



A cooperative effort by the NGO Committee on Ageing and Global Action on Aging

Section I

I. What has your NGO done to educate older persons and/or the general public about the Madrid Plan?

The UN materials on ageing, including a full text of the Madrid plan in Russian were posted on the web-site of the Resource Center of Gerontological NGOs (www.dobroedelo.ru/vcr) in 2003.

The same year our Foundation issued a CD, "Selected Materials on Social Gerontology." The CD included the UN's basic documents on aging including a text of the Madrid plan. 100 CD copies were distributed free of charge.

In 2005 we prepared and posted a literature review on the issues of elder discrimination on our website. We also included a detailed review of the Madrid Plan. In our publications we also cited various objectives and commitments of the Plan.

In 2006 our Foundation issued a CD, "Elderly People: Rights Protection and Social Support" where also we published a full text of the Madrid plan. Some 1, 000 copies of the CD were issued and distributed free of charge.

In October 2007 we were the first organization in Russia to issue a full text of the Madrid Plan in Russian (3,000 copies). The issue was devoted to the 5-year anniversary of the Plan. The publications was distributed free of charge to various NGOs and other organizations in Russia and Newly Independent States as well as to interested individuals, including older people.

We also explained various recommendations set by the Madrid Plan during our radio and TV interviews for the past 2-3 years.

Section II

II. Which of the 3 priority directions of Madrid Plan (older persons and development; advancing health and well-being into old age; ensuring enabling and supportive environments) has your NGO focused on?

Our Foundation focuses on all the three priority directions of the Madrid Plan. The Foundation advocates for creating government and non-government organizations representing elder rights on different levels and empowering the elderly to take part in the work of the organizations.

As for the second priority direction, the Foundation implements a medical home patronage program for high-risk groups of the elderly.

As for the Plan's third priority area, the Foundation took part in the global project "Elder-Friendly City," which studied opinions of the elderly persons living in Moscow about their living conditions. We presented the results to the City Government and they were published in various media including the Foundation's web-site, under the «Social Gerontology» link.

III. What specific accomplishments has your NGO achieved in that area?
How has it worked with government, other NGO's and/or others to achieve its objectives?

As a means to protect elder rights, we appeal to government organizations, both on national and local levels, Parliament and local administrative institutions. On October 1, 2007, the International Day of Older Persons, our Foundation, supported by other NGOs of the "Elder Right" coalition as well as two other public Associations wrote an appeal to the Head of the Government of Russia. The copies of the document were also distributed to both chambers of the Russian Parliament. In the document we appealed for developing a national aging plan, creating a national Committee on aging and re-opening of the Department of Elder Affairs within the Ministry of Health and Social Development.

The document pointed out that there were no legislative or executive administrative bodies which would represent the rights of senior citizens in the Government: neither a Parliament Committee dealing with elder people's issues nor an analogous governing body at the Council of Federation. Our opinion is that all this negatively affects living conditions of elderly people in Russia (for the full text of the appeal – see Resource Center of the gerontological NGOs website– www.dobroedelo.ru/vcr under «Elder Right»). Ministry of Health and Social Development sent us a reply, which can be summarized as "a proposal for opening the Department of Elder Affairs within the Ministry of Health and Social Development of Russia is declined."

One of the important milestones in our work was creation of an inter-regional NGOs coalition "Elder Right" in October 2006. Currently the Coalition includes 40 organizations supporting elder people all over Russia.

IV. Are there other significant accomplishments of the NGO that you'd like to share?

- 1) long and successful partnership with the British organization Age Concerny
- 2) partnership with IFA
- 3) networking with NGOs supporting senior citizens, in NIS – Kirgызstan, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Belarus
- 4) becoming a member of the Network of social NGOs of the Black Sea countries
- 5) publishing literature on aging both for NGOs and elderly people
- 6) participation in the Ministerial Conference on Aging in Leon (Spain) in November 2007, giving a speech on behalf of the Foundation and the «Elder Right» coalition.

V. Every Government has been asked by the UN, but is not required, to conduct a "bottom-up" review and appraisal during 2007 of progress in their country in implementing the Madrid Plan. To your knowledge, has your government begun or committed to undertake that review?

As was mentioned by a staff member of the Department of Social Protection of the Ministry of Health and Social Development of Russia, such a review was undertaken in April 2007. Our NGO was not invited to participate and we obtained no information on whether other NGOs were participating. We also asked the Ministry if we could read the Review. However, the Ministry staff member said the review was not open for public access.

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