

CIVIL SOCIETY IN RUSSIAN SCIENCE: THE ROLE IN REFORMS OF R&D SECTOR

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OUTLINE

- ▶ “Civil Society” in Science: Definition
- ▶ United States as a Benchmark
- ▶ Civil Society in Russian R&D Complex
- ▶ Reform -2013 and Role of Civil Society
- ▶ Mistakes and Opportunities in Comparative Perspective

DEFINITION OF CIVIL SOCIETY

- ▶ Civil society is understood as a public sphere where issues can be openly discussed by groups, institutionally organized in various ways. It is represented by **research societies and associations**, independent from the government.
- ▶ Focus of analysis is on the “civil society” **WITHIN** science as a sphere of economic activity, **NOT** on the relationship “science” **AND** “civil society”.

WHY THE UNITED STATES ARE TAKEN AS A BENCHMARK?

- ▶ Many research societies
- ▶ Long history (AAAS was founded in 1848)
- ▶ Various agendas and approaches

The U.S. experience allows drawing lessons because of :

- 1) Diversity of experience;
- 2) pace of development

RESEARCH SOCIETIES IN USA

- ▶ Have evolved over time as science policy stakeholders. More research societies have now departments (divisions) called “public affairs” or “government relations”.
 - ▶ Increased diversity of participation in science policy.
 - ▶ Legal status is important.
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LARGEST SOCIETIES

Name	Number of members (2012)	Publishing activity
American Chemical Society	169,000	39 journals
American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)	120,000	3 journals, including <i>Science</i>
American Physical Society	50,000	14 journals
American Society for Microbiology	39,000	14 journals + 4 online journals
American Mathematical Society	30,000	8 scientific journals + 3 journals of Society

TOOLS USED BY RESEARCH SOCIETIES

Tool	Definition
Congressional visits	Personal visits of individual society representatives with Congress members or their staff to discuss science policy issues
Letters or testimony to policymakers	Oral or written testimony (letter) to members of Congress or other policymakers
Publications	Newspaper commentaries, news releases, policy briefs, white papers
Policy or position statements	Statements of a society's position on important issues that provide scientific background and an evaluation of alternative actions; they may include science-based policy recommendations
Resolutions	Statements of a society's views on an issue that tend to be more concise and less analytical than position or policy statements; usually written in formalized style

RUSSIAN RESEARCH SOCIETIES: HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

- ▶ 1910: Russian Association for Advancement of Science – modeled from USA and U.K.
- ▶ 1917: about 300 research societies
- ▶ By 1954 – Soviet research societies totally serving needs of the Party
- ▶ 1989 – creation of the S.-Petersburg Union of Researchers (currently not very active; 2009 – 1000 members)
- ▶ 2011 – Russian Association for the Advancement of Science (not active now; January 2012 – 200 members)
- ▶ 2012 – Union of Russian Researchers (543 members as of end of March, 2014; 45% - Ph.D.)

RAS REFORM 2013



MAJOR SECTORS IN RUSSIAN R&D (FOR 2012)

	Academy	Higher education	Business enterprise
Number of organizations involved in R&D	871 (24.4%)	660 (18.5%)	1362 (38.2%)
Researchers, thousand	72.3 (19.4%)	43.0 (11.5%)	192.3 (51.6%)
Intramural expenditures on R&D, thousand RUR	91.2 (13.0%)	65.0 (9.3%)	408.3 (58.3%)
Share in total basic research, %	63.5	16.7	10.2

RAS PRODUCTIVITY

	Russian Academy of Sciences	Chinese Academy of Sciences	Max Planck Society (Germany)	National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS, France)
Number of publications on Scopus	81,075	109,727	43,109	117,311
Average number of publications per researcher	1.43	2.81	9.17	10.11
Average number of citations of each publication	2.66	3.8	11.97	7.42

Source: Nature 464, 1257 (2010)

THE REFORM

- ▶ Conducted fast, unexpectedly for RAS leadership and researchers
- ▶ Merging three government Academies into one and turning it into “club” and expert body
- ▶ Creation of Federal Agency for Scientific Organizations (FASO)
- ▶ 1007 former Academy institutes and organizations are now under the auspices of FASO
- ▶ Evaluation of performance of research organizations (in progress)
- ▶ Possible cuts of institutes and personnel

RUSSIAN RESEARCH SOCIETIES AFTER RAS REFORM

- ▶ Increased number of members of the Union of Russian Researchers – from 300 to 500

3 new civil society organizations established:

- ▶ “Club July 1” (70 academics or 5.6% of the member of RAS)
- ▶ Commission of public control for the course and results of reforms in science sphere (since October 8, 2013)
- ▶ Network to coordinate RAS institutes (passive now)

ACTIVITIES OF SOCIETIES DURING REFORM

- ▶ **Union of Russian Researchers** – moving from statements and resolutions closer to political activity
- ▶ **Club July 1** – academics who do not want to be members of the new Russian Academy; mostly protests and publications in press; decreased now
- ▶ **Commission of public control for the course and results of reforms in science sphere** – took part in the analysis of legal documents related to FASO and evaluation of research institutes. Their comments were mostly ignored.

COMPARISONS

1) Influence:

- Number of members
- Publisher (in Russia major publisher – (was) Academy of Sciences)

2) Frequency of “taking position” :

- ▶ 3-4 times a year for U.S. societies
- ▶ Several times per month – for Russian

3) American societies versus Russian: **clear division between policy and politics**

WAYS TO INCREASE INFLUENCE

- ▶ To clearly state the society's mission and tasks, divide policy and politics
- ▶ To concentrate on key issues of R&D complex and produce resolutions not too frequently
- ▶ Change argumentation: from explaining why it is good for science – to why it is good for society
- ▶ To establish alliances not only with other research societies or groups but also with educational organizations or/and industry (depending on an issue)