



Novgorod Baseline Review

Introduction

Veliky Novgorod is the administrative center of the Novgorod region, located on north-west of Russian Federation, on the way from St. Petersburg to Moscow. It is one of the most ancient cities in Russia with 220 thousand inhabitants.

Veliky Novgorod was created in 859 of Common Era, and during many centuries it was in the center of the historical events, connected with the development of Russian State.

Very convenient geographical location contributed to the development of useful arts, trade and culture. With time Novgorod becomes the second by value city of Kiev Russia, and in XII – XV centuries – the capital of Novgorod feudal republic. That time Novgorod republic reaches its prosperity and becomes one of the centers of Russian culture. In the city were made majestic architecture buildings, started to develop icon painting, were written chronicles, literacy were widely spread. Many culture monuments of that time came to our time. Among them are the following: St. Sophia Cathedral decorated with the ancient frescos, which was created in XI century; safety constructions with the Kremlin (“Detinets”) and the line of other monumental constructions.

Ancient citizens of Novgorod land entered many famous pages into history of our fatherland. Many times they gave worthy repulse to foreign conquerors.

In 1478 Veliky Novgorod and its bordering territories came into the structure of Russian centralized state and became its important economic center, through which went trade ways to the West. However, with the going out of Russia to the Baltic sea (the beginning of XVIII century), the significance of Veliky Novgorod, as of big economic center, was gradually lost, in spite of the fact that very important thoroughfares, which connected Moscow and St. Petersburg, went through Novgorod province.

The establishment of Novgorod province at 29th of April’1727 and the turn of Novgorod into its center promoted to the construction development in Novgorod at first half of XVIII century. The general plan, which was accepted at 16th of June’1779, liquidated the old city-planning structure and changed it into the regular planning “in capital manner”.

During the Second World War the city was occupied by German-fascist force and was nearly completely destroyed. Hundreds of enterprises, thousands of buildings, many Russian architecture monuments were destroyed.

Novgorod was rebuilt during the post war years.

Veliky Novgorod of present days is the new comfortable city with big industrial enterprises, culture and sport constructions, but at the same time, it is a huge museum of Old Russian architecture and monumental painting. Antiquity and contemporaneity organically combine here. By the decision of UNESCO at 1992, the memorials of Veliky Novgorod were accepted as the property of world heritage, only Moscow and St. Petersburg have the same status in Russia.

The total area of Veliky Novgorod is 90 square kilometers. It is about 600 km to Moscow and 180 km to St. Petersburg.

The city development is subordinated to the Plan of social & economic





development of Velikiy Novgorod for 2006 – 2009 years. This document allows the make harmonious short term decisions in the frames of existing medium-term guiding lines and long term aims, allows to subordinate solution of the existing social, educational, economic and ecologic problems to the united objects of complex territory development and creation of comfort environment.

Today Velikiy Novgorod takes the leading position in the economic potential of Novgorod region: about 50% of profit, 56% of the industrial products, 40% of the investments.

The economic structure of the city has the following state:

- Industrial production – 69%;
- Transport and communication – 13%
- Construction – 4,5%;
- Trade – 6%;
- Other variants of economic activity – 7,5%.

Chemical, food, woodworking, pulp and paper, mechanical, metal, power and other branches of the industrial production develop in Velikiy Novgorod.

Velikiy Novgorod actively interacts with foreign countries. Our city is the member of some international organizations: “Twin cities”, “World Heritage Cities Organization”, Regional and Local Authorities Congress.

Twin-cities:

1965 r.	Uusikaupunki (Finland)
1970 r.	Moss (Norway)
1974 r.	Nanterre (France)
1984 r.	Watford (England)
1987 r.	Bielefeld (Germany)
1990 r.	Rochester (USA)
1995 r.	Zibo (China)

City-partners:

1997 r.	Strasbourg (France)
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Annual XXIX international forum “Hansa Days of New Time” will take place in 2009 in Velikiy Novgorod.

Development of local government of Velikiy Novgorod is tightly connected with the realization of the Federal Law “About general principles of organizing of local government in Russian Federation” and it follows five main guidelines:

- improvement of the interaction between local government bodies and population; taking into account the citizens’ opinion during the process of making administrative decisions;
- help in the development of civil society;
- increase of the citizens’ initiative in the solution of city problems and development of the

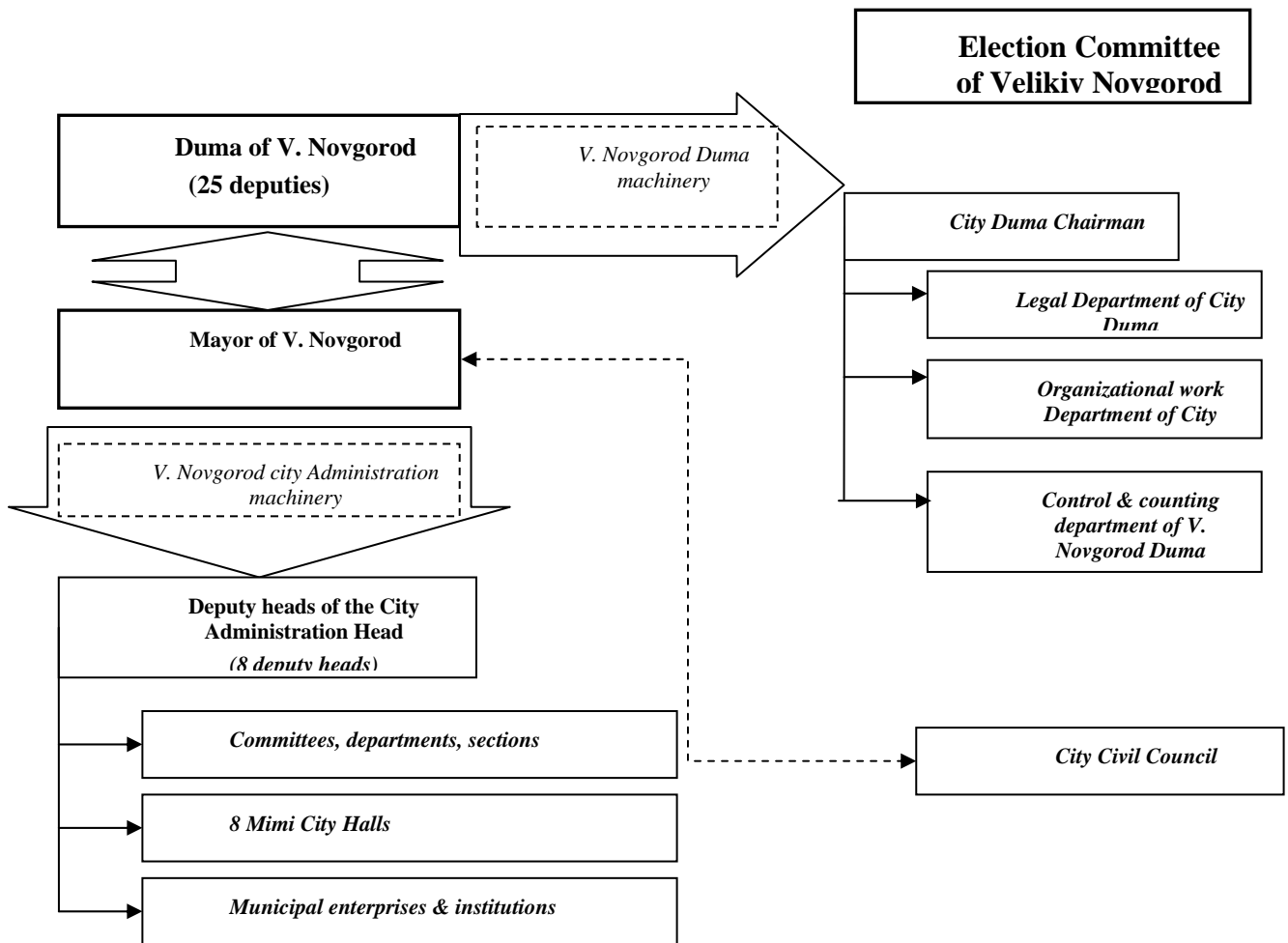




- territory public self-government;
- improvement of human resources potential of local government bodies;
- ensuring of well coordinated mechanisms of local government bodies, regional and federal authorities interaction.

At present time the structure of local government bodies is presented by the legislative (Duma, which consists of 25 people) and executive (city Administration) authorities, which are led by the city Mayor.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES STRUCTURE



1 PROBLEMS





System of the existing relations between civil society, business and municipal authority is based on the principles of integrated solution of social, economic and ecological problems. However, the absence of the common approach and the tool of integrated solution of the problem, doesn't allow achieving really effective results. In this context we can hardly see strategic priorities of local society development.

Due to the historical mission of Veliky Novgorod and his nowadays potential, our group had chosen the following topic in the frames of MATRUSCHKA project: "Preparation of the city to the adoption of Aalborg Commitments before its 1150th anniversary.

We believe that Aalborg Commitments is the essential tool that helps to local society to set clear qualitative and quantitative aims in the frames of work devoted to the introduction of city sustainability principles. The key guideline here is the use of already existing experience in the solution of global environmental, economic and social tasks.

Nowadays Veliky Novgorod comes out to the new turn of its development. We introduce modern technologies of territory management. The priority aim is the issue of sustainability and citizens' life quality. Adopting Aalborg Commitments, we want to attract the attention of world and Russian community to difficult and important issues, which will allow us to choose the most right way to sustainability. Also, we will try to develop our own methodological and practical arsenal of tools. Further, it will help us to transmit our experience on the other Russian cities.

2 VISION AND MISSION

We realize that implementation of Veliky Novgorod sustainable development strategy is possible only with the wide participation of the society, including nongovernmental and international organizations; business; regional, governmental and local authorities; citizens' units.

The main idea of Aalborg Commitments adoption is to join and develop already existing municipal processes, to give them sustainable development guideline.

The aim of the project in Veliky Novgorod is to increase the effectiveness of local authorities' activity using the ideas of Aalborg Commitments. It is necessary in order to create the algorithm of interaction of authorities, civil and business community. *Mission* in the frames of this project is to create the essential preconditions for the implementation of the mechanism that allows consolidating efforts for citizens' life quality improvement, making of favorable and safe environment for citizens, and, also, conditions for civilized and harmonious business development.

The significant element of the chosen mission implementation is the attraction of the representatives of civil society, authority and business, which have enough power to solve the set problem.

The main functional aim is the consolidation of the efforts of different spheres of the administrative, political, and economic and public life of our society.

3 PEOPLE

To implement Aalborg Commitments adoption we attract people directly concerned with the process of management decisions acceptance in Veliky Novgorod (administration officers, social organizations' leaders, business and policy representatives) and representatives of civil society. Attraction of citizens' attention is realized by means of public hearings devoted to the essential





issues of social & economic development. The work with the leaders is based on the individual basis.

4 SUCCESS CRITERIA

Mechanism of the definition of the Aalborg Commitments adoption will be determined by means of the preliminary criterion base estimation, which can be the following:

- Involvement of all civil sectors for the effective, open and suspended participation in the process of making decisions.
- Securing of the sustainable development priorities in the process of making decisions.
- Reduction of the discharge level of the environment, improvement of the quality of water, land and atmosphere, widening of green zones.
- Effective wastes' management, advance of the sustainable production and consumption. Reduction of unwise use of energy, expansion of the renew and clear energy.
- Improvement of the city infrastructure (engineering communications and transport – by means of the capital modernization of the transport network).
- Increase of the level of health protection and life quality.
- Restoration and renovation of the cultural heritage objects (strategic plan of the tourism development, new methods and forms).
- Reduction of unemployment, support of small and medium business (business incubators).
- Increase of subsistence wage, medium salary. Creation of equal possibilities. Incentive of social involvement. Creation of safe environment.
- Increase on the investment attraction and the investors' rights protection.

3 CONCLUSION

We think that the defined above mechanism of Aalborg Commitments' adoption can be realized only by means of the sustainable development ideas introduction into the practice of the municipal management. At present time these ideas are successfully used during the development of municipal special programs, long-term strategic documents, during the acceptance of everyday management decisions. Today we can already easily affirm that the work, which was done by our group, has changed the point of view of local communities on the existing problems and contributed to the increase of the city community sustainability, quality of its life. Now we have the last step to do – to prepare our authorities to the adoption of Aalborg Commitments. Of course we have many meetings ahead, and a lot of people have to be convinced of the importance of this step. But we believe that our efforts will allow to receive the logical result – signed Aalborg Commitments during the celebration of 1150th anniversary of Velikiy Novgorod and 29th Hansa Days of New Time.

Also, we hope a lot for the help of our project partners, because actually we solve the common aim of our common house's future.

