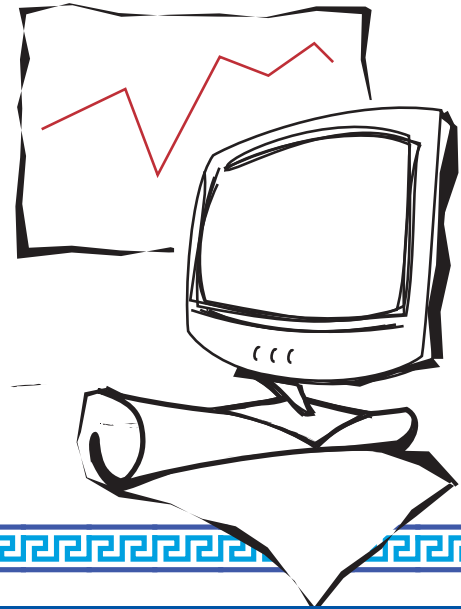


# Sophist



## RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE RUSSIAN SOCIOLOGICAL DATA ARCHIVE

At present the catalogue available on the site of the Russian Sociological Data Archive comprises more than 650 surveys, covering the period from 1975 to 2008.

In 2008 the RSDA collection was replenished by 28 storage units. The next waves of the surveys «Monitoring of the Social and Economic Changes» and «Courier» were supplied by the NGO «Levada Center». These surveys were carried out according to the representative samples and embrace a wide range of topics and are of great interest to our users.

NISP deposited the first wave of a unique sociological study «Gender and Generation Survey». The questionnaire contains 12 sections, reflecting various sides of the everyday life of the respondents: employment, housing, financial situation, household structure, values and attitudes etc. More than 11 000 respondents were surveyed. This research aroused a lot of interest and joined our «Top-10» chart.

«The Forum of Donors» handed over for storage the results of the survey «Charity», which was conducted according to two representative samples in Moscow and Russia. The research allows to estimate the level of awareness of the population of the charity organizations activities, the

degree of support their work enjoys, and readiness to join in whenever various charity events take place etc.

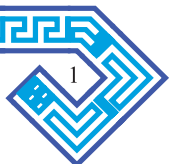
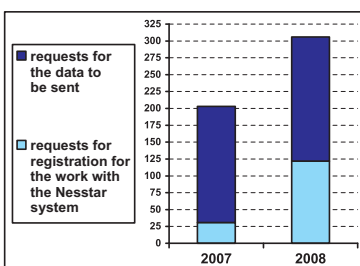
Two waves of «Express» surveys came from the All-Russia Public Opinion Center (VCIOM). GFK-Rus research company deposited the survey «Typology of the Consumer». This is a market research, which set as its objective to draw a socio-demographic and psychological portrait of the consumer.

As always we were rejoiced by our foreign colleagues. The Cologne archive supplied us with the new wave of the ISSP (International Social Survey Programme), called «The Role of the Government». The survey was conducted in 33 countries according to the single methodology and comparative samples. The research embraces a number of problems connected with the legislative conscience and level of the protest potential, as well as a desirable degree of the government's interference into the economy and social spheres, budget expenditures etc. This is already the fourth wave of the survey on this topic starting from 1985 which gives an opportunity to make both inter-state and retrospective analysis.

## OUR USERS

The most important indication of the effectiveness of the Russian Archive's work is the constant increase of the number of its users. In 2008 we note the increase both in the number of the requests for the data to be sent and the share of the registered on-line users. The number of the latter is more noticeable. Undoubtedly this is a result of the yearly methodology seminars which help young university teachers acquire techniques of work with the system.

The methodology seminars also have an impact on the geography of requests. Thus, after the 2007 Summer School, which was attended by the representatives from Novosibirsk and Omsk, the number of requests has increased by 21 and 55 respectively.



## HOW ZASTOY (STAGNATION) STARTED

In the Soviet society the channels of the vertical mobility were always under a severe bureaucratic control. If there could be a certain freedom of movement at the initial stages of the career, the system of control was becoming the more strict the closer «the careerist» was moving towards the high status positions. At the same time there were no internal mechanisms of selection and gratification; the promotion was dictated by the decision of «the higher-standing and controlling authorities». External tension was necessary to ensure social movement: a situation of crisis, destruction and tossing up within the high-status groups and as a result emerging vacancies for new promoters. In this sense repressions were the necessary key element for functioning of the system of mobility on the whole: without them the system proved to be unworkable. Softening of the regime — giving up the policy of regular physical elimination of the elite — practically brought about a nearly full stoppage of the rising mobility. Such an imoersonal word «zastoy» (stagnation) very accurately defines not only (and may not so much) a slow-down of the economic growth, but in fact an overall sclerotization of the vertical mobility channels. To illustrate the above-mentioned, we offer the data in Table 1. In the soviet society of the Stalin type, the length of the career was 8 years in average, with the end of the repressions, the speed of the upward-movement dropped drastically. At the first stages a certain movement impulse was due to the substitution of «Stalin's falcons» by new functionaries, but by the middle of the 70-ies the data indicate serious failures in the work of the upward mobility mechanism: the length of the nomenclature career became 3 times as long. The potential careerist

could hope to get the desirable position just before it was retirement age.

By the middle of the 70-ies, besides the slow-down in the speed of upward mobility, the variability of careers also decreased: there emerged a certain checkpoint, which it was necessary to get through to get an access to the high status positions. The role of this «entrance point» to the big career was played by the official of the middle level — only in this position the potential careerist becomes noticeable in the system and could be selected for the further promotion. Table 2 shows the data on starting and pre-nomenclature positions of the respondents, who occupied nomenclature positions in the soviet time.

Though about a third of the soviet nomenclature people started their labor biography as workers, there was practically no chance to get into the elite right from «the worker's position» — they are the so called ceremonial Stakhanovites, who after being elected to the high level Soviets, then served as decorations at the presidiums of large congresses. There was a possibility of selection of specialists for the high status groups and the dynamics of their mobility rather accurately reflects all the peripetia of the «romance» between the power and intelligentsia (see Table 3).

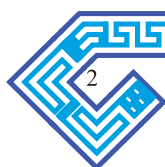
The share of those, who came to the nomenclature positions right «out of specialists» was growing till the beginning of the 70-ies, which proved to be watershed — the inflow of specialists to the nomenclature positions dropped and never rose again up to the end of the soviet regime. At the same time the chances of the middle managers rose. If in 1954 — 1961 the share of those who came to the high-status positions from the ranks of

**Table 1.**  
The career length to the first nomenclature position

Period	Average number of years before the first nomenclature position
before 1953	8 years
1954-1961	9 years
1962-1968	11 years
1969-1973	14 years
1974-1984	18 years
1985-1988	23 years
1989-1991	22 years

<sup>1</sup> According to the data of the survey «Social changes in Russia. Elite». The survey was conducted in the autumn of 1993, and included 1812 interviews with the representatives of the state management, science and culture of the USSR, who occupied nomenclature positions in 1988, and also with the representatives of the Russian elite, who occupied positions comparable with nomenclature positions in 1993.

<sup>2</sup> See 1.



**Table 2.**  
**Probability of getting into the nomenclature depending on the sphere of activity**  
**(the percent is counted columnwise, only analyzed positions are presented)**

	Percent of the respondents who occupied the given position at the start of the career	Percent of the respondents, who occupied the given position before getting the first nomenclature position
Middle manager	8	46
Party functionaries and workers of the mass organizations but not in the nomenclature positions	1	13
Specialist without subordinates	41	25
Worker	31	3

**Table 3.**  
**Probability of getting into the nomenclature**  
**depending on the sphere of activity in different periods**  
**(the percent is counted columnwise, only analyzed positions are presented)**

Position, occupied just before joining the nomenclature	The year of the first nomenclature position				
	54-61	62-68	69-73	74-84	85-88
Specialist without subordinates	26	30	31	24	17
Middle manager	23	38	35	50	57

the «party and economy activists» comprised 23% — smaller than the share of specialists, but by 1974 this figure increased up to 50 %. In 1985 — 1988, 57 % of those, who joined the nomenclature, were middle managers. The system no longer needed «a person from the side». The vertical mobility in the soviet society finally acquired the character of a slow movement according to the strictly adjusted

steps of the career ladder. In fact there existed only one up-going elevator. And only the one, who passed through the middle manager position could get into it. At that the speed of the elevation was gradually getting slower. The society was becoming more closed, the social partitions — to be more exact, the wall separating the society and the nomenclature became impenetrable.

## OUR HIT-PARADE

According to the results of the previous year we always form a rating of «popularity» of the surveys, deposited in the Russian Sociological Data Archive. Picture 1 shows the statistics of the more frequently requested materials. The list, as before, is topped by the «Monitoring of social and economic changes». In 2008 we got 66 orders for the different waves of this research. Monitoring is a recurrent study, which allows to follow the dynamics of the social state of health of the population of Russia, the degree of trust to the institutes of power, political parties and politicians, the level of the protest potential in different social groups and many more. The survey is carried out once in every two months according to the sample of the urban and rural population of Russia. Each wave implies 2100 respondents of the age 16 plus.

The second place in the list of the frequently requested materials is occupied by the «**Courier**» survey. This is a survey of the Omnibus type and it is carried out within a very limited period of time: the fieldwork takes four days, which allows to quite operatively get the reaction of the population to the urgent events

of the public life. The respondents in this survey are the permanent residents of Russia of the age 18 plus.

Last year two more studies, which give a retrospective view on our social history, «**Omnibus**» and «**Fact**» were also very popular. These recurrent surveys were conducted in the end of the 80-ies and the first half of the 90-ies according to the representative samples. They cover a most wide range of topics and attract researchers of different trends.

Twenty eight request were received for the **ISSP modules** — International Social Survey Programme. This international research was started in 1985. Every year the study is carried out according to the single methodology with the use of the same instruments, agreed upon by all the participating countries. At present more than 30 states take part in the work, among them Australia, Bulgaria, Great Britain, Germany, Israel, Italy, Canada, New Zealand, USA, Japan and others. Russia joined the project in 1991. The topics of surveys are defined at the meeting of the participant states. Among already realized modules we can name the following: «Social inequality», «Role of the Government», «Religion», «Ecology», «The

family and change in gender roles». The modules are repeated in 5-6 years. The study gives an opportunity to make both inter-state comparisons and the analysis of the trends.

The study «**Diagnostics of corruption in Russia**» which has recently been deposited in the Russian Archive by the «Indem» foundation aroused a lot of interest. This survey is of a complicated and interesting design: The survey is conducted by way of three different samples – among the population, entrepreneurs and state officials which allows to get a multi-measured view on the problem. The objective of the study was to bring to light the extension and grounds for corruption in Russia, to define possible ways to struggle with it.

«**Time budgets of the rural population**» is a longitude study, started in 1975. It is conducted by the Institute of Economy and Organization of Industrial Production of SO RAN and supervised by V.A. Artyomov. The survey makes it possible to estimate the balance of the overall time fund of the rural population of the region, to make a comparative analysis of the time use by different groups of the rural population (men and women, workers of different village sub-systems, basic social and positional groups, and also pendulum migrants). This is an exceptional retrospective study as its depth is 30 years. Thus we get a rare possibility to observe through the time usage in everyday life the shifts in changing life circumstances and social and psychological climate of the rural population.

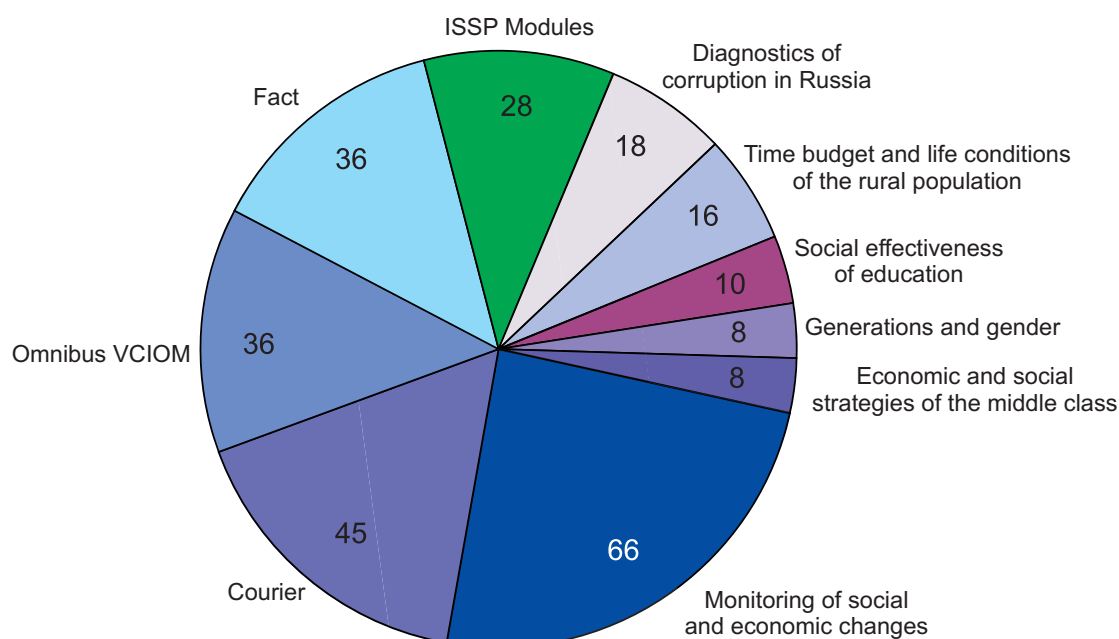
«**Social effectiveness of education**» is a unique survey in our collection as it was carried out in the soviet time. The

fieldwork was conducted in 1984. The respondents were pupils at their place of study. The basic objective of the research was a study of social activity and professional interests of secondary specialized education students. The questions covered a wide range of topics: free time, motives for the choice of the educational institution, attitude to scientific and research work and technical creativity, attitude to social subjects, prestige of professions, and satisfaction with the chosen profession.

The list of the most frequently requested surveys includes the study «**Gender and Generation Survey**». This is a detailed social research, which looks into different spheres of the respondents' everyday life: employment, pensions, housing, financial position, household structure, values and attitudes etc. More than 11 000 respondents were surveyed. The work was conducted by a group of authors headed by N.V. Maleva.

The survey «**Economic and social strategies of the middle class**» is still in demand. The survey was conducted through two samples: basic, representing Russia on the whole, and within separate locations, which ensures a higher level of representativity of the results for the oblast centers. The survey covered 5 thousand households in 12 regions of Russia. The fieldwork was conducted by Moscow Carnegie Center under supervision of T.M. Maleva.

For more details on the surveys and texts of the questionnaires turn to: [http://sofist.socpol.ru/per\\_isl.asp?en=0](http://sofist.socpol.ru/per_isl.asp?en=0)



Pic. 1

3 Glinischevsky pereulok,  
entrance 3  
Moscow, 125009, Russia



independent institute for  
**SOCIAL POLICY**  
www.socpol.ru

Phone: (495) 786-67-18  
Fax: (495) 629-96-51  
e-mail: info@socpol.ru