

BEARR Small Grants
Scheme 2011: results

Lecture: 'Politics and
Society in Russia Today'

Changing of the Guard at
BEARR

'Russia and the Arab
Spring' lecture report

'If only I'd known then...
lessons learned from
running international
projects'

Project reports: helping
young offenders

- Community to
Children, Moscow
- Civil Society Institute,
Erevan, Armenia
- Centre for Legal
and Judicial Reform,
Moscow
- Reliable Future,
Baku, Azerbaijan

Country profile: Russia

Book review: 'The
Struggle for Civil
Society in Central Asia'

Volunteering: 2012
Annual Conference

About BEARR

МОЛОДЕЖНЫЙ СПРАВОЧНИК ПО МОСКВЕ

Путеводитель в самостоятельной жизни



Above: The Community to Children project, Moscow (see page 8).
The BEARR-sponsored youth guide

The BEARR Trust Small Grants Scheme 2012: Results

BEARR received a wide range of excellent applications for the 2012 grant scheme from the many and varied organisations active in the relevant areas of work.

As usual it was difficult to assess all the applications and choose the winners. We regret not being able to support more than a small number of projects, but wish all the other applicants good luck with their much-needed work.

Grants were awarded as follows, under each section of the scheme:

Section A. For projects in Russia and Kazakhstan which encourage youth volunteering as a way of integrating young people more fully into wider society

Dari Dobro, Ulyanovsk, Russia

The aim of the project is to train a youth volunteer movement in the Ulyanovsk region, to develop compassion among young people and give them the skills, knowledge and training to act as mentors to children coming out of orphanages, so that with their practical help and moral support these children can be integrated successfully into society.

Positive, Abakan, Republic of Khakassia, Russia

Partner: The Government funded 'Centre for the Prevention and Control of AIDS and infectious diseases' in Khakassia

The project aims to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS by training young volunteers to man peripatetic HIV and healthy living information tents, and to help develop a long-term cadre of anti-AIDS volunteers.

Volunteer, Yelabuga, Tatarstan, Russia

Partners: The Department of Labour, Employment and Social Protection of the Republic of Tatarstan, The Russian Centre for the Development of Volunteering, the Makheyev Foundation in Yelabuga, and the 'Ariadna' centre for social and psychological assistance to the population

The project is to develop and support the volunteer movement through a network of seven 'Volunteer' centres in the Volga federal district and in Kaliningrad. The aim of the centres is to involve young people in providing targeted assistance to socially vulnerable groups, building on Volunteer's excellent track record in this field

Volunteer club DAR, Aktobe, Kazakhstan

Partner: Social Foundation 'Charity Fund MECENAT'

The project will provide seminars to train young volunteers to work with young people with disabilities.

Section A of The BEARR Trust Small Grants Scheme 2012 is funded by a grant from the Moscow Office of the law firm Baker Botts.

Section B. Projects which involve innovative work with elderly people in Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova

Stand International, Tubota pro Litnikh and Svet, Simferopol, Ukraine

The project aims to develop the idea of inter-generational work in Ukraine and encourage younger people to volunteer in their own community and engage with the older inhabitants of state-run institutions, contributing to a healthy civic society and encouraging local policy-makers to support and develop similar ideas.

Memoria Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims, Chisinau, Moldova

The project aims to improve the quality of elderly people's lives by reducing their sense of isolation; and to increase public awareness of the situation of elderly victims of political repression in Moldova.

BEARR Trust Lecture

'Politics and Society in Russia Today'

by Lilia Shevtsova of the Moscow Carnegie Center

The Lecture will take place at BEARR's premises in Southwark on 26 September 2012. Space is limited and bookings will only be taken on receipt of a booking form.

For details see <http://www.bearr.org/lectureShevtsova>

Changing of the guard at BEARR

Robert Brinkley has succeeded Tony Longrigg as Chairman of The BEARR Trust on the latter's retirement. We asked both for their comments.

Valedictory thoughts from Tony Longrigg

In June I handed over as Chairman of BEARR to Robert Brinkley – whose introductory thoughts appear below. I had been Chairman for four years and a Trustee for a year before that. It was time for new blood.



Having been offered this space in the Newsletter, the first thing I must do is thank warmly my fellow Trustees and BEARR's staff and volunteers for their support over my time as Chairman. Like any charity, BEARR is only as efficient as its members allow it to be, and BEARR's Trustees bring together an unrivalled knowledge of NGO communities in Russia

and other former members of the USSR, and give their time freely and generously to BEARR. Therefore the ratio of overheads to total expenditure at BEARR is remarkably low and those who contribute get real value for money.

Life has not been easy for BEARR over the past 4-5 years because of the wider economic climate. But financially, it is still healthy. Receipts have been maintained at around the same level they were four years ago, and there is still enough money in the bank to cover a year's overheads. During this period BEARR has managed to fund a complete overhaul of its website, launch a new monthly information bulletin, and establish a regular arrangement with EBRD to host the Annual Lecture in their magnificent lecture theatre. At the same time, grants given to NGOs have been expanded.

However, it has not all been a tale of success. Two years ago, we launched an exciting new cooperative venture with CEELBAS (Centre for East European Language-based Area Studies) whereby they joined us in organising and funding conferences. This had enormous potential for bringing academics and NGO representatives here and abroad into

greater contact, to everyone's advantage. Sadly, government cuts intervened and the programme has almost come to a halt – at least for the short term.

Looking to the future, BEARR will have some choices to make. Does it want to stay small and continue with what it knows how to do? Or should it try and expand by giving more grants, holding more conferences – all requiring the raising of more funds? Should it reduce its geographic area or specialise more within the social welfare agenda? Or even merge with another like-minded charity?

All these however are issues for my successor and his team, and I hand over to them confident they will find the right answers.

Introductory thoughts from Robert Brinkley

It is an honour for me to succeed Tony Longrigg as Chairman of The BEARR Trust. His fellow Trustees warmly thanked Tony at his last meeting in June for steering BEARR successfully through the last four years and handing it over in good shape.

I have been a Trustee for a year, and I knew of BEARR well before that. Before retiring from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office last year, I spent about half my diplomatic career working in or on the former Soviet Union. This included two postings in Moscow – in Brezhnev's Soviet Union and in Yeltsin's Russia – and four years as Ambassador to Ukraine from 2002 to 2006. After that I spent three years as High Commissioner to Pakistan and had an eighteen-month secondment in London to Associated British Foods.



My wife, Mary, has been volunteering for BEARR for the last two years. Like me, she speaks Russian and Ukrainian. In Kyiv she did much networking among British and local NGOs, working on issues such as street children and the elderly, and in effect doing on the ground in Ukraine what BEARR seeks to do throughout the region.

The change of Chairman is an opportunity to stand back from day-to-day concerns and review BEARR's overall strategy. In preparation for collective discussion by the Trustees, my approach has been to consider whether BEARR's aim remains well aligned with the external environment and its own capabilities. I have had sessions with each of the Trustees and staff, as well as with former Trustees and others with a close interest. The intention is to provide a thorough basis for the Trustees to consider together how BEARR is doing and where it should be going.

BEARR enjoys tremendous commitment and support from its Trustees and staff, and considerable goodwill more widely. Twenty years since its foundation, it still plays a unique role as a UK charity networking among and supporting NGOs in the former Soviet Union. It is small, of course, and like the rest of the charitable sector it faces much uncertainty over income. My aim is that we use the review to agree a firm platform for BEARR's future. I am looking forward to working with fellow Trustees, staff and volunteers as BEARR goes into its third decade.

'Russia and the Arab Spring' by Sir Tony Brenton

The BEARR Trust Annual Lecture 2012

The BEARR Trust Annual Lecture 2012, given by Sir Tony Brenton, was held at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) on 11 June 2012.

Tony Longrigg CMG, then Chairman of the BEARR Trust, welcomed the guests and Jonathan Charles, Head of Communications at EBRD, introduced the speaker.

Sir Anthony (Tony) Brenton KCMG started his diplomatic career as an Arabist, serving in Cairo and dealing subsequently with Middle East, oil and environmental matters. He later turned his attention to the USSR and Russia, serving as Counsellor in Moscow 1994-98 and

Ambassador 2004-08. He is a Fellow of Wolfson College Cambridge, and a senior adviser to Lloyd's Insurance.

Sir Tony said that having worked in both the Arab world and Russia, he would try to identify patterns in international affairs. When he first served in Egypt, it was a state run by a one-man government, with a socialist economy, a ruling party that had never lost an election, controlled media, a rigged justice system, a high level of corruption, and numerous human rights abuses. This might sound familiar. After the Second World War the largest undemocratic region apart from the Communist world was the Arab world. It is harder for countries with a lot of oil to be democratic –

their wealth allows their leaders to pay off their henchmen. Many people expected Russia to become a European-style democracy after 1991, but 20 years on it has a self-appointed president, an oligarchic layer, widespread corruption and increasing stagnation that even Medvedev commented on during his presidency.

Tunisia, the first Arab country to have a revolution in 2011, was followed by Egypt and Libya, and reforms were introduced in Morocco and Yemen. These revolutions were not due to poverty but to inequality. They were possible because it is no longer possible to control the mass media, because of the internet, social media and mobile phones, which spread news fast.

The first official reaction in Russia to these events was curiosity, followed by support for



the changes because regimes supported by the West were collapsing. But this support did not last: Libya and Syria have both had close links with Russia so their revolutions were not so popular with the Russian authorities. They began to realise that the events could have implications for Russia. Soon after September 2011, when Putin announced that he would return to the presidency in 2012, he was booed at a martial arts contest – something that had never happened before. The December elections to the Duma were accompanied by massive electoral fraud, and much of the cheating was recorded on film and uploaded onto the internet. The result was explosions of anger, not only in Moscow and St Petersburg but further afield, even in Vladivostok in the far east. The protests have continued ever since. Since his inauguration in May, Putin has shown he is intent on restoring control, not on establishing democracy. One reason he has been able to do this so far is that, in Russia in the 1990s, when ‘democracy’ arrived, most Russians had a very hard time, many of them losing their jobs and savings. Something similar happened in Algeria in 1991 – they had democratic elections and then everything turned sour. Even today, Arab friends are despondent, in particular at events in Syria, which seems to be approaching civil war. Many of them feel that because they never had democracy in their region, it will not work. But they could be proved wrong, as past events in Latin America, Spain and Portugal show – these countries became democratic.

In Russia too, the genie is out of the bottle. The pro-Putin United Russia Party – called the ‘party of crooks and thieves’, a label which went viral on the internet – has lost credibility, and other ‘tame’ parties have become less tame, with deputies from Just Russia walking out during Putin’s inaugural speech. Regional elections are being lost by United Russia candidates, and elections of governors will once again be by popular mandate and could be very interesting. Meanwhile, economic growth has slowed to 4%, and the media are less controlled because of the reach of the internet. Putin can’t deal with this the way Assad is doing, although he has had penalties for demonstrators toughened. It will not, in Sir Tony’s opinion, be possible to keep the lid on Russia.



A range of questions was put from the floor – most of them about Russia itself and about Russian policy towards Syria. Sir Tony thought the tipping point for democracy in Russia might come if the oil price falls, or if excessive violence is used by the regime. Young Russians used to be very cynical about politics and as a result few people had anticipated the protests in December. Many young people are also nationalistic – opponents of Putin are not only liberals but from the right wing – but this tendency is declining as people become richer. In general, young Russians are patriotic and like order, which they would choose over democracy. But the authorities do not trust civil society since the ‘Colour Revolutions’ in Georgia, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan, which Putin thought were fomented by the West.

On Syria, Sir Tony pointed out that Russia has military assets there, and the Kremlin believes Assad can survive and will want to help him stay in power. But at the same time Russia does not like being out on a limb, so it has supported the Annan Plan. Russia is fearful of a new Libya scenario. The West should try to split China off from Russia over Syria. Russia and China are wary of each other, and still have unresolved territorial issues in Russia’s Far East. Putin has even mentioned a potential security threat from China.

Tony Longrigg closed the proceedings by introducing his successor as Chairman of The BEARR Trust, Robert Brinkley.

BEARR is, as always, deeply grateful to EBRD for supporting and hosting this lecture.

If only I'd known then lessons learned from running international projects

Trust and openness as the basis of good relationships, and a focus on outcomes, with a light touch on process, are the building blocks for effective international projects. I have been designing and running international projects in Central and Eastern Europe in the social care field for the last 17 years, am proud of the outcomes and have certainly seen some 'interesting times'. From this I am beginning to draw some principles. It would probably have made my life easier had I understood them at the beginning.

The shadow of the former Soviet Union

This is manifested in the fact that it seems to be far easier for professionals in former FSU countries to accept input from colleagues from 'Old Europe' than from the New European countries. 'Old' European institutions, practices and research have far more credibility and are certainly more acceptable. I invited an Armenian colleague to do some

Jo Lucas, consultant and BEARR Trustee

work with me in Russia. We travelled together, representing a UK NGO, on a project funded by the Department for International Development, and he was quizzed thoroughly by our Russian partner as to where he was educated and who his professor was. When she heard he'd trained in Moscow he began to be acceptable. She did not, however, ask me the same questions. It is true that she wouldn't have been able to use the information in the same way, as she didn't know enough about the British education system, but I don't think that is what stopped her asking.

There is however a real strength in mixing the old and the new Europe in projects, as the underlying systems are familiar to people who have all come out of the Soviet system, who share some common history and experiences. My colleague and I worked well on this project as he had a much better grasp of some of the issues facing the local professionals and could act as a bridge between them and me.

The need for hierarchy

One of my recent projects was designed to embody a collegiate approach. The budget and work programmes were all open to all the partners and each partner institution had a delegated budget. This level of delegation is unusual and does not fit within the very hierarchical structures many are used to. Some partners and institutions expected that what was written in the proposal was carved in stone. However I am only too aware that things change, I will have forgotten things or made mistakes when writing the proposal and assume there is a need to be flexible, of course within the parameters of the contract. In a (post-soviet) system where you are ruled by the word of the contract, this is extraordinarily difficult. What has been stamped and signed by the authorities must be carried out, even if it is plainly ineffective or no longer appropriate. Thus in meetings discussing the work programme some of the participants were able to think creatively, whilst others knew they would be judged solely on whether they had stuck to the detail of the original plan.



Money

A significant issue in a programme funded by the EU is the fee levels set in the contract. When questioned, the Brussels team told us that these levels had been established with the relevant national ministries, who were asked what an appropriate fee level would be. The Ukrainian Ministry understood the process and responded with a daily fee rate of €200, which is close to a month's salary at the university. Their Georgian counterpart responded with a fee rate of some €80 a day. This is way below what they expect to earn from international projects and closer to the levels in the state universities. This disparity does not make it easy for colleagues who are expected to contribute the same time and energy, live in economies that are roughly equal, and are paid much less.

Many years ago I decided that the fairest thing was to offer all colleagues the same fee. While it was true that the daily rate went much further in some countries than others, it was also true that those from the poorer countries probably had fewer resources behind them and were likely to be supporting more people from that income. What I do know is that this system never created any problems. In fact everyone preferred it.

The major funders' emphasis on multiple partnerships

The EU and some of the other funders often require international projects to be implemented by consortia or partnerships, and if you look at their guidelines the expectation is: the bigger the consortium the better. The consequence of this, in my experience, is that many organisations are invited to put their name to projects but never actually play a role in them. As the EU has grown, so the number of partners required has also grown.

My experience is quite different. Small organisations which have been pulled into bids to make it look as if the leaders have good local networks end up angry and frustrated as they are never involved or consulted and gain little from the experience. Involving these local organisations properly means stretching limited budget further, which means less income for the larger partners but better outcomes. It will certainly give the smaller groups experience and help develop their ability to bid for funding themselves.

I won't enter into a partnership with institutions I don't already know. I take the time to develop relationships, and the projects we develop together are based on their identification of their own strengths and needs, not just my thoughts about what might be useful and interesting to do.

The most effective projects that I have run have grown from relationships of mutual trust, and reflected the actual needs of

the partners rather than the expectations of the funders. They work because the partners know each other well enough to challenge decisions and ask questions, and know that their project is underpinned by goodwill, not exploitation.

Light touch project management

Because of this basis of trust and because I know the people I am working with, I don't need to manage them or the outcomes closely. Also, because I know they are as invested in the outcomes as I am, maybe more so, I don't have to worry about motivation. The outcomes written in the proposal are almost always what they have said they want, so all I have to worry about is how to present them to the funders in an acceptable way.

I also learned from my years living in Ukraine and managing a big project there that things do get done, though usually not in the way I would have done them. I learned to let people do things their own way, and we always got to where we wanted to be. Planning things in advance was nearly my downfall. Having managed a conference team in the UK I knew that you start planning conferences and events a year ahead. In the early 90s in Kyiv my colleagues thought I was barmy – who knew what would be happening this time next week let alone in a year's time? So events never got planned till the week before and they always happened and ran smoothly. Nowadays we meet somewhere nearer the middle, I apologise for what I have learned to describe as my 'anglo-saxon-diary-boundness' and they accept that if we agree a date, I'll be cheerful and will be able to listen to the things they think are important.

I have made some good friends, worked with some wonderful professionals, and had an amazing time running these projects. If I had known then what I know now, I probably wouldn't really have done much differently. I would have tried to be more patient, and would have listened more carefully to the details of the context that each colleague was working in and clarified the implications in terms of the outcomes of the project. I have developed the skills of light touch management, which are based on respecting the contributions of others. I think the people the projects were designed for, the beneficiaries, gained a lot from them; the courses were of high quality and the university programmes are still part of the curricula. I know that when I work with former students, now colleagues, and see what they are now doing, I am immensely proud.

Jo Lucas has run projects introducing social work education to Ukraine and Georgia; run a small UK based NGO working with people with mental health problems across the region focusing on self-help, advocacy and employment; and written and managed projects funded by various major aid donors. www.fibonacciAssociates.org

Small Grants Scheme 2011 Project reports: Helping young offenders

'We are Together' youth network reaches out to young people in detention

Grantee: Regional Public Organisation Community to Children, Moscow

Project: To assist young people starting independent life after institutional care, including young people leaving youth detention centers, via peer support networks, information, advice and advocacy work.

'I thought I would have to live on the street again,' says Misha (name altered). Misha is an orphan. He was sentenced to a juvenile detention centre for committing theft. As a ward of the state he is entitled to state housing upon coming of age and release from detention. However, Misha's application for an apartment was unsuccessful due to mistakes in his paperwork.

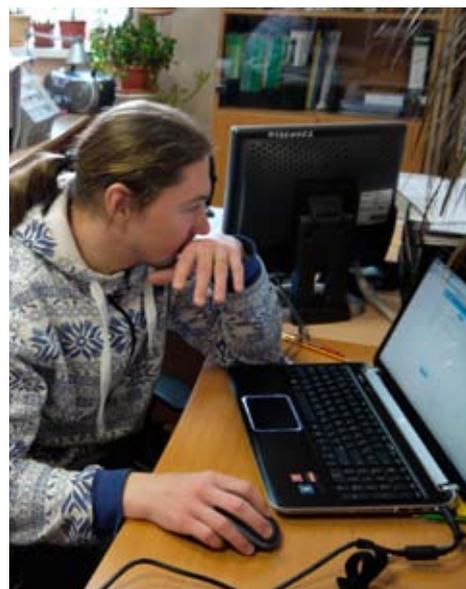
Youth volunteers (former residents of children's homes) met Misha when they visited Mozhaik youth detention centre. They listened to young people's concerns and gave them advice on how to get help when they are released, including what to do if they find themselves without shelter or money. On returning to Moscow the volunteers appealed to the Moscow authorities to review several cases where young people's rights had been violated. Misha will now receive an apartment and support from social welfare services thanks to the project funded by BEARR.

Approximately 500 young people leave Moscow care institutions and foster families each year.

Moscow city provides services for those leaving institutions. However, research by Community to Children has shown that young people often do not go to professionals for help when they need it. They rely on their peer networks.

Community to Children began the 'We are Together' project to build the capacity of these informal youth networks to support young people leaving institutions and help them access wider community resources for advice, information, and practical assistance. An annual youth projects competition is held and young people receive training and mini grants to implement local community activities for their peers. Activities include peer education and mentoring. Youth webpages and an online forum (www.com-children.ru) link together active young people from different parts of the metropolis to share advice and information. The We are Together project is implemented in partnership with an advisory youth council to Moscow government which represents young people from care institutions and foster families, government-run social welfare centres and other NGOs, with finance from the World Childhood Foundation and EMpower-the Emerging Markets Foundation.

The activities funded by BEARR expanded the scope of the We are Together project to reach out to young people in detention centres. Approximately 50 former residents of children's care institutions return to Moscow each year from detention



Young people talk to one another and to social workers online using social networks, skype and the Community to Children forum

centres in Mozhaik and Ryazan. With no families to turn to when they leave detention these young people are extremely vulnerable. Youth volunteers participating in the project contacted former residents of children's institutions who have served sentences in juvenile detention. Many of these young people were reluctant to talk or to participate in focus group meetings, but eventually, with the help of local peer networks, a small group agreed to meet volunteers and representatives of the Department of Social Welfare to discuss the problems they face and help to create content for a youth guide to Moscow. The new guide targets young people in care and gives specific information about the rights of young people in detention and how they can access practical assistance and support upon release.

A delegation of youth volunteers (former residents of children's institutions, member of the Youth Council), representatives of Moscow Department of Social Welfare, and Community to Children representatives visited the Mozhaisk juvenile detention centre. 113 young people are detained at the centre, 37 of them originally from Moscow. The youth volunteers brought supplies for the new school year, a computer and the new youth guide.

Since the visit and further meetings between youth activists and government officials, Moscow government has issued instructions to children's institutions to make monthly visits to any children who have been moved from care institutions

to detention centres. Delegation participant T.A. Potyaeva, Department of Social Welfare, noted the cases of young people who have been detained without personal documents and promised to find a solution to this problem. Without documents they will be unable to obtain assistance, housing, or employment. The delegation was also concerned about the fate of children at the Mozhaisk detention centre from other regions. Community to Children and the Youth Council wrote to the child welfare agencies of Kostroma drawing attention to cases of negligence on the part of child welfare agencies and children's homes.

Government agencies often fail to protect the rights of young people

in institutions and especially those in detention centres. The We are Together Project brings together active young people, who are amongst the best advocates for their peers, and gives young people support from peers they can talk to easily. The project helps bridge the gap between traditional child welfare agencies and young people who need help.

Contact

Jenny Chambers
Director of Fundraising
Community to Children
info@com-children.ru
www.com-children.ru
www.com-children.ru/english/news

Awaiting Freedom

Grantee: Civil Society Institute NGO, Erevan, Armenia

Project: Awaiting Freedom, a project aimed at young people deprived of their liberty: to raise awareness of their rights and responsibilities; to prepare them for life in liberty; and to facilitate the reintegration of young offenders into society after their release.

To achieve these aims we ran training courses, published a brochure and provided legal advice on a daily basis.

A series of training courses was held in the Republican Special Educational Complex № 1. They were dedicated to overcoming conflicts, peace building, raising legal awareness and the development of communication skills.

'Through interactive discussions on peace and conflict we tried to find out the main reasons for conflict and violence among the juveniles and how

conflict can be avoided. The children who took part in the training courses acquired skills that enabled them to overcome conflict', says trainer Monika Hovhannisyan, coordinator in the peace-building department of the Civil Society Institute.

The brochure *Awaiting Freedom* will provide support for young offenders and help facilitate their reintegration into society after their release. The brochure covers the key legislative regulatory framework and provides practical information about employment agencies, services provided by state authorities, educational institutions, vocational training, and so on.

'It will help young people to be prepared to live independently at liberty and to integrate rapidly and adapt to society', believes Arman Danielyan, head of the Civil Society Institute NGO.



Young offenders learning to communicate through painting

The brochure covers issues related to the rights and responsibilities of prisoners, the system of early conditional release, amnesty and pardon, issues related to social-psychological rehabilitation, as well as

Small Grants Scheme 2011 Project reports

topics of interest to a newly released person: where and how to get a passport, where to apply to find a job, etc. Particular attention is paid to the special provisions regulating issues related to juvenile prisoners.

CSI also provides free legal advice by hotline. The hotline provides a consultancy service about legal issues in cases of contact with law enforcement bodies, the rights and responsibilities of people who are in contact or in conflict with the law, the general pretrial procedure stipulated by the Criminal Procedure Code, etc.

‘There were calls from people who wanted us to cite for them certain articles of the law, or wanted clarification of the law. We received

calls from people looking for an attorney, on army service problems, civil procedure issues, traffic related issues and other topics’, explains Isahak Khachatryan, hotline coordinator.

Hotline consultancy was provided on police and criminal procedures, as well as in civil cases (family law, property issues, state benefits). Certain cases were passed on to public monitoring groups.

CSI is continuing to work with the special school on monitoring of violations of juvenile rights and torture prevention. Moreover in June of 2012 a training course on mediation and conflict escalation will be conducted for the professional staff of the school. Juvenile justice is one of the specific

subjects and a strategically important issue. CSI has implemented numerous projects on juvenile justice, such as monitoring, research, legislative analysis and other activities related to juveniles.

Contact

Zara Sahakyan
Planning and Finance Officer
Civil Society Institute NGO
43 Aygestan 11 street,
0025 Yerevan, Armenia
Tel: +374 10 574317
Fax: +374 10 559634
Email: zara@csi.am
Web: www.csi.am
www.hra.am/en/

Restorative justice for juvenile offenders

Grantee: Centre for Judicial and Legal Reform, Moscow

Project: to promote the practice of restorative justice in the Moscow City Commissions for Minors and their Rights (CMRs) in order to support victims of crime and to help young offenders and their families make amends for the harm caused by criminal activity; to develop a strategy for CMRs to create school mediation services; to produce guidelines for the development of restorative justice, and to spread best practice based on the experience of the pioneering CMRs to other areas of Moscow and other regions of Russia.

Established in 1996, the Centre for Judicial and Legal Reform has been involved in helping to set up trial by jury in Russia and in developing the restorative approach to criminal justice, starting with juvenile cases.

The Centre aims to:

- promote judicial reform in Russia by extending the professional development of judges, prosecutors, investigators and others
- empower competent representatives of the community to take part in judicial and legal reform
- contribute to the scientific and methodological support for reform, including new forms of court proceedings.

CMRs are the chief bodies responsible for work with young offenders under the age of criminal responsibility i.e. under 14. At present most CMRs have limited success rates because of their moralising and threatening attitudes and their orientation towards punishment. But some CMRs, notably those in Yaroslavl and Konkovo, have established mediation services based on the principles of restorative justice. It is imperative to develop these practices throughout Moscow and in other cities in Russia.

Intended for professionals who work with young offenders, the project, which took the form of seminars, workshops, meetings and publications, started in June 2011 at a national conference which included a section on establishing mediation services for CMRs. A bulletin including materials on this topic was published the following month. In September the CMRs of Yaroslavl and Konkovo held a joint seminar on the development of a system for work with young offenders, based on their experience of restorative procedures. The fourteen participants collaborated to develop guidelines for innovative forms of work based on the Yaroslavl model. At a workshop for mediators held in October ten people were able to practise their skills using role-play exercises. Two seminars took place in November: one on developing contacts between mediation and rehabilitation programmes within CMRs, and the other on disseminating innovative methods of working with young offenders throughout Moscow.

There was some initial resistance to adopting new working practices because of the entrenched attitudes of some of the officials and their orientation towards repressive practices, but this was overcome in the course of the seminars and training sessions. Most helpful in breaking down this resistance were the professionals from Yaroslavl and Konkovo, who were able to demonstrate innovative working practices based on experience.

In order to maintain a constructive dialogue, the CMRs agreed to change the format of their meetings so that a supportive atmosphere could be generated, with a willingness to listen to the concerns of the young people and their families.

Representatives from various regions of Russia from Moscow to Novosibirsk

and Arkhangelsk to Volgograd attended the final seminar of this project which examined the restorative approach to offending behaviour, including support for victims of crimes. Guidelines for the work of CMRs in restorative justice were drawn up in preparation for this seminar, where prospects for the further development of this work were discussed.

The Centre for Judicial and Legal Reform is grateful to the BEARR Trust and Baker Botts for the grant which enabled this project.

Contact

Rustem Maksudov
Centre for Judicial and Legal
Reform
makcrane@mail.ru



A better alternative to prison

Grantee: Reliable Future NGO, Baku, Azerbaijan

Project: Extension of 'diversion programmes' to Baku, Sumgayit and Gyandja

Juvenile delinquency and juvenile justice issues have become more serious since the collapse of the Soviet Union and the emergence of independent countries with unstable political, economic and social situations. In recent years, however, the work of the NGOs Alliance for Children's Rights and Reliable Future, UNICEF, UNHCHR and OSCE has brought the attention of government and the whole society to the increasing involvement of children and their exposure to and participation in criminal offences as perpetrators as well as victims.

Every year 400-500 children in Azerbaijan are detained, questioned and charged in relation to various crimes and other offences. Dozens

of children languish in administrative detention – detention ordered by an administrative or executive body, mainly commissions on the affairs of minors and the protection of their rights.

Analysis by Prof Carolyn Hamilton of the Children's Legal Centre at Essex University, and the report of the monitoring mission for juvenile justice institutions conducted by Alliance with the support of the OSCE office in Baku in 2006, revealed that the protection of juveniles in police custody, residential institutions, pre-trial detention facilities and juvenile prison was not up to standard. Most juveniles in investigatory isolators and juvenile prisons mentioned that they had not seen a lawyer and/or that their lawyer's work was limited to symbolic representation in court. The report also pointed out the need to establish specialised legal services for children in conflict with the law and children from families in crisis.

During the previous phases of the current project, the partners initiated a reform of the juvenile justice system in all districts of Baku, to pilot the 'diversion' scheme (diverting children from formal justice systems and custodial detention to community-based alternatives). With the support and cooperation of the Ministry of the Interior, a pilot Diversion Centre was established in Baku, which gained recognition from local authorities, police departments, courts and prosecutors and has established good cooperation and partnerships with them. Training programmes with the police and local authorities in various regions helped to inform them of juvenile justice issues and alternatives to detention.

As part of the pilot programme, with the support of The BEARR Trust, Reliable Future succeeded in expanding the services of the Diversion Centre to the second and third largest cities, Gyandja and Sumgayit.

Annual Conference 2012



Individual interview with police child inspectors from Gyandja and Sumgayit as part of the survey

Courses for the relevant government authorities, including police officers and representatives of commissions on minors' affairs, helped to expand understanding of juvenile justice and the concept of children's rights as well as the need for and best results from the use of alternatives to detention and imprisonment.

A special mobile group of social workers, a psychologist and a lawyer from the legal clinic for children's rights visited these two cities and worked closely with the local authorities in order to assess each child and his or her family, develop an individual care plan and refer the child to various local and/or Baku-based alternative social services.

With the expansion of the project to Sumgayit, which is about 30 km from Baku, 13 children who had committed various crimes and offences were brought into a rehabilitation programme at the Diversion Centre, which enabled Reliable Future to show the benefits of the rehabilitation programme in comparison with detention. Research conducted during the project showed no repeat crimes were committed during the eight months of follow-up. The children were successfully reintegrated with their families and went back to school. Some were enrolled in vocational training, and some of the children's families got social assistance from the relevant

government department. The project helped to extend cooperation with police officers at the local level and involve them in preventative work with juveniles at risk. The project also helped to promote the idea of NGO-run social services and draw the attention of government to services that can offer help to more children in need of care and protection.

One of the important successes of the project was the referral of children from Sumgayit district. These children and their families visited the Diversion Centre two or three times a week, and social workers visited them in their schools and homes. The safety net developed around every child also included weekly psychological meetings and meetings with police children's inspectors as well as other sport and art activities.

However, the project team had difficulty in involving children from Gyandja, which is about six hours from Baku. Although the local authorities

welcomed the diversion scheme and were keen to refer the children, logistical issues hindered the successful implementation of the rehabilitation programme in Gyandja. The mobile team from Baku were able to meet and provide some psychological, legal and social assistance for children in Gyandja, but the distant location prevented the scheme working effectively. It was recommended that a similar diversion scheme/centre be established in Gyandja, which will also work with children from five additional regions nearby. The concept of establishing regional diversion centres was brought to the attention of the Ministries of the Interior and Social Protection and Welfare and it is currently under discussion, with a positive outcome expected.

Contact

Dr Nabil Seyidov
President, Reliable Future Youth NGO
Tel: 994-12 493-21-42
reliablefuturengo@gmail.com

The BEARR Trust Annual Conference: 16 November 2012

Volunteering in the BEARR region: promoting personal and community development?

Key speakers will include:

Prof Irene Hardill,
Professor of Public Policy at the University of Northumbria

Galina Bodrenkova,
Head of the Russian Volunteer Development Centre, Moscow

Angelika Anoshko
NGO Mutual Understanding, Minsk

With panel sessions on **Managing Volunteers; and International Volunteers: good for both sides?**

Full details of the conference, with programme and booking form, will be available from October on the BEARR website, www.bearr.org. To be put on BEARR's mailing list, please send contact details to info@bearr.org

Country Profile 5: Russia¹

The Russian Federation is the largest country in the world, covering an area of over 17 million kilometres. It has land boundaries with 14 European and Asian countries and a coastline of nearly 40,000km. The climate is varied, including the temperate steppe lands of the South, the subarctic Siberian lands, the subtropical Black Sea, the tundra of the polar north, and the humid, continental European Russia. Over half of the land is forest-covered, 13% is arable but Russia is blessed (or cursed?) with plentiful natural resources.

Economic and Social Development

The improvement in Russia's economic performance after the 1990s has largely been built around exploitation of these rich natural resources, which has helped raise Russia into the 'middle-income' category, though remaining plagued by socioeconomic inequalities as well as by a poor and occasionally catastrophic demographic and health profile. Russia's population peaked, in 1992, at 148.3 million but has been shrinking ever since due to a combination of declining fertility with a high death rate. It is the latter, and particularly among working-age males, that has been especially severe in Russia.

Health and Welfare

Mortality rates are extremely high relative to countries at similar levels of economic development and there is a large and persistent health 'gap' between Russia and the rest of the G8 as well as between men and women within Russia. The decline in life expectancy since 1990 has been driven by changes in the mortality rates due to cardiovascular disease and external causes (injuries, suicides, accidents) while cancer (if summed across all categories) is the other major cause of death in Russia. Many of the deaths in these

categories can be traced to the heavy use of alcohol and alcohol surrogates. Similarly, smoking among males has long been high (60+%) but the tobacco companies have now targeted female smokers and so women too are increasingly 'at risk'. The ratification of the Framework on Tobacco Control in 2008 and the new laws on alcohol sales and consumption may prove to be crucial policy interventions.

Top 10 causes of deaths (2009/10)

Age standardised, per 100,000 (world ranking)

Coronary heart disease (10th)	297 (10)
Stroke (10th)	196 (4)
Other injuries	45 (5)
Poisonings	30 (1)
HIV/AIDS	30 (49)
Lung cancers	25 (43)
Suicide	23 (5)
Liver disease	23 (28)
Road traffic accidents	22 (60)
Stomach cancer	19 (16)

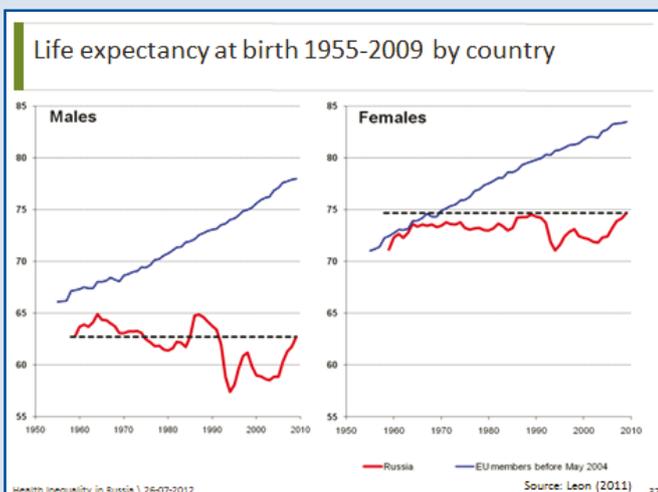
Although non-communicable diseases account for the bulk of deaths and disease in Russia, communicable diseases also continue to pose a considerable threat to public health, with a high incidence of multi-drug resistant TB. A well-established HIV epidemic continues to grow, with only limited intervention in the form of HIV prevention activities or care and treatment programmes. Almost a million Russians are estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS.

Health facts & figures (2009)

	Russ	Pol	UK
Life expectancy (male)	62.8	71.6	78.4
Life expectancy (fem)	74.8	80.2	82.6
Crude death rate*	14.2	10.0	9.1
Deaths, circulatory*	6.8	3.6	1.7
Deaths, heart disease*	3.0	1.0	0.8
Deaths, external cause*	1.5	0.6	0.3
TB incidence*	0.9	0.2	0.1
Fertility Rate	1.3	1.4	1.7
Abortions / 1000 births	951	1.3	256
Human Dev. Index	0.75	0.81	0.86

* per 1,000

¹ Data comes from UN Health-for-all database and the WHO (<http://www.who.int/countries/en/>).



'The Struggle for Civil Society in Central Asia' by Charles Buxton

Twenty years ago the people of the former USSR were waking up to a new world. After the sudden collapse of their country in December 1991, the 15 former Soviet republics were embarking on the long and difficult road from Communism to Capitalism, and nowhere was this challenge to prove more painful than in Central Asia.

Charles Buxton's book *The Struggle for Civil Society in Central Asia* tells the fascinating and at times heart-breaking story of the local groups and activists who emerged during the chaos of the early 1990s and of their continuing battle to support their local communities and to reshape their countries after independence.



Tajikistan self-help group supported by Christian Aid

The five 'stans' as they've come to be known included some of the poorest, least developed and least known regions of the USSR. These were countries where just about everything that sustained the economy and everyday life was tied into a Soviet-wide network. That included agriculture, industry, power supply networks and local social support systems. When the USSR ceased to exist overnight factories lost their suppliers and their customers, farms had no-one to sell their produce to and power stations stopped working. Hundreds of thousands of people lost their jobs, there were no longer reliable supplies of gas, electricity and water, and in Tajikistan regional tensions plunged the country into civil war.

This was the situation facing the fledgling civil society groups that had begun to emerge across Central Asia in the perestroika years. As Charles Buxton describes at the beginning of the book, in these early days they were

by Jenny Norton, BEARR Trustee

involved in the basic business of helping people to stay alive. In Kazakhstan Zheltoksan, a group born out of the nationalist movement of the 1980s, started working on initiatives to help the homeless. In Kyrgyzstan pensioners on the breadline after their savings disappeared got together and organised 'empty saucepan' protests outside parliament to draw attention to their plight.

In many ways Central Asia was an ideal place for civil society to flourish. Life is organised in a very different way to life in, say, Russia, and this is one of the interesting things that comes out in the book. Buxton notes early on that Central Asia was almost unknown to the Western experts who moved in after independence, and that it took them almost a decade to really understand the place and how things worked.

These are countries with a strong sense of family and community, where big extended families are the norm and where everyone seems to know everyone else. As the book describes, this is the kind of environment where self-help groups spring up as people naturally get together to resolve local issues. There are numerous examples, from Kyrgyz villagers trying to improve access to drinking water, to Tajik women getting to grips with running the family home and dealing with local issues after their husbands have left to look for work in Russia.

But traditional ways of doing things also have their downside. In Uzbekistan, for example, local community organisations called mahallas can be a force for good, sorting out problems on a local level. Or they can be a convenient instrument of control used to keep an eye on anyone not toeing the party line. Tight-knit communities, family ties and a strong sense of hierarchy allow corruption to flourish, and in Central Asia of the late 1990s they also made it more difficult to oppose the increasing signs of authoritarianism in the new post-Soviet governments now in charge across the region.

As ordinary Central Asians began to find their voices, their leaders began to tighten their grip and in some states, most notably Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, life began to get very difficult as civil society groups were increasingly seen as a threat that needed to be brought under control.

Buxton speaks movingly of the 'bitter taste left in the mouth' by the Uzbek experience. Hopes post 9/11 that cooperation with the West over Afghanistan might lead to a

gradual improvement and opening up of the country were dashed when the violent unrest in the city of Andjian led to INGOs being thrown out and a big crackdown on foreign-funded local groups. I would pick Buxton up on one point though. He describes the events in Andijan as an uprising inspired by the extremist Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan. This was the official version of what happened. The real story is much more tragic and it had nothing to do with the IMU. The events in Andjian snowballed from a protest by ordinary Uzbeks in support of a group of local businessmen who came into conflict with the authorities because they were trying at a grassroots level to create jobs, support education and improve life in their communities. All basic civil society stuff, but a huge threat to a government which had manifestly failed to do any of those things after more than a decade in power.

There is much reflection in this book about the role of international donors and of the West more generally in shaping the development of civil society in Central Asia. The positives of course are the help with funding, advocacy, and making connections with other groups with similar interests in other countries. But Buxton also highlights some troubling examples of the way in which Western countries appear to have been willing to sacrifice democracy to political expediency in their approach to Central Asia – especially after the US invasion of Afghanistan. He quotes a regional analyst telling how Germany ‘traded pressure on human rights and political change’ for the right to use a military base in southern Uzbekistan. Or how Western banks were ‘more

than happy to provide a safe home for the billions of dollars embezzled by [President] Niyazov from the Turkmen state. ‘Some foreign investors may actually prefer authoritarian regimes as partners,’ he says, ‘Especially when security is an issue.’ For centuries Central Asians have found themselves caught in the middle as bigger powers have battled for influence around them. And it seems that our own times are no exception.

The book ends with a postscript on Kyrgyzstan, the Central Asian state which went the furthest in its experiment with civil society. This is a country where the relative freedoms allowed under its first president, Askar Akayev, allowed a degree of pluralism not seen elsewhere in the region. Bishkek, the Kyrgyz capital, has become the centre of NGO activity in Central Asia – many Western donors and INGOs operate there. The book is full of interesting case studies of successful Kyrgyz civil society groups making their voices heard on a wide range of issues from women’s rights and environmental problems to property rights and democracy-building. But the political unrest which saw the overthrow of first President Akayev and then his successor President Bakiyev and the interethnic violence in the city of Osh in 2010 raise some troubling questions for the future. Unlike most of its neighbours, Kyrgyzstan is a country where people feel able to stand up for themselves and demand their rights. But is Kyrgyz civil society strong enough to uphold and protect the rights and freedoms it has been fighting for, when people power sweeps everything away?

About The BEARR Trust

Patrons: The Duchess of Abercorn, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Elena Bashkurova Barenboim, Myra Green OBE, Professor Geoffrey Hosking, HE Sir Roderic Lyne KBE CMG, Sir Jonathan Miller CBE, Anthony Oppenheimer, Rair Simonyan, Sir Andrew Wood GCMG

The BEARR Trust is a British registered charity. It was formed in 1991 to act as a bridge between the welfare and health sectors of Britain and the former Soviet republics. Its mission is:

- to promote and support cooperation between the third sector in the United Kingdom and appropriate partners in Russia, Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the South Caucasus, especially in health and social welfare, with a view to strengthening civil society.

The Trust will do this by:

- supporting organisations committed to reform in the health and social sectors
- facilitating networking and exchange of information
- encouraging sharing of experience and learning
- helping organisations working in the region to identify potential partners
- providing seed funding to assist selected organisations to launch or extend partnerships
- lobbying with and on behalf of organisations that share our objectives.

Trustees: Robert Brinkley CMG (Chairman), Megan Bick, Janet Gunn CMG, Daryl Ann Hardman, Marcia Levy, Ann Lewis CMG, Jo Lucas, Jenny Norton, Nicola Ramsden, Robert Scallon

Hon Treasurer: Carolyn Davis

Staff: Information Officer: Renate Wright

Moscow rep: Igor Timoshin

Volunteers: Mary Brinkley, Ute Chatterjee, Felicity Croall, Martin Edwards, Elena Goodwin, Antony Lewis, Philip Michaelson, Zoryana Mishchik, Malcolm Mowat, Lina Numan, Kirby Stebbing, Jenny Wildblood

Newsletter: Editor: Ann Lewis; layout: Leila Carlyle

The BEARR Trust endeavours to include as wide a debate and as broad a range of opinions as possible in the Newsletter to capture the diversity of NGO activity in the region in which it works. The BEARR Trust cannot be held responsible for the views expressed by authors in their articles.



From the London 2012 Paralympics

- **Russia's 7-a-side footballers** (Russia gold, Ukraine silver)
- **Yevheniy Bohadayko**, 18, from Ukraine (2 silvers, 2 golds, world record)
- **Tatiana McFadden**, born in Russia with spina bifida, spent her first six years in a Russian children's home and was then adopted by a US couple (3 golds, 1 bronze for USA)

Become a Friend of BEARR

Support BEARR's work in health and welfare, get this Newsletter regularly and receive details of all BEARR's activities and other items of interest by becoming a Friend of The BEARR Trust. Your subscription (£30 minimum) will support BEARR's activities throughout the coming year.

Please subscribe and pay through our website at www.bearr.org, or fill in the form below and send it to The BEARR Trust office. Ideally, please pay by Banker's/Standing Order or direct transfer – this eases our administrative burden.

- I wish to become a Friend of BEARR and enclose a cheque for £
- I wish to renew my Friend's subscription and enclose a cheque for £
- I wish to make a one-off donation and enclose a cheque for £
- I wish to subscribe regularly by banker's order or direct transfer. Please send me details.

Name:

Organisation:

Address:

.....

.....

Email:

Tel:



32-36 Loman Street Southwark, London SE1 0EE

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7922 7849; Email: info@bearr.org; www.bearr.org

Registered charity no: 1011086