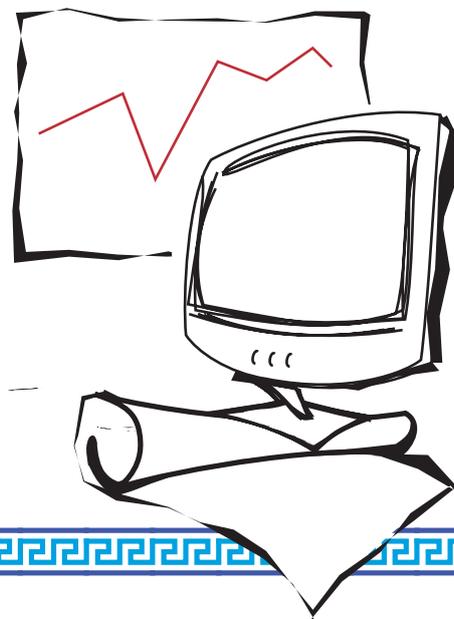


Sophist



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Information Bulletin

RESULTS OF THE FIVE-YEAR WORK

The Russian Sociological Data Archive is celebrating its fifth birthday. Five years: is it much or little? If you address this question to the personnel of the Archive, they will say, that for them these five years have flashed by like a single moment. But judging by the work done over these five years, the Russian Archive has managed to get on to feet and to become an effectively functioning center with a unique collection of datasets and an established circle of users.

The project of setting a national sociological data archive was launched in September, 2000 with the financial support from the Ford Foundation. Leading research centers have joined the Archive. Among them are: All-Russia Center for Public Opinion (VCIOM), Institute of Sociology RAS, Public Opinion Foundation, Institute for Complex Social Research, ROMIR, Institute of Economics and In-

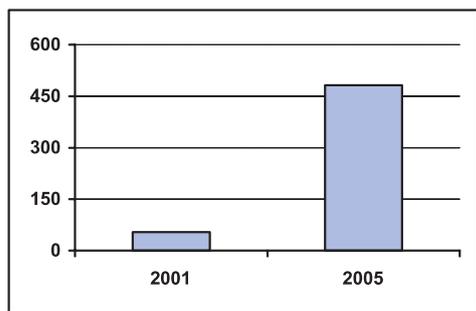
dustrial Engineering SB RAS, which have deposited the results of their research in the Archive. By the end of 2001 the Archive had stored about 60 datasets, the information system "SOFIST" (System of Factual Information on Sociological Topics) had been worked out, users had gained access to the Archive collection through Internet, the principles of interaction with depositors had been developed.

Since 2002 the Russian Sociological Data Archive has been operating as a program within the frames of the Independent Institute for Social Policy. By the end of 2005 the Archive collection has grown by 9 times: now the Archive contains about 500 datasets. The number of depositors has grown too: the first six "Founding Fathers" were joined by Moscow Carnegie Center, the Institute for Socio-Economic Studies of Population RAS, Center for Humanitarian and Political Studies "Strategy", Institute of Philosophy RAS, research company "COMCON-2", Caucasian Regional Research Center (CRRC). At present the Russian Archive has begun to collect the results of studies, funded by charitable foundations.

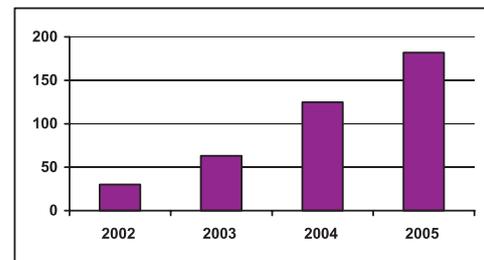
Serious progress has been achieved in the sphere of relations with the Archive users. In 2002, when we started developing the optimal criteria for the interaction with the users, only 30 data transfer agreements were signed, whereas only over the ten months of 2005 we have signed 182 such agreements.

We place particular emphasis on the work with young teachers from regional universities. In 2004 the Russian Archive got data requests from (besides Moscow universities) the Altay State University, the Baikal State Economy and Law University, the Buryar Proficiency Raising Institute for Educational Workers, the Volgograd State University, the European University in Saint Petersburg, the Irkutsk State University, the Kazan State Technical University, the Nizhegorodskiy State University, the Novosibirsk State University, the Novocherkassk Polytechnic University, the Perm State University, the Russian State Pedagogical University (Yekaterinburg), the Rostov State Pedagogical University, the Saratov State University, the Tomsk State University, the Ukrainian Humanitarian Institute, the Ulyanovsk State University, the South-Russian Economy and Service University.

DYNAMICS OF GROWTH OF THE NUMBER OF SURVEYS, DEPOSITED IN THE RUSSIAN SOCIOLOGICAL DATA ARCHIVE



DYNAMICS OF THE DATA TRANSFER AGREEMENTS GROWTH



(See page 4)

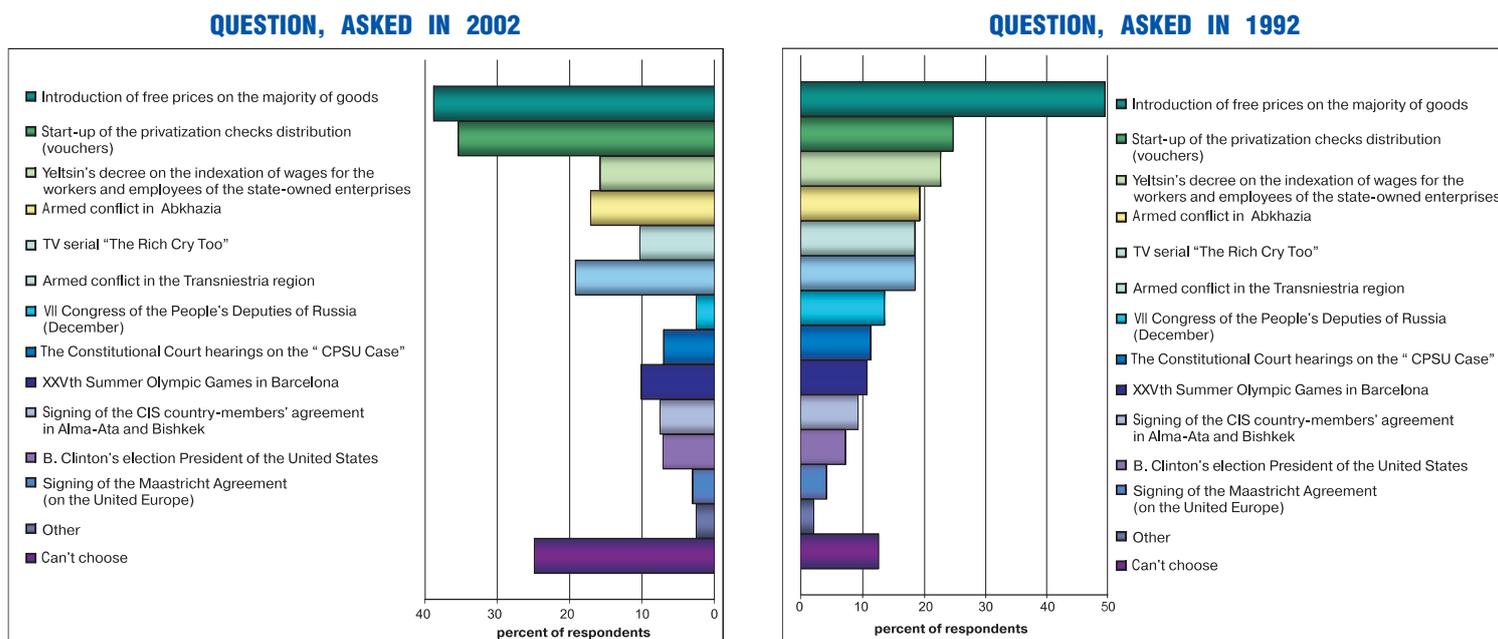
VOUCHER PRIVATIZATION: LOOKING BACKWARD

Privatization is one of the most acute and painful subjects of disputes, which have not abated through the whole period of the reforms. Was the privatization carried out correctly? Could another form of denationalization have been applied? Has a new proprietary class emerged as a result of privatization, and if yes, what kind of class?

Anatoliy Chubais writes in his book "Privatization: Russian Style": "We will not claim that according to the results of privatization everyone has got an equal share of the national property. Neither we will say that at the start people had even chances. Of course, it was clear in advance, that factory workers had a better chance of getting a good piece of property than teachers and doctors, and factory direc-

tors stood still a better chance than workers. But this injustice was preconditioned (we repeatedly mentioned it in this book) by an objective balance of forces on the eve of privatization..." To provide all the social groups with a possibly equal access to the privatized property they started with a voucher stage of privatization. In August 1992 Yeltsin signed a decree on the voucher system. From October 1992 to February 1993 about 144 million vouchers were distributed, in other words, almost 97% of the country's population received the vouchers. One would hardly be able to remember any other event of such a mass character, which affected practically every citizen of Russia.

Pic. 1. WHICH OF THE 1992 EVENTS SEEM THE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU?

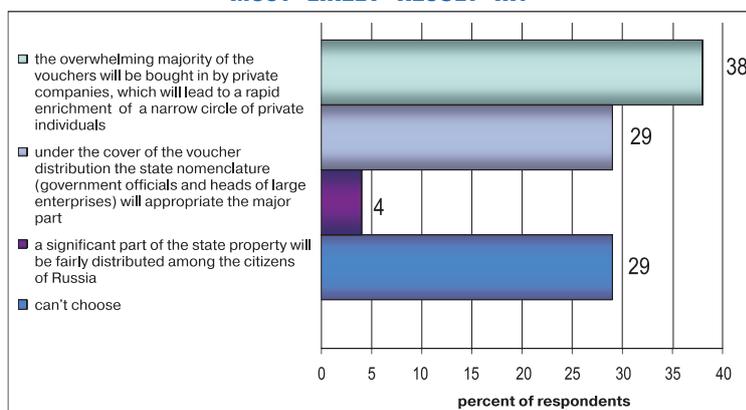


What was the reaction of the mass consciousness on the voucher privatization? First of all this event was perceived as significant. In one of the surveys, conducted in 1992 and deposited in the Russian Sociological Data Archive¹ the respondents were asked: "Which of the 1992 events seem the most important to you?" The answers are given in Pic. 1 (the right part). Almost half the respondents indicated introduction of free prices, the second in significance was the start of the voucher privatization. This assess-

ment happened to be quite stable. The same question was asked ten years later, in 2002². The first two most significant events remained the same: introduction of free prices and the start of the voucher privatization. Moreover, if "the free prices" in 1992 were twice as frequently mentioned as "privatization", in 2002 their shares are practically the same. Among the other decade-old events only the armed conflicts in Abkhazia and Transnistria have not lost their significance.

At the same time the population was more than skeptical about the voucher privatization program. Pic.2 shows the answers to the question about the possible results of the program. Only 4% of the respondents believed that the national property would be fairly distributed among the citizens of Russia; 67% thought, that it would be accumulated in the hands of those or other privileged enclaves. May be this is the reason why in December 1992³ only one third of the Russians were prepared to go in for new economic activities by investing their vouchers into company stocks or investment

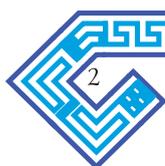
Pic. 2. WHAT WILL THE STATE PROPERTY PRIVATIZATION PROGRAM BY PRIVATIZATION CHECKS (VOUCHERS) MOST LIKELY RESULT IN?



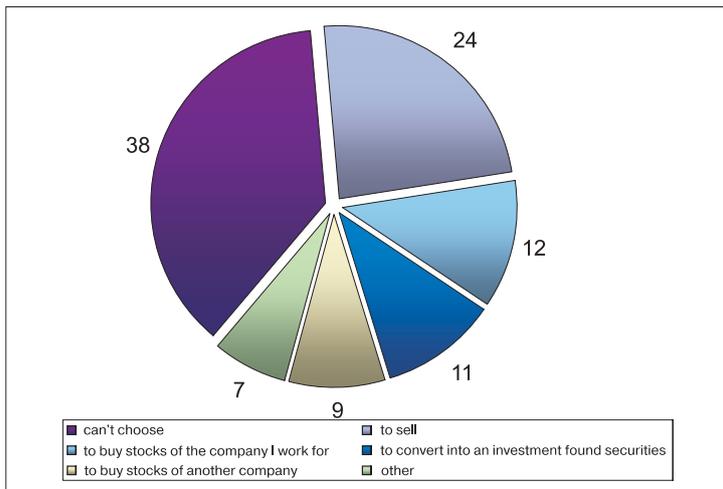
¹ Survey "Fact 1992-12", based on a representative Russian sample, conducted by VCIOM in December 10-12, 1992. Number of respondents: 2720.

² Survey "Express 2002-2", based on a representative Russian sample, conducted by VCIOM. Number of respondents: 1600.

³ Survey "Mirror of Opinions 92-III". This wave was conducted by IS RAS in December 1992 and based on a representative Russian sample; number of respondents: 1997.



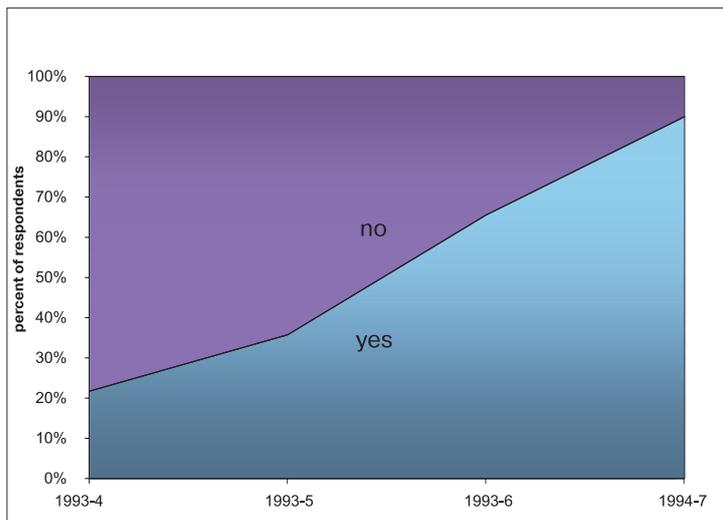
Pic. 3. IN WHAT WAY ARE YOU GOING TO DISPOSE OF YOUR PRIVATIZATION CHECK (VOUCHER)?



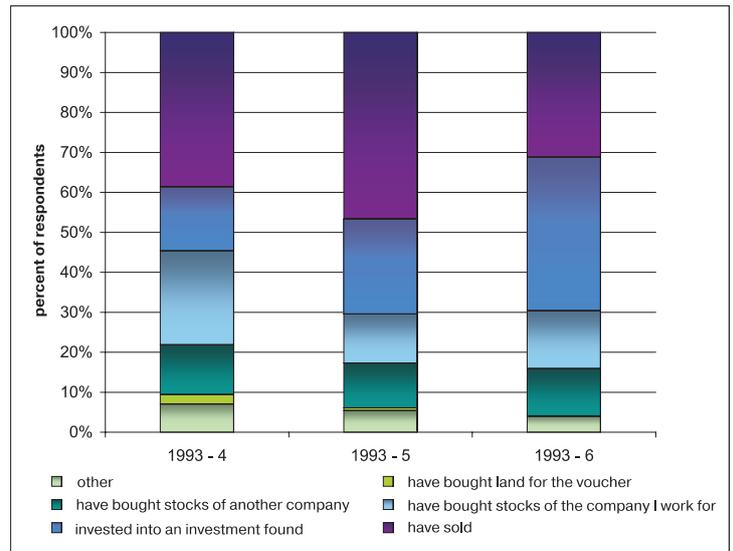
funds (Pic. 3). The larger part of the respondents were unable to answer the question (nearly 40%), 24% were going to sell their vouchers. Among the latter were mostly people with a lower level of education and income.

By the middle of 1994 the voucher privatization had been completed. According to the statistics, 95—96% of the population had disposed of their vouchers⁴. The results of the surveys give approximately the same figure (it is slightly lower, but the difference is not beyond the statistical error). Pic. 4 shows the dynamics of the answers to the question “Have you already disposed of your voucher?”⁵ According to the data of the IS RAS monitoring by July 1994, in fact after the completion of the voucher privatization, about 10% of the respondents had not disposed of their privatization checks. The survey data on what the people did with their vouchers do not coincide with the official statistics. The personal sight of Anatoliy Chubais presents the following figures: 25% of the vouchers went to voucher investment funds, another 25% of checks have been sold: these checks (about 500 thousand) were acquired by corporate entities. The remaining 50% of the vouchers were invested by the members of labor collectives (or their relatives) in the com-

Pic. 4. HAVE YOU ALREADY DISPOSED OF YOUR VOUCHER?



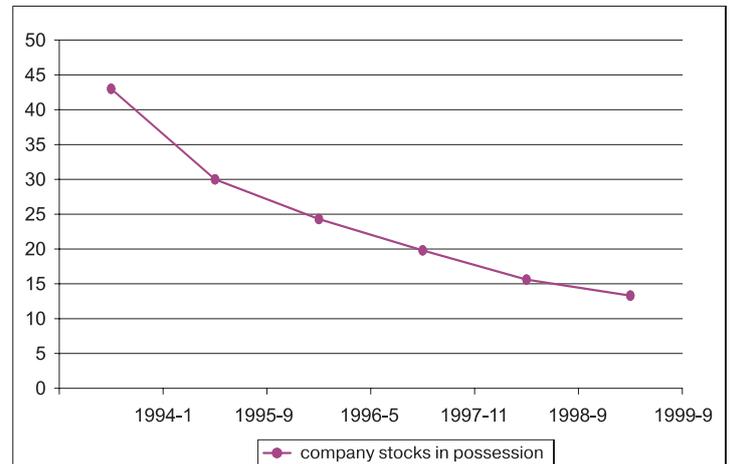
Pic. 5. IF YOU HAVE ALREADY DISPOSED OF YOUR VOUCHER, WHAT EXACTLY HAVE YOU DONE WITH IT?



panies they work for⁶. The data of the surveys, conducted in 1993⁷ give other figures (Pic. 5): not less than 40% of the vouchers were sold. About the same number were invested in stocks and investment funds.

It is important to note another tendency: gradual decrease of the number of small shareholders (Pic. 6)⁸ If in 1994 more than 40% of the respondents answered that they owned the company stocks, by 1999 the share of the stockholders had decreased by more than three times and amounted to 13%. The Russian economic reality funnels small proprietors, redistributing their property to the benefit of high rollers.

Pic. 6. SHARE OF COMPANY STOCKHOLDERS



⁴ See http://www.chubais.ru/show.cgi?current/public/2_6.htm

⁵ Survey “Mirror of Opinions”, based on representative Russian samples, conducted by IS RAS. Number of respondents: not less than 1500 in each wave.

⁶ See 4.

⁷ See 5.

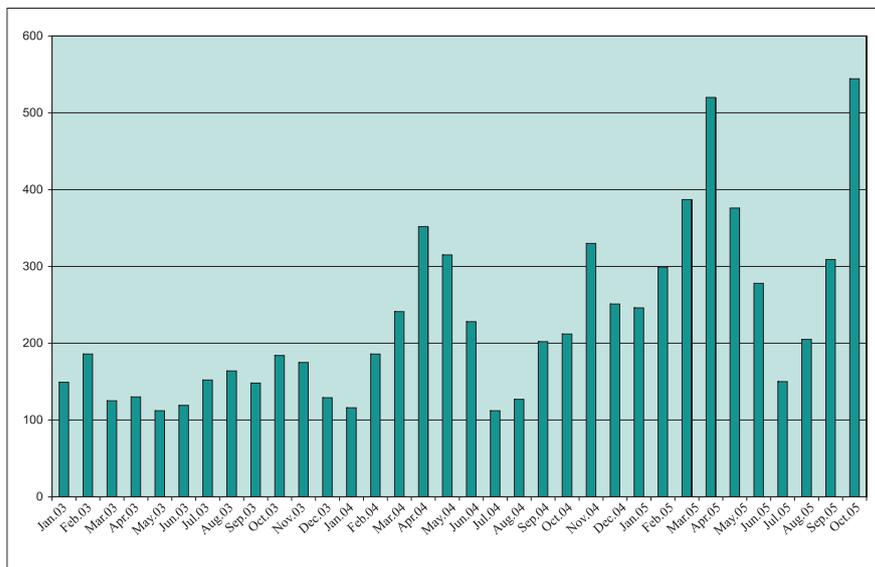
⁸ Survey “Monitoring of Social and Economic Changes”, based on representative Russian samples; number of respondents: not less than 2000 in each wave.

RESULTS OF THE FIVE-YEAR WORK

The Archive materials are used both for teaching and in research work. About 30% of the requests came from students. They apply for the data for various purposes: from writing term-papers to preparing master's dissertations.

The Russian Sociological Data Archive entered 2005 as a rapidly developing project, possessing a unique data collection and a permanently growing number of users. We set ourselves a number of very important educational objectives, forming standards of research behavior as well as the research environment itself.

USAGE OF THE INFORMATION SYSTEM "SOFIST" WEB-SITE (NUMBER OF VISITS)

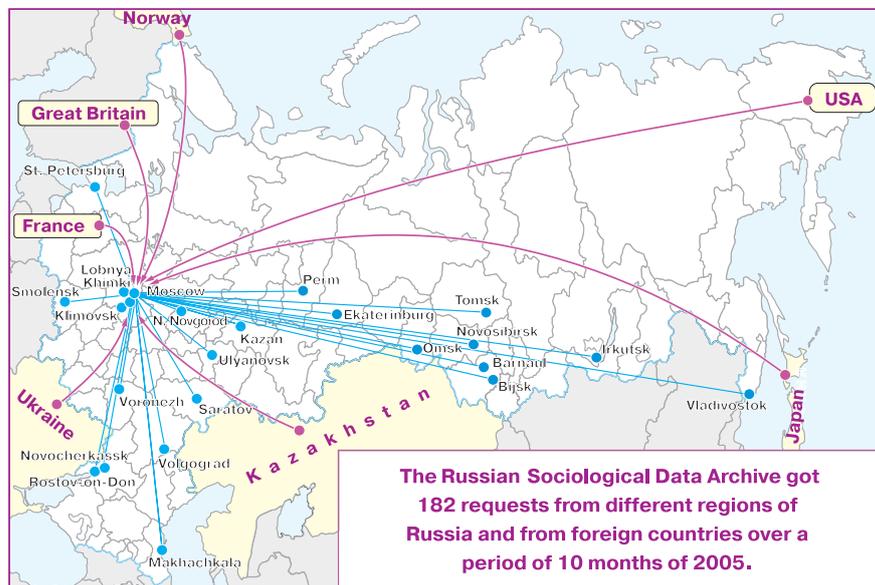


1. The Russian Archive is striving to become the depositing center of studies, carried out by the grantees of various charitable foundations. Data depositing increases responsibility of the researcher, who understands, that the results of his work become public and can be controlled by the scientific community. With time it will certainly have a positive effect on the quality of sociological studies.

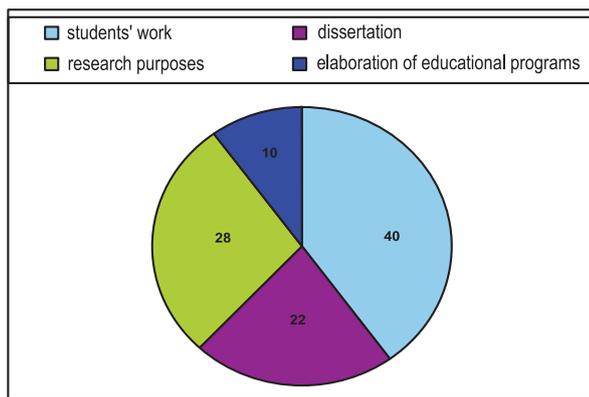
2. We are taking efforts to gradually make the Russian Archive data an empirical base for academic courses taught at social sciences departments in universities. Both students and teachers should not only be aware of the existence of the Archive, but acquire a habit of turning to the Archive when elaborating an academic program, or writing students' and research papers, or preparing for a conference.

3. The Archive sets itself a task to harmonize regulations of the information storage and description. The Russian Archive must become part of the European and international archive network, compatible with them on all the levels, both conceptually and technologically. The translation of the questionnaires into English is being continued, thus making the collection more accessible for the foreign researchers.

GEOGRAPHY OF REQUESTS TO THE RUSSIAN SOCIOLOGICAL DATA ARCHIVE



PURPOSES FOR THE DATA REQUESTS



3 Glinischevsky pereulok,
entrance 3
Moscow, 125009, Russia



independent institute for
SOCIAL POLICY
www.socpol.ru

Phone: (095) 786-67-18
Fax: (095) 629-96-51
e-mail: info@socpol.ru