

PROJECT DETAILS

Country(ies): Russia
Duration: April 1994 - August 2004
Budget: CAD \$ 2,530,232
Funder: Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
Partner(s): Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, Accounting Chamber of the Russian Federation, Regional Legislatures
Status: Closed

About the Parliamentary Centre

The Parliamentary Centre is a Canadian not-for-profit, non-partisan organization that supports parliaments around the world. Our assessment, strategic planning and training programs, combined with research products and networking channels, help legislatures measure their performance, build capacity, tackle key issues and promote mutual learning.

In short - we help legislatures better serve their people.

About the Project

From 1994-2004, the Centre managed the Canada-Russia Parliamentary Program (CRPP). The program started with parliamentary development and staff training with the two chambers of the Russian Federal Assembly (the State Duma and the Federation Council). Phases two and three included activities with regional legislatures of the Russian Federation. In

July 2000, CRPP added an accountability component to its program, designed to improve parliamentary oversight by strengthening the linkages between the Russian Supreme Audit Institution (the Accounting Chamber of the Russian Federation) and the Russian Federal Assembly. From January 2002 September 2004 a pilot project was implemented to assist the Accounting Chamber to introduce performance auditing in its work and to strengthen the capacity of the Federal Assembly to consider performance audit reports. Following the successful completion of CRPP in the fall of 2004 the Parliamentary Centre launched its new Accountability Strengthening Program.



Accounting Chamber of the Russian Federation

Accomplishments

Under the project, the Accounting Chamber of the Russian Federation developed performance audit methodology that was employed in two pilot audits, the results of which were reviewed by the appropriate Federal Assembly Committees. The Parliamentary Centre assisted also in building and strengthening the capacity of the Federal Assembly to interact with the Accounting Chamber and to review its performance audit reports.

The results of performance auditing are attractive to parliamentarians as they focus on the economic and efficient management of public funds, as well as the effectiveness of government programs. Under its Federal Assembly component, CRPP assisted the Russian Federation Council, in reforming its internal administrative and financial management after it was transformed into a full-time body in the beginning of 2002. Under CRPP, the experience of the Canadian Senate's Standing Committee on Internal Economy was used in the establishment of a Commission of Internal Economy in the Federation Council. The Centre assisted the newly-established body in introducing in the Federation Council a system of support for parliamentarians, similar to the model used in the Senate of Canada, where Senators are allocated office budgets that they can use to meet their particular needs and priorities.

Testimonials

“From the outset it has been clear to all parties in the project [Accountability and Strengthening Program] that the Canadian experience is to be shared and will be adapted to Russian circumstances. Each party to the project is clearly equal in relationship and respects the others particular circumstances; an essential ingredient to a strong partnership”, David Rattray, Assistant Auditor General of Canada.