



## ROTARY INTERNATIONAL OPEN WORLD PROGRAM



### Civic Hosting Themes

The 2010 **Russia Civic Hosting Program** will offer the same themes as the 2009 Russia Civic Hosting Program: **accountable governance, rule of law, and social issues**. A number of the exchanges hosted under the **accountable governance** theme will have a special focus on local governance, community development (including agrarian communities), or environmental management (alternative energy/energy efficiency); a separate sub-theme on the role of a state legislature is also offered for regional legislators. The **rule of law** theme has two major hosting components: (1) the specialized rule of law program, which focuses on judicial reform, and (2) the civic rule of law program, which focuses on specific rule of law issues such as anti-human trafficking, juvenile justice, and legal advocacy. The **social issues** theme is composed of three sub-themes: *social services, health-care provision, and secondary and higher education*, with an emphasis on community colleges. The hosting of delegations with a special focus on “women as leaders” will be an option under the accountable governance and social issues themes.

### RUSSIA CIVIC HOSTING THEMES, THEIR RATIONALES, TARGET GROUPS, AND SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES.

#### Accountable Governance

**Rationale:** In recent years, Russia has started implementing local self-governance reforms that expand the number of municipalities and give local authorities both more autonomy and more responsibility for providing basic public services. As a result, new and established local governments need to hire and train staff; take on new budgeting, planning, and service-delivery responsibilities; promote local business development; and become more proactive, responsive, and accountable. The reforms described above have also increased the responsibilities of regional and local legislative bodies. It is also important that a fair and impartial press be established to help ensure transparency and openness at all levels of government.

**Target Group:** Mayors, city managers and other municipal administrators, regional and local legislators and their staff, civic and political activists, policy researchers, journalists, government spokespersons, public services providers, NGO leaders, local business leaders involved in community development (including the development of successful agrarian communities), and environmental managers (including those involved in energy efficiency/management projects). Delegations may be composed of people from the same community or region (to support sister-city partnerships, specific projects, or cross-sectoral programming) or of people holding similar positions in different cities or regions. Within this theme, Open World will also host a limited number of delegations with a special focus on community development, environmental management, or “women as leaders,” and offer hosting for Russian regional legislators under a new sub-theme, the role of a state legislature.

This theme will also include delegations of national- or regional-level leaders, legislators, and policy experts involved with policies affecting local self-governance.

**Possible Grantee Activities:** Local programs on accountable governance would emphasize the legislative process, administrative capacity-building, transparency, service delivery, financing of government services, government spokespersons, community development, and environmental management. Possible topics include local-government planning; state-local relations; citizen participation in government; constituent services; budgeting, accounting, and auditing; government-employee training; government recordkeeping and public records; revitalization; public-private economic development partnerships; government communications; and election administration and procedures. Programs should emphasize the particular types of local governance, community development, or environmental management/energy efficiency activities being undertaken by delegation members.

Appropriate activities for accountable governance delegations include: meeting with national, state, and local legislators and other elected officials; job-shadowing legislators, county executives, mayors, and city managers; having workshops with independent government auditors, city planning and zoning officials, press officers, voter registration and election officials, and state municipal-league officials; visiting private voluntary organizations involved in community development and improvement; touring wastewater plants and volunteer fire departments; attending budget hearings; and holding Q and A with city-desk editors, reporters, and political party representatives.

Appropriate activities for community development delegations include having roundtables at chambers of commerce, economic development corporations, and banks; briefings with state and municipal economic and agricultural development and tax officials; and site tours of public-private economic development projects, business incubators, and local businesses, including agribusinesses.

Possible focuses for environmental management delegations are environmentally friendly development projects; energy efficiency/energy management initiatives; reclamation efforts; ecotourism; civic initiatives; and the conservation of parks and reserves. Energy and the environment, including the issues of nuclear cleanup and nonproliferation, may also be explored by some of these delegations.

Possible settings for delegate presentations include city council meetings, university seminars, forums at public or academic libraries, press club meetings, and civic-association meetings.

- **The Role of a State Legislature (sub-theme)**

**Rationale:** The regional legislatures (*dumas*) in Russia create laws that both establish greater local governmental autonomy and provide a legal structure for basic public services at the local level. While Russia's regional legislatures have not played as large a role in their country's governmental system as state legislatures play in that of the United States, they are increasingly involved in deciding how to (1) raise and distribute revenue, and (2) settle land and property ownership issues, while taking on other governmental responsibilities that have devolved from the federal to the regional level.

Since the Open World Leadership Center resides in the legislative branch and serves the U.S. Congress, its historical mission includes a special focus on the role of legislatures and

legislators in successful democracies. Open World has a unique ability to introduce regional legislators and their staff members to the legislative process at the national level during their Washington, D.C. orientation and to demonstrate how that process links to and affects state legislatures. Also, numerous state legislators and legislative staff across the country have experience serving as presenters to Open World delegations.

**Target Group:** Regional legislators, legislative staff, administrative staff of regional legislatures.

**Program Structure:** The majority of programming will take place in a state capital, with a focus on the role of a state legislature in governance and the formulation of public policy. Delegations of regional legislators may include delegates who have an interest in a particular governance or public policy issue such as health care, education, taxation, or economic development. Programming would allow the delegates to meet their legislative counterparts; attend committee meetings and legislative sessions; and learn how their legislative counterparts interact with relevant state executive agencies, interest groups, and constituents. Other delegations may include legislators, legislative staff, and legislative administrators with a programming emphasis on the operations of a legislature, on how legislatures receive independent information and analysis to support decision-making, and on constituent services.

**Possible Grantee Activities:** For legislator delegations: Observe state legislative sessions and committee meetings and have follow-up meetings with participants; attend panel discussions with the legislators, legal counsel, legislative drafters, and committee staff who played a role in the successful passage of a law; meet with the legislative liaisons for state executive agencies; meet with lobbyists and interest groups and shadow their meetings with state legislators/legislative staff; attend town hall meetings; meet with mayors or city council members to discuss their relations with the state legislature; meet in-state with Members of Congress and/or their field staff.

For mixed delegations of legislators, staff, and/or administrators: Job-shadow their counterparts; attend panel discussions with legislative officials, executive agency administrators, political scientists, and political journalists on the role of the legislature in the host state; meet with political party and elections officials; observe the constituent services operations in a legislator's office; discuss budgeting, information services, ethics standards, and other administrative issues with legislative officials; meet in-state with Members of Congress and/or their field staff.

Possible settings for delegate presentations include university seminars, special meetings with state legislators and legislative staff, political party meetings, and civic-association meetings.

### **Rule of Law**

Rule of law is one of the foundations of civil society. Russia established significant rule of law measures in the early and mid-1990s, and passed major judicial and legal reforms in 2001–2002. Through Open World's "specialized rule of law program," individual U.S. federal and state

judges host Russian judicial delegations in cooperation with Open World grantees. Open World's rule of law programming is designed to build on the gains made during the 1990s, to support the implementation of the more recent reforms, to introduce delegates to America's robust adversarial system, and to provide comparative insights into legal education, juvenile justice, and the prevention and prosecution of human trafficking and domestic violence.

- **Specialized Rule of Law (Judicial and Mixed Delegations)**

**Rationale:** The Russian government, in accordance with its constitution, has separated the judiciary and judicial administration from the executive branch and improved judicial pay in order to enhance judicial independence and curb corruption. In addition, trial by jury for criminal cases has been reintroduced. The Russian government has also given priority to strengthening judicial ethics and increasing the efficiency of judicial administration, which will require better-qualified and better-trained staff.

**Target Group:** Specialized rule of law delegations will be composed entirely of judges<sup>1</sup> or be a mix of judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and other legal professionals.

**Possible Grantee Activities:** Delegates might explore U.S. approaches to court proceedings, the jury-trial process, the adversarial system, plea-bargaining, alternative dispute resolution, law enforcement and corrections practices, the legislative process. Other possible topics include judicial independence, judicial ethics, juvenile justice practices, financial dispute resolution, and judicial administration. Whenever possible, delegations should meet with Members of Congress and state legislators and/or their staff to discuss judiciary-related legislative issues and funding. Appropriate activities include job-shadowing experiences; courtroom observations; judges' roundtables; site visits to corrections facilities; and group discussions with U.S. judges at both the federal and state level, officers of the court, court administrative staff, and victims' services providers. Possible settings for presentations by the Russian delegates include bench and bar association meetings, law-school colloquia, meetings of advocacy groups, and panel discussions.

- **Civic Rule of Law<sup>2</sup>**

**Rationale:** The recent judicial reforms in Russia demand improvements in legal education and practice and a redefinition of the role of the judiciary in civil society. The judiciary is combating the perception that the courts are still not open and transparent, and greater availability of legal services is badly needed.

A specific rule of law challenge of increasing concern to both Russia and the United States is human trafficking. In Russia, the definition of human trafficking and applicable laws are often vague, making the identification and prosecution of such crimes difficult for law enforcement officials and the legal community. Other challenges include juvenile justice reform and legal advocacy for underserved populations.

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<sup>1</sup> The hosting locations for the Russia specialized rule of law program will, for the most part, be determined by the Open World Leadership Center in cooperation with the U.S. Judicial Conference's Committee on International Judicial Relations (IJRC), and the professional hosting program will be organized by a host judge. Each U.S. host judge will be matched with a local host organization that will provide logistical and administrative support and assist with program planning. Applicants are encouraged to indicate in their proposal how many such delegations they wish to assist. Please contact Open World Program Manager Jeffrey Magnuson at [jmag@loc.gov](mailto:jmag@loc.gov) for more information.

<sup>2</sup> Please note that Russian civic rule of law hosting can occur on an Accountable Governance date, on the Social Issues – Social Services date, or, if space permits, on a Specialized Rule of Law date.

**Target Group:** Delegations could consist of law school faculty, judicial educators, legal specialists from NGOs and the private sector, legislators and legislative experts, lawyers, court administrative staff, court press officers, and legal reporters. Delegations participating in anti-human trafficking exchanges may include law enforcement officials (such as investigators and prosecutors); legal advocacy NGO leaders; victims' rights advocates; shelter administrators; and legislators and legislative specialists who can shape policy.

**Possible Grantee Activities:** Delegations should receive an overview of the U.S. judicial system and court operations. Other possible topics include case management, legal advocacy, judicial-media relations, law enforcement, domestic violence awareness, legal/judicial training, and current legislative issues that affect the judiciary. Appropriate activities include observing court proceedings and press briefings; meeting with judges and court administrators; visiting family and juvenile courts, law schools, law firms, corrections facilities, media outlets, legal advocacy NGOs, and state legislatures; and taking workshops on courtroom technology.

Topics for anti-human trafficking programs include U.S. approaches to human-trafficking prevention and prosecution, prevention of child exploitation, victims' assistance, and U.S. cooperation with other nations to address these issues on a global level. Delegates should have the opportunity to interact with their U.S. counterparts. Appropriate activities include meetings with U.S. and state government agencies, law enforcement specialists, legal officials, legislative specialists, and NGO leaders who work on this issue; site visits to shelters and NGOs providing services to human-trafficking victims; and workshops on prosecuting human traffickers.

Possible settings for presentations by civic rule of law delegates include bench and bar association meetings, law-school colloquia, meetings of advocacy groups, and panel discussions.

## **Social Issues (Health-Care Provision, Education, Social Services)**

Russia and the United States share an interest in preventing the spread of communicable diseases, making health care accessible to all, and improving education and social services delivery. Open World seeks to (a) give exchange participants new strategies for strengthening health-care practices and delivery, education, and social services in their regions and communities, and (b) enable participants to share their own expertise in these areas with their American counterparts. Exposing participants to models of effective public and private sector cooperation in their assigned subtheme will be an important component of these exchanges. Some delegations may have a special focus on "women as leaders."

- **Health-Care Provision (sub-theme)**

**Rationale:** Russia's high rates of chronic and communicable diseases, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, and cancer, highlight the need for preventive education, promotion of healthy lifestyles, early diagnosis, and affordable/accessible medical treatment. Inadequate health-care financing and outdated medical equipment, facilities, and practices have also contributed to a health-care crisis in Russia. Building Russian-American cooperation in the medical field can benefit both countries and improve the response to such global health challenges as the H1N1 virus pandemic and HIV/AIDS.

**Target Group:** Government officials (with an emphasis on regional and local legislative and executive branch officials), heads of health and medical associations, health-care administrators, health-care providers involved in policy-making, health educators, women’s health advocates, members of patient advocacy organizations, and NGO leaders in the field of health care.

**Possible Grantee Activities:** Issues relating to the delivery of quality coordinated services by skilled professionals utilizing modern technology for patients with non-communicable or communicable diseases as well as at-risk individuals and pregnant women will be a major focus of this sub-theme. Local programs could include visits to major medical centers, community-based clinics, county health departments, women’s health centers, and volunteer organizations. Topics for consideration include health-care management and financing, disease monitoring and control, prevention and treatment of non-communicable diseases and communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, substance abuse prevention, hospice care, and health-care quality monitoring and reporting. Appropriate formats for information exchange include site tours; conferences; workshops; and group discussions with health-care providers, health-care system managers, and government officials overseeing health-care programs. Delegates should also, whenever possible, have opportunities to discuss health care legislation and financing with federal and state legislators. Possible settings for presentations by delegates include panel discussions, roundtables, and scheduled meetings at health-care facilities or institutions. Participants should be able to see demonstrations of medical technology and have ample opportunities to question—and share their own expertise with—their American counterparts.

- **Education (sub-theme)**

**Rationale:** Russian education has a proud tradition, with graduation rates and literacy levels that are among the highest in the world. Russia’s educational system, like that of the United States, faces challenges with financing, administration, teacher recruitment and retention, preparation of students for a career and employment, and integration into a global educational system. Open World delegates from the federal, regional, and local levels, together with their American counterparts, will examine community colleges as an effective model for remedying knowledge and skills gaps created by a changing free-market economy. These institutions are responsive to the needs of a continuously changing job market, assist in local community development, and provide educational opportunities for a broad cross-section of society.

**Target Group:** Regional and local government officials and legislators involved in education policy and reform, education administrators, educators in leadership roles, heads of public-private sector initiatives, NGO leaders, and journalists.

**Possible Grantee Activities:** Appropriate activities include attending city/county council meetings on education funding and policy issues; visiting community colleges and local businesses participating in school-to-work and other training/transitional programs; viewing learning activities for special populations; discussing education financing issues with mayors

and legislators; and meeting with curriculum development specialists, state education officials, and education researchers. Possible settings for delegate presentations include college faculty meetings, classroom lectures, and university seminars, and civic-association gatherings.

- **Social Services (sub-theme)**

**Rationale:** Russia is facing a demographic crisis, with decreases in population and life expectancy. At the same time, more responsibility for social services delivery has been shifted from the national government to regional and local governments without a corresponding transfer of funds. Challenges that American communities face—including substance abuse, the care and inclusion of people with mental and physical disabilities, unstable home environments, abandoned and missing children, homelessness, and elder care—have also affected many Russian communities. Open World will invite mixed delegations of legislators, executive branch and NGO officials, and other community leaders to the United States to see how their counterparts here work to address both social services delivery and funding issues.

**Target Group:** Social service officials and providers; municipal executives; regional and local legislators; NGO leaders, including leaders of social services advocacy organizations; and editors and other journalists.

**Possible Grantee Activities:** Host organizations are encouraged to schedule an overview session at the beginning of the community visit to provide background on the roles that Congress, state and local legislatures, government agencies (federal, state, and local) and nongovernmental organizations play in funding and providing social services in the host community. Programs should enable delegates to learn on-site about the operations, structure, and funding of leading public and private social service agencies; job-shadow professional counterparts; and meet with NGO leaders who work with or advocate for special populations (e.g., disabled, elderly, or economically disadvantaged citizens; adoptive families and children in the foster care system; abused, neglected, or abandoned children; victims of domestic violence; substance abusers; and those with HIV/AIDS and other social diseases).

Other preferred activities for delegates include attending county commission and city council meetings or hearings on social service issues and meeting with legislators and legislative staff; visiting women's centers and shelters; participating in or observing workshops on recruiting, training, and managing volunteers; taking part in a volunteer activity; having briefings on, and, if possible, observing NGO fundraising and marketing activities; and developing work plans for improving social-support services in their home communities.

Possible forums for delegate presentations include panel discussions, university seminars, and roundtables.