



CONFERENCE AGENDA
**“Russia’s Social Sectors under decentralization:
Issues of Financing, Performance, and Governance”**
March 24-25, 2005
World Bank Moscow Office

March 24

- 9:30 **Participants’ registration**
10:00 **Conference Opening:**
John Litwack –Acting Country Director -World Bank
Sergey Miroshnikov- Director, Department for Federal Relations, Governance, and Local Governments – Ministry of Regions
Tatiana Popova- The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly.

Session1: Institutional mechanisms and accountability for social services: Implementing the reforms

- 11:00 **Presentation** ([Video Conference from Pretoria, South Africa](#))
Presentation by:
Ritva Reinika - Co-Director of the World Development Report (WDR) 2004 “Making Services Work for the Poor” and Country Director for South Africa. World Bank
Topics discussed:
- The analytical framework of service provision of the WDR 2004
- Accountability issues in service provision.
Questions and answers
- 11:45 Coffee-break
- 12:00 **Governance and accountability in the health and education sectors at the regional and local levels.**
Chair: Isak Froumin- Senior Education Specialist- World Bank.
Panel:
1) Vladimir Pylev – Ministry of Education- Samara Oblast
2) Vladimir Shevsky – Health reform team - former Oblast Health Director- Samara.
3) Sergey Shishkin- Research Director. Independent Institute for Social Policy.
- Topics discussed:**
- Roles of regional and local health departments.
- Legal status of service provider entities (e.g., schools, hospitals)
- Use and transparency of extra-budgetary resources at the regional and local levels.
Questions and answers
- 1:30 **Lunch**

Session 2: Responsibility assignments in social services at the sub-national level.

2:30 **Implementation of new expenditure responsibilities at the regional and local levels.**

Chair: Migara De Silva – Economist WBI

Panel:

- 1) Natalia Golovanova, Academic Team Leader-Center for Fiscal Policy.
- 2) Stepan Titov, Senior Economist World Bank.
- 3) Tatiana Popova- The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the RF

Topics discussed:

- Coordination with sectoral laws.
- Administrative capacity at the local level.
- New administrative responsibilities of regional and local governments (e.g., hiring and firing)
- Social welfare programs assigned to the oblast level: implication for regional inequalities.
- Building maintenance and social infrastructure investment.

Questions and Answers

4:00 Coffee-break

Session 3: Regional-local transfers to finance social services at the local level: international experience

4:30 **Equalization transfers at the sub-national level: Design principles and international experience** ([Video Conference from Washington DC](#); and [Brasilia, Brazil](#))

Chair: Dana Weist, Lead Public Sector Specialist – World Bank

Co-chair: Andrei Markov- Senior Human Development Specialist –World Bank

Panel:

- 1) Jorge Martinez-Vazquez- Professor - Decentralization expert- Andrew Young School of Policy Studies- Georgia State University.
- 2) Kai Kaiser – Economist World Bank- Public Sector and Governance
- 3) Fernando Blanco – Economist World Bank- Brazil experience

Topics discussed:

- Equalization transfers design principles (e.g., discussion of transparency, equity, Predictability)
- Service demand driven factors in the formula.
- International experiences: Equalization transfers in Brazil
- International experiences: Equalization transfers in Germany

6:00 **Cocktail hosted by John Litwack – Acting Country Director**

March 25

Session 3 (cont.)

10:00 **Regional-local Equalization transfers in Russia: Design and implementation..**

Chair: John Litwack -Acting Country Director -World Bank

Panel:

- 1) Alexei Lavrov- Director of Budget Policy - Ministry of Finance
- 2) Galina Kurlyandskaya, Director, Center for Fiscal Policy.
- 3) Irina Maximenkova -Deputy Finance Minister- Tverskaya oblast

Topics discussed:

- Regulations affecting the design of the equalization formulas at the regional level.
 - Option available within the parameters imposed by the Federal level.
 - Regional experiences with equalization transfers: the case of Tverskaya oblast
- Questions and answers

11:30 Coffee/tea break

11:45 **Regional-local sectoral transfers: education and health.**

Chair: Stepan Titov, Senior Economist World Bank.

Panel:

- 1) Irina Maximenkova -Deputy Finance Minister- Tverskaya oblast
- 2) Natalia Tipenko – Institute of Urban Economy & Center for Fiscal Policy

Topics discussed:

- Per capita financing of Education (Samaraskaya Oblast).
- Per capita financing of Education (Penza Oblast)
- Sectoral transfers (Tverskaya oblast)

Questions and answers

1:00 Lunch

<p><i>Session 4: “Performance Based Management and Budgeting in Social Sectors: National Goals and Regional Issues”</i></p>

2:00 **Defining objectives and measuring performance in social sectors under Performance Based Budgeting: General principles and regional experiences.**

Chair: Andrei Markov- Senior Human Development Specialist- World Bank.

Panel:

- 1) Alexander Morozov. Senior Economist – World Bank.
- 2) Artyem Barakhovsky, Director, Center for Budget Relations Studies
- 3) Mikhail Duganov, Ministry of Health. Vologda Region
- 4) Elena Stolyrova- Deputy Governor Penza Oblast.

Topics presented:

- Objectives and goals – how integrated or specialized these should be?
- Service delivery measurements of performance (Health, Education, other social services).
- Integrating reform priorities into PBB objectives
- Policy design for performance goals and objectives
- PBB in the social sectors at the sub-national level.

Questions and answers

15:30 **Closing remarks: Andrei Markov, Senior Human Development Specialist- World Bank**