



PEOPLE ENGAGEMENT IN POLITICAL LIFE AND DECISION MAKING PROCESS

**By Oxana Brazhnik
Russian Federation**

John Smith Fellowship Program 2010

MISSION

The aim of my Action Plan is to make a decision making, legislative and political process in Russia more transparent and clear for the citizens.

Goals:

- To let people ask questions and receive answers
- To help politicians in forming clear position on different issues
- Encourage greater public involvement in politics

CITIZENS NEED TO BE MORE ENGAGED!



MAIN ISSUES

POLITICIANS AND POLITICAL PARTIES

- Low transparency of decision-making process in politics in Russia
- Lack of discussions with citizens about important political and social issues on the federal and local level
- Lack of new ideas, methods and approaches to the political work

CITIZENS

- Lack of knowledge and information about politics
- Do not interested
- Do not involved
- Do not believe



POLITICIANS AND POLITICAL PARTIES

- Policy forums (federal, regional, local levels and youth policy forums)
- Keep in-touch with their constituencies
- Develop public speaking skills
- Define more clearly different social groups activities
- Provide opportunities for the young people to be in the hart of the political life (short-term trainings)



CITIZENS

- Engaging people through education
- Youth participation
- “Speak out” (1-question polls)
- Local assemblies
- Digital citizens and democratic participation - providing opportunities for a direct communication between politician (MPs) and citizens
- Volunteer Locally



IMPROVING ACTIVITIES

- Open opportunities for citizens to participate more actively through:
 - Political party resources (federal and regional level)
 - Youth political movements (MGER, “Nashi” etc.)
 - Regional and local authorities
- Promoting the idea of the better education about politics and elections through:
 - Political party resources (federal and regional level)
 - The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation
 - Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation
 - NGOs
- Creating specific political research and education organization which could provide a support to the citizens, authorities and individual politicians on establishing better connections between citizens and political actors



WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT? AND WHAT IS IT FOR?

- Make political decision making more transparent
- Improve citizens knowledge in politics
- Influence political behavior (increase interest people participation in politics)
- Influence decision making
- Make politicians more responsible to people
- Make people believe that:

your life your choice





**I KNOW, THAT YOU ARE
THOSE WHO BELIEVE!**

**THANK YOU!
QUESTIONS?**