

Institutional, Legal and Economic Federalism, Russian Federation

Assignment	Supporting the Administration of the President of the Russian Federation in its effort to improve the functioning of federalism in Russia.
Client	Government of Russia
Financing Agency	European Union (Tacis)
Partners	VNG, GOPA
Composition of Team	<i>BMB Mott MacDonald</i> : Team Leader, Project Director, Legal Expert <i>Partner(s)</i> : Long-term expert on local government, short-term experts on surveys, institutional aspects, local government, and financial and budgetary issues.
Period of Assignment	From November 2004 to December 2006 Staff months: <i>BMB Mott MacDonald</i> : 27; <i>Partner(s)</i> : 38
Contract value	<i>BMB Mott MacDonald</i> : €2,184,000 <i>Partner(s)</i> : €715,400
Background	The new reforms in the Russian Federation, which redefine some components of Russian federalism, need to be implemented adequately at all levels. This improved management of federalism has three important dimensions. The first refers to the division of competencies, which implies a good balance between the subject matters of the competencies, and optimal distribution of responsibilities among the executive bodies of the Russian Federation and its subjects/regions. The second dimension deals with the definition and management of related administrative designs of federal bodies at the level of federal 'okrugs' and regions, and their proper coordination with regional administrations. The third dimension concerns local government, with special attention to the new law defining criteria and processes for definition and assignment of tasks to local government.
Description of project	<p>The overall objective of the project is to support the Administration of the President of the Russian Federation in its effort to improve the functioning of federalism in Russia.</p> <p>The specific objectives of the project are: Objective 1: To support the Presidential Administration in analysing whether the allocation of competencies and responsibilities complies with the current federal legislation at all levels of state governance, including 'okrugs'. This involves both assessing the current system of competencies and responsibilities, and defining new instruments to prevent problems due to conflicts between different parts of the future legislation. This activity will be undertaken both at the central level and at the level of one federal okrug. It is very likely that fulfilment of the objective will cause further changes in the federal legislation. Objective 2: To optimize the distribution of federal bodies over the okrug,</p>

regional and sub-regional levels, and to optimize the relationship between these federal bodies and regional institutions in order to increase transparency and coherence of policies of the different actors. This objective concerns both administrative design and administrative management.

Objective 3: To create an advisory capacity at the okrug level for municipal policies to assist municipalities in making choices concerning the nature of relevant local public goods and their mode of supply.

Objective 4: To disseminate the project's results to other federal okrugs in order to support their generalization.

Services provided

The main activities of the consultants are:

- (i) Analysis of federal and regional laws and administrative procedures,
- (ii) Assessment of the experience gained to date,
- (iii) Interviews with people in positions of responsibility at both federal and okrug levels,
- (iv) Presentation of studies or assessment reports with recommendations,
- (v) Implementation of training programmes, study tours and conferences, and
- (vi) Production of materials for dissemination.