79	0.188
Low professional level of NPO personnel	15.60	0.156
Lack or insufficient support for organizations and their projects from the regional authorities	12.98	0.130
Lack of stable funding sources	12.23	0.122
General distrust of the population in the activities of NPOs	11.82	0.118
Low activity and interest of the media in covering non-commercial projects	9.87	0.099
Lack of social partnership between NPOs in the region	9.45	0.095
Lack of various resources for the implementation of NPO initiatives	5.71	0.057
Administrative barriers (excessive attention from the authorities)	3.53	0.035

Source: compiled by the authors.

The reasons for of the region's population being reluctant to participate in the NGOs initiatives and projects, are explained, on the one hand, by the inability of NPOs to influence the adoption of political and managerial decisions in the region, and on the other hand – by the low professional level of personnel. In particular, the brands of Mordovian NPOs are not known outside the region. As our online monitoring of social networks showed, publications dedicated to the merits of organizations often contain only information on competitions for presidential grants, indicating the allocated amounts. Without a meaningful description of the projects' essence, it is difficult for the population to understand the need for their implementation and to attract new participants.

DISCUSSION

The research helped to identify the resources and potential of the non-profit sector of the Republic of Mordovia. Their major constituents may be grouped into several blocks.

Quantitative resource. Despite the impressive numbers of the non-profit sector of Mordovia, including SO NPOs, only a fraction is truly operational. For now, a major percentage of civic leaders remains in the informal activism zone.

Diversity resource. The non-profit sector of Mordovia tends toward universality and aggregating diverse projects under the auspices of a single NPO. Organizations must operate in those spheres where the government and the republic place their “order” and are willing to pay adequately. Consequently, the scope of problematic and directional niches in Mordovia is narrow. Largely due to this, the regional political agenda assumes a sharp social dimension.

Influence resource. One may note a complete absence of subjectivity for civic structures in the region. There is, in fact, no practice of integrating the non-profit potential in policymaking and governance decisions. The status of NPOs is largely contingent on the regional elite. As the potential of the non-profit sector rises, the republic’s administration’s intent to control it rises, too.

Public support resource. Given the specifics of small-size local organizations and their small-scale projects, the share of audience engagement leaves no deficit of public support for the structures of the third sector.

Budget revenue resource. Non-profit structures in a regional setting must focus on survival, not development. There are no comprehensive government support measures of the non-profit sector in Mordovia. People’s economic behavior is limited subject to income constraints. Civic leaders themselves believe that budget constraints are the primary reason behind all negative trends in the non-profit sector.

Competence resource. Mordovia’s non-profit sector is not equipped with a professional workforce. It attracts individuals with certain accomplishments in social fields, but these competences are not correlated with what is necessary for the development of a modern NPO.

Solidarity resource. The intrasectoral interaction in Mordovia is limited to, and primarily contingent on, personal ties, which is reminiscent of a “club” profile.

Based on the assessment of the resource base of the non-profit sector, there is nothing to suggest NPOs have strong positions or subjectivity inside or, most notably, outside the region. The efforts and expertise of local NPOs are not sufficient for them to fully engage in social life and influence the process of sociopolitical transformations. Most NPOs prove isolated and largely excluded from the domain of public policymaking and decision-making processes. Both government authorities and NPOs tend toward establishing an operational vacuum of their own excluding any need in the other party’s engagement.

These data correlate with the results of ratings and statistical data (as mentioned above), which makes it possible to rank the regions of Russia according to the degree of their non-profit sphere saturation (vigorous activity and initiatives of NPOs, mechanisms of support from the relevant administrations). Four enlarged levels can be distinguished (from intense to fragmentary severity). The first level: economic and political centers – federal cities Moscow and St. Petersburg. Recently, the city of Sevastopol has shown high rates. The second level: cities with a population of one million and some of the country’s economic regions centers (Krasnoyarsk, Novosibirsk, Yekaterinburg, Samara, Perm, etc.). The third level: cities, districts, rural areas with a traditionally high level of political and civic participation (territories in the Krasnodar Krai, Vologda, Yaroslavl, Arkhangelsk Oblasts, etc.). The fourth level: the rest of the cities, regions, municipal districts, the Republic of Mordovia inclu-

ding¹¹. However, we can point at a growing non-profit potential of the latter. The most promising observation that we might register is the willingness in the third sector to operate even in a complicated, specific, and constrained environment.

Based on the findings, we arrive at conclusions in line with the propositions made in the research hypotheses above.

Firstly, the resource system of the non-profit sector creates a large domain of quantitative indicators, descriptions of the NPOs' standards of existence, their structural characteristics, etc.

Secondly, the regional environment is defined by a set of stimulating and restrictive factors and maneuvering capacities, a system of action or counteraction in resource base growth for the non-profit sector.

Thirdly, dislocation determines the design and the probability of survival and maturity of NPOs. An organization established in a particular regional space adapts to the local settings and is driven by the change of demand for sociopolitical transformations.

The analyzed region is unique in terms of the non-profit operations features. However, even though the case relates to Russia, it provides visibility to identify some important patterns for any country seeking to balance the development of its non-profit sector. The expertise is particularly relevant for federal states where the constituent entities are diverse in structure and composition.

The system of state bodies of the federation's constituent entities is established independently, but in accordance with the fundamentals of the constitutional system and the general principles of organizing representative and executive bodies of state power, in accordance with federal law; specifically, this applies to Russia, India, Malaysia, etc. where the problems arising in the countries and relating to non-profit sector are the same, namely:

- tougher rules;
- limitations of foreign funding;
- low partnership profile between NPOs and authorities.

Here, attempts are being made by the state to provide some uniformity and integrity of the statutory framework, however, the specifics of individual territories shape an environment of its own for social processes.

Now there are several models for the non-profit sector development that relate to federal states:

– liberal model, as exemplified by the UK and the US. The liberal model is characterized by many jobs in the non-commercial sector. State support for the non-profit sector is a priority for social policy implementation (Toepler, 2018; Toepler et al., 2020);

– comparative model. This model, present mainly in Germany, is primarily characterized by a significant contribution of public funds to support, and develop the third sector activities. Financing non-profit organizations is the second priority item in the implementation of social and economic policy (Salamon and Sokolowski, 2018; Muterera et al., 2018). State support allows the organizations to implement government programs;

¹¹ *Quantity Indicators for Non-Profit Sector Development* [Электронный ресурс] // Non-profit sector: Development dynamics. URL: <https://report2018.oprf.ru/en/3.php> (дата обращения: 17.07.2022).

– social democratic model. The model present in the Nordic countries is primarily characterized by a large non-profit sector because of a high number of volunteers in the activities of organizations, which contributes to an increase in the funding through membership fees (Wijkström and Einarsson, 2018, p. 1901). Therefore, the role of the state in the development and activities of NGOs is not a priority. NPOs are primarily aimed at representing the interests of their members in the social sphere;

– a belated democratization model. Looking at the case of Russia and several countries in Eastern Europe and Latin America, we see that the state has a monopoly in the field of social policy. To date, the process of non-governmental/non-profit organizations sector formation in Russia is far from being perfect, as NPOs are not sufficiently stable and institutionally formed (Ivanova, 2019). And it is here, in overcoming difficulties and developing the sector that a balanced state policy could help through targeted support.

Comparing the existing models of interaction between the state and the non-profit sector, one can state that non-profit organizations could largely solve the tasks of state social policy. The NPO activities effectiveness often depends on the current forms of interaction between organizations and authorities, the nature of intersectoral partnerships.

CONCLUSIONS

NPOs are one of the civil society institutions in Russia, implementing their potential in the country's specific political environment. NPOs are involved into the process of socio-political transformations; however, faced with the problem of building up their own subjectivity, they are limited in their tools to influence political decisions. On the other hand, NPOs themselves are a little-demanded mechanism for transforming the socio-political space. The low resource availability of the non-profit sector in the region makes it difficult to build its capacity.

The most conditioning factors for this process are the mechanisms of the internal and not external environment: the wide participation of target groups in initiatives as opposed to regional authorities; raising professionalism of personnel as opposed to physical resources in the implementation of projects. Therefore, there is a shortage of legal (legally formalized) and legitimate (having a positive or neutral image) foundations suitable for the implementation of civil initiatives. This trend is especially typical for provincial areas. The most valuable thing that we managed to record is the willingness of the Russian third sector representatives to work even in a complex, specific, and limited environment.

In our view, the potential of further use of this research relates to its scope to transform the approach to analyzing the non-profit sector issues, as even within a single state the specificity of each territorial unit development accordingly influences the development of the local third sector.

Our research is devoted to the study of the factors of resource availability of the non-profit sector of the region; however, it applies only to the federal state structure, and when carrying out analysis for a different type of structure, these limitations must be considered.

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Contribution of the authors: the authors contributed equally to this article.

The authors declare no conflicts of interests.

The article was submitted 11.10.2022; approved after reviewing 02.11.2022; accepted for publication 02.11.2022.

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Вклад авторов: все авторы сделали эквивалентный вклад в подготовку публикации.

Авторы заявляют об отсутствии конфликта интересов.

Статья поступила в редакцию 11.10.2022; одобрена после рецензирования 02.11.2022; принята к публикации 02.11.2022.