

"CONNECTION":  
THE PASSWORD  
TO THE WORLD  
OF THE DEAFBLIND



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE "CON-NECTION" FOUNDATION | 2021

MOSCOW  
2022







## INTRODUCTION



### Natalia Sokolova

Executive Director of the "Con-nection" Foundation

2021 has been marked by some very much significant pandemia-related restrictions. We managed to adapt part of the projects to the new realities, but still many plans had to be revised according to the circumstances. Leisure centers continued to work, although face-to-face events were held mainly in the summer. And with great pleasure we used every opportunity to meet with our wards and partners. In July, Chelyabinsk hosted the final of a creative competition among deaf-blind people, which made an indelible impression on me. What talented and inspired people we work with!

Computer literacy courses were in great demand, which is absolutely understandable when the whole world is focused online. Significantly increased the number of applications for targeted support – in 2021, we began to compensate for the cost of COVID-19 treating. We'd got new partners – since March 2021, the Yandex Go taxi service has begun providing free rides for our wards. We started collaborating with Theodor Currentzis Orchestra – colleagues arranged several tactile concerts where the deaf-blind could literally touch the music.

2021 has been a year of ambitious plans – we announced the creation of the first Russian neuroimplant ELVIS, which will restore sight to every fifth blind person and every second deafblind person. We are doing our best to keep this project going so that we can start

installing implants for patients in 2027. When preparing this report, colleagues were choosing the title. Each of the proposed options very well reflected the mood of the Foundation's team – we are together, we are united and connected. And we did not just pick up the password to the world of the deaf-blind, but also ready to share it with our partners, donors, volunteers, friends. This world is multifaceted and amazing, and we all have a lot to learn from each other.

In this report you will find feedback and gratitude from our wards. I would like to take the opportunity to do the same.

I am infinitely grateful to the team of the "Con-nection" Foundation and our constellation of subsidiaries for their well-coordinated work and solidarity. I am proud to be a part of this wonderful team.

And, of course, all our activities are impossible without the support of donors. We need it now more than ever. On behalf of the entire Foundation and on behalf of our wards, I thank you very much! Stay healthy and take care of yourself and your loved ones!

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# REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM





## Forum of Regional Activists



The main project of the Regional Development program was the III Forum of Regional Activists. It's no coincidence – dozens of deaf-blind people and specialists come to the Forum every year, and hundreds participate online. It is meaningful to our wards and responsive to their needs – we financially support regional projects that are presented / defended by members of the forum.

The theme of the Forum in 2021 was "Re-connection: exchange of experience, social support, best practices for working with people with simultaneous hearing and visual impairment". To fully reunite after a long pandemic

separation, we invited leisure center coordinators, staff of resource offices, defectologists, volunteers and, of course, parents of deaf-blind children and deaf-blind children to the Forum. A large face-to-face meeting was preceded by online communication – we held six zoom sessions, at each of which we explained to participants of the forum how to properly prepare projects to help deaf-blind people in their cities. And on October 1-4, 2021, 103 participants came to the final event of the Forum at the Holiday Inn Vinogradovo hotel (Moscow).

THE TOTAL NUMBER  
OF FORUM PARTICIPANTS  
IN 2021 WAS 253  
PEOPLE.



## How did the Forum go?

### DAY 1

- business intellectual game "Quiz" – the participants got an opportunity to get to know each other better.



## DAY 2

- dedicated to getting to know the teams;
- the heads of the Foundation's programs addressed the participants;
- romantic game "Love Through the Years" (winners: Galina and Nikolai Ushakov, married for over 39 years).





## DAY 3

- dedicated to finalizing of the project presentations;
- meeting with Bela Rubinshtein: the lecturer told how to attract like-minded people to the project, how to get funding and other necessary resources;
- training by "Training-Boutique" and Mark Kukushkin, including the game "Domino". The moment when the tiles fell, which occupied the whole room, was the bright point of the evening.





## DAY 4

- dedicated to the protection of projects (16 in total);
- project topics: educational, sports, tourism, patriotic





## Winners

### SPECIAL PRIZE

**Krasaltay team** (Krasnoyarsk and Altai Territories).

The project "Looking for you" – distribution of information about the census of deaf-blind people. (financing – **80 thousand rubles**).

### PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

**Team "Mimishki"** (Chechen Republic).

The project "My non-fictional story" – the stories of mothers of deaf-blind children with comments from experts. (financing – **100 thousand rubles**).

### THIRD PLACE

**Team "Buttle Girlfriends"** (Bryansk, Voronezh, Tula and Smolensk regions).

Project "Accessible Museum Space and Places of Military Glory". (financing – **200 thousand rubles**).

### SECOND PLACE

**Team "One and Another"** (Chelyabinsk region).

Project for the development of adaptive sports for the deaf-blind. (financing – **250 thousand rubles**).

### FIRST PLACE

**Team "T.Igry"** (Perm Territory).

A project aimed at popularizing board games accessible to deaf-blind people. (financing – **300 thousand rubles**).

FOLLOWING THE RESULTS OF THE FORUM, THE DIGEST OF ARTICLES "RE-CONNECTION: BEST PRACTICES IN WORKING WITH PEOPLE WITH SIMULTANEOUS HEARING AND VISION IMPAIRMENT" WHICH INCLUDED 32 ARTICLES OF FORUM PARTICIPANTS AND STAFF OF THE FOUNDATION.

Implemented with the support  
of the Presidential Grants Fund.



**Olga Kudryavtseva,**  
Head of the Regional Development  
Program (Moscow)

– We try to make our events not only productive and informative, but also entertaining, filled with simple human communication, which was so lacking during the period of epidemiological restrictions.

This Forum brought together enthusiastic people whose ideas and projects will be further used in the work of the Foundation. We hope that the connections formed during the events will only grow stronger every year and will lead to the creation of clusters to help deaf-blind people in the regions of Russia.





## All-Russian Census of the Deafblind

Knowledge about deafblind people in Russia – one of the main tasks of the "Connection" Foundation. The purpose of the All-Russian census of the deaf-blind – creating a unified database of

our wards. This allows us to find an individual approach to each deaf-blind person, to provide him help.

Throughout 2021, our work on the census continued.

As of January 1, 2022, the Foundation's database contained information on 4,355 deaf-blind people, 712 of which were minors.

### Leisure centers

In 2021, 41 leisure centers worked on a permanent basis in 27 regions of Russia. In each of them, meetings were held that gathered the deaf-blind people themselves, their family members, volunteers, etc. In total, 1412 people visited our events.

We arranged tea parties, celebrated birthdays, holidays. When there was an opportunity, we got out of leisure centers, went on excursions and out into nature.

Due to the pandemic and epidemiological restrictions, face-to-face events were held

not in all leisure centers, and those – mostly in the summer. Communication most often took place online and in the form of communication in WhatsApp and VKontakte groups.

– I have a simultaneous sensory impairment: I am visually impaired and hard of hearing with a hearing aid.

Before the opening of the leisure center, I stayed at home, rarely went outside. Leisure center is an oasis in our crazy world, locomotive-tractor that pulls us to active life. Personal communication is the best medicine and a way to forget all worries for a while. When the leisure center is holding events (from gatherings and master classes to tournaments in various sports), it encourages to action: attend training, learn information and be independent on the street and at home.



**Alexander Chupyshev,**  
ward of the Foundation  
(Chelyabinsk)

Implemented using donations from the Active Citizen project.



## Education for the deafblind

Every year we teach deaf-blind people the skills they need to lead a full life. First of all, computer literacy. This helps them communicate with each other and be constantly in touch. In 2021, 37 people were trained in computer literacy in

three training centers of the Foundation:

- "House of the Deaf-Blind" in Puchkovo;
- Training center in Novosibirsk;
- Center for Medical and Social Rehabilitation "Pyshma" (Tyumen region).



**Galina Ushakova,**  
ward of the Foundation (Sochi)

– Evgenia Lagunina worked with me at the House of the Deaf-Blind. She is very patient, we stubbornly practiced all the actions on the iPhone display, since I am a mobile person and it is important for me to be in touch anywhere and anytime – with total deafness and borderline blindness, this is vital.

I trained even in the evenings and weekends, exchanging messages with Evgenia, learned to type text, and most importantly, to find what I need in the menu, open and read text in Braille.

Implemented using a grant from the Vladimir Potanin Charitable Foundation, as well as donations from the Active Citizen project.





## Accompanied accommodation

In 2021, we continued to provide places for accompanied and educational accompanied accommodation for our wards:

- in Lyubertsy (Moscow Region);
- The House of the Deaf-Blind in Puchkovo (Moscow).

There were 14 people on assisted accommodation in 2021. 10 wards of the Foundation took part in educational accompanied accommodation. In the project implemented in Puchkovo, assisted accommodation is combined with employment, deaf-blind people work in

a ceramic workshop, doing wet felting, knitting and gift wrapping.

– I was born with a hearing impairment, I communicate in sign language, I lost my sight at the age of 60, and life ended for me. I was offered to live in a boarding house, where they did everything for me – even washed me. The boarding house was closed, and the Con-nection Foundation offered me to move to Lyubertsy. Here I was taught independence, and it was very difficult, I'm not used to it! I am very grateful to the Foundation for the opportunity to feel myself at home, manage the household on my own, for the warm attitude, for the opportunity to communicate in my native language.



**Lyubov Babkina,**  
ward of the Foundation (Tula)

– Thanks to the project, I remembered forgotten gestures, I communicate fully, I get information about events in the world, I learned how to cook on my own, now I am passionate about laying out diamond mosaics, do weaving and sports. This is vital to me!



**Natalia Ladygina,**  
ward of the Foundation (Klin)



## Employment of the deafblind

In 2021, the Foundation supported two ongoing projects for the employment of the deaf-blind:

- ceramic workshop of the Creative Association "Krug" Charitable Foundation (Moscow);

- "Clover", The Integrated Creative Workshop at the "Integration" Association (Novosibirsk).

WE WERE ABLE PROVIDE PERMANENT JOBS TO 26 DEAFBLIND PEOPLE, ALSO SOME OF OUR WARDS COME TO WORK ONCE OR EPISODICALLY.



**Julia Pakhomova,**  
master of the ceramic workshop "Clover"  
(Novosibirsk)

– I have been working in the ceramic workshop since its foundation, for the sixth year already. Started as a student. Learning wasn't easy! But I gained experience, and soon I was fascinated by the process of creating ceramic products.

Now I am a master, I manage the creative and work process. I conduct classes in a training group for other deaf-blind people, despite the fact that I myself have hearing and vision impairments. I organize various workshops. I can proudly say that work is a joy for me!

The project was implemented with the support of the Magnit retail group.





## Targeted support

In 2021, we provided targeted support to 200 applicants, including 149 adults and 51 children. 92 people asked for various kinds of help, so in total we were able to do 295 good deeds. Individual support was provided to 56 applicants.

It included:

- support in the purchase of railway and air tickets/ reimbursement of the expenses;

- accommodation provision / reimbursement of the expenses;
- medication expenses reimbursement;
- financial support for those who have been ill with COVID-19, etc.

35 people got payment and compensation for medical services. These were the consultations of:

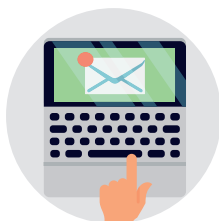
- audiologist;

- ophthalmologist;
  - neurologist;
  - a psychiatrist;
  - epileptologist, etc.
- 15 people underwent auditory rehabilitation, 2 – general rehabilitation.

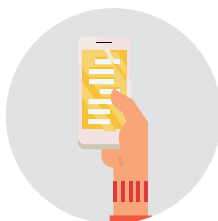
## 68 people received technical means of rehabilitation:



HEARING AIDS –  
13 PCS.



LAPTOP – 9 PCS.



SMARTPHONES –  
19 PCS.



PHONES – 3 PCS



TABLET – 1 PC.



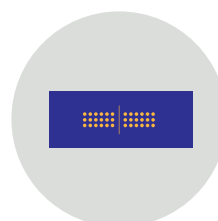
GLASSES – 7 PCS.



ACCESSORIES FOR HEAR-  
ING AIDS AND COCHLEAR  
IMPLANTS – 6 PCS.



BRAILLE CLOCK – 4 PCS.



BRAILLE DISPLAY – 1 PC.

AND  
OTHER.

ALSO DURING THE YEAR, 100 BENEFICIARIES RECEIVED GIFT SETS FROM THE BAYERSDORF COMPANY (NIVEA BRAND), ORTHOPEDIC PILLOWS AND LIQUID LEVEL METER.



– I am a visually impaired with group 1 disability with a residual hearing. In 2021, I wrote an application to the Con-nection Foundation with a request for a laptop. I live alone. At some point, I decided to get a new profession – masseuses. I needed a laptop to study. But I couldn't buy it. A Foundation employee took an exam on my knowledge and ability to use a laptop. After that I got the computer!

**Arjuna Soktueva,**  
Ward of the Foundation (Ulan-Ude)



– The foundation helped us buy hearing aids for Sasha. From fundraising to purchase, we were supported and encouraged at all stages. Even the diagnostics and adjustment of the devices were free of charge. The devices allow Sasha not only to lead an active life, but also to hear subtle sounds. Now she can hear the sounds of nature, such as the voices of birds.

**Tatyana Balashova,**  
mother of Sasha Sycheva,  
deaf-blind girl (Moscow)





## Dobry Dom (House for the Deaf-Blind in the Northwestern Federal District)

Dobry Dom is a full-fledged complex for deaf-blind people. The first residents arrived here on September 29, 2020. This is our flagship project, the wards of the Foundation can live here around the clock. In the main building, in addition to living rooms, there is a psychologist's

office, a sports hall and workshops. Deaf-blind people live here on their own (under the supervision of our staff): plan the budget, go shopping, organize sports and cultural activities. In 2021, here, in a picturesque place near the Knyazevo village (Leningrad

region), six deaf-blind people lived permanently.

DURING THE YEAR, 18 DEAF-BLIND PEOPLE VISITED THE HOUSE.

Teachers of computer literacy and adaptive physical education, crafts specialists who regularly conduct master classes in felting wool, painting objects, modeling, creating souvenirs, weaving, etc., work in the friendly team of Dobry Dom. Cooperation has been

established with the Library for the Blind, which arranges tactile tours to Dobry Dom residents. In 2021, we learned about Leonardo da Vinci, the Peter and Paul Fortress, the bridges of St. Petersburg, the Summer Garden, etc. In summer and early autumn, the

residents of the Dobry Dom managed to go on excursions to Peterhof, Alexandria, and also visit several churches and monasteries.

– It's good that there is such a house. I'm grateful that I was invited here! You can always talk about life, laugh at jokes, remember the bitter. I love to talk, I used to miss it. I also learned to use a computer. I was afraid that I could not. But now – I listen to music, read books, soon I will discover social networks for myself.

I like everything here – you can work out in gym, learn to use a computer, read books, walk around the territory. I quickly learned to navigate – which means everything is done wisely!



**Nikolai Safoneev,**  
ward of the Foundation  
(Nizhny Novgorod)



– We live here to the fullest – we walk, go in for sports, do crafts. We go to shops and can choose what we want. They take care of us, they know our favorite things, and what is important for us. This is really a Home – we live under the same roof, we learn to be friends and understand each other.

**Nikolai Lebedev,**  
artist, ward of the Foundation (Irbit)



Implemented with donations from Philip Morris International, with the support of the Presidential Grants Fund, as well as ABI Production LLC.





# Con-sent Association of the deaf-blind

ON JULY 18, 2021, THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION "CON-CENT" WAS HELD. NEW ASSOCIATION BOARD AND AUDIT COMMISSION WERE ELECTED.

Association of Persons with Hearing and Vision Impairment and Organizations Providing Assistance to Them "Con-sent" is a place where the deaf-blind make their own decisions

about what their future will be, initiating different projects. Established in 2018, director – Olga Kudryavtseva.

## In 2021, the Con-sent Association implemented the following projects:

### 1. REMOTE COMPUTER AND MOBILE SUPPORT AND TECHNICAL ADVICE FOR THE DEAF-BLIND PEOPLE

- the project employs 6 technical specialists/consultants and 1 curator of the Service (all are visually impaired themselves);
- 70 deaf-blind people used the services during the year;
- in total we received 162 appeals for help.

– Participation in the project brings me professional experience as a specialist

– I am looking for technical solutions. I teach best practices to those who are just starting to use computer and digital technologies. I help deaf-blind people to overcome the barrier in using devices.



**Alexey Smolentsev,**  
curator of the Service (Yoshkar-Ola)

## 2. LEGAL ASSISTANCE SERVICE FOR PEOPLE WITH SIMULTANEOUS HEARING AND VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

- the work of the Service is carried out by deaf-blind lawyer Dmitry Balykin and legal assistant Ksenia Nevidina;
- during the year of work, the Service received 62 appeals from people with simultaneous hearing and vision impairments.



– Parents of children with sensory disabilities occasionally contact me. Often, a lawyer's consultation is necessary for an answer, so I ask Dmitry Balykin for legal assistance. In 2021, most questions were related to education, I also asked a question about the procedure for deprivation of legal capacity. Dmitry always gives an answer, if necessary, sends documents / links to a normative legal act.

**Anastasia Begunova,**  
mother of a deaf-blind girl Sasha  
(Nizhny Novgorod)





### 3. ALL-RUSSIAN CREATIVE COMPETITION OF THE DEAF-BLIND PEOPLE "THE FLOWERING OF TALENTS"

Anyone with a simultaneous hearing and vision impairment could submit a video of their performance for the competition. In 2021, all performances were united by the theme "How beautiful this world is!".

- On July 19, 2021, the Final of the competition was held in Chelyabinsk;
- the Qualifying Stage (it was held online) received 37 applications;
- applications were accepted in the categories: "Performance of poems in Russian sign language", "Performance of songs in Russian sign language", "Dance", "Vocal";
- applications were also accepted out of the main competition;
- 20 numbers were performed in the final show of the competition, 17 people became winners.

– It was my debut and an exciting but very enjoyable experience – I had never taken part in something like this before. I learned and performed a poem in RSL especially for the competition. I really liked the organization of the event. It was held in a friendly atmosphere. According to the results of the jury voting, I took 3rd place in my category!



**Elena Kakorina,**  
ward of the Foundation (Moscow)



The creative competition was held with the support of the Presidential Grants Foundation.

#### 4. HEALTHY LIFESTYLE FOR PEOPLE WITH SIMULTANEOUS HEARING AND VISION IMPAIRMENT

Since January 2021, the project "Healthy lifestyle for people with simultaneous hearing and vision impairment" has been working for deaf-blind residents of Moscow. As part of the project, the following sports activities were held:

- circuit training in a fitness club;
- yoga for beginners;
- adaptive physical culture and adapted sports games;
- sports expressiveness.

Classes were held in small groups of up to 10 people. The total number of participants during the year was 25 people.



– For a long time I have dreamed of going in for sports to maintain my shape and health. Thanks to the Association, my dream came true! After attending a few classes, I noticed that my back straightened a little. I began to walk better and get tired less. Special thanks to the FitCurves instructors. They are always attentive and friendly to me.

**Lyubov Zhukova,**  
ward of the Foundation (Moscow)



The project was implemented using funds received from the Moscow Mayor's budget as a result of the Moscow Mayor's Grants Competition.





## Events

### Yandex Go Taxi

From March 2021, the Foundation's wards can take part in the "Help Nearby" program (implemented jointly with the "Help Nearby" Foundation) – use Yandex Go taxi for free. During the year, we took our wards to socially significant places: to the Social Insurance Fund offices, to medical and social

examinations, to a clinics, to a railway stations, to an airports, etc.

By the end of the year, the program operated in the following regions: Moscow, Moscow region, St. Petersburg, Volgograd, Vologda, Voronezh, Yekaterinburg, Izhevsk, Yoshkar-Ola, Kazan, Kirov, Krasnodar,

Naberezhnye Chelny, Nizhny Novgorod, Nizhny Tagil, Novosibirsk, Omsk, Penza , Perm, Rostovna-Donu, Samara, Tyumen, Ufa, Cheboksary and Chelyabinsk.

1358 TRIPS WERE MADE IN THE YEAR. 202 DEAF-BLIND PEOPLE USED THE SERVICE.

– Chelyabinsk is a big city, so getting from one end to the other is quite difficult, you have to make several transfers. In winter, slippery streets are added to this. You do not want to go outside. And now, thanks to the Help Nearby program and Yandex Go taxi, I can attend cultural events, medical and government institutions without fear that I will fall or get lost.



**Olga Demakova,**  
ward of the Foundation (Chelyabinsk)

### MusicAeterna concerts

2021 was marked for us by the beginning of cooperation with the musicAeterna orchestra conducted by Teodor Currentzis. During the year, three tactile concerts for the

Foundation's wards were held – in Perm, St. Petersburg and Moscow. The tactile concert is a new format that allows people with simultaneous hearing and visual impairments to perceive

music through light touches on musicians and instruments thanks to the sense of vibration.

On June 19, 2021, the first tactile concert in Russia took place in Perm. 10 wards of the Foundation went up on stage and took their places among the musicians. The orchestra performed two movements from Mozart's Symphony No. 41, which was performed at the closing of the Diaghilev Festival a day later.

On June 24, 2021, eight wards of the Foundation were among the musicians of musicAeterna during a performance at the Radio House (St. Petersburg), where an interdisciplinary cultural and educational center was created by the orchestra. The musicians performed a sextet from the second act and the finale of the second act of Mozart's opera Don Giovanni,

which was later performed at the Salzburg Festival.

On December 27, 2021, a tactile concert was held in Moscow in the Great Hall of the Conservatory. MusicAeterna musicians rehearsed Igor Stravinsky's "The Firebird" and "Petrushka".



**Alexey Zhivagin,**  
ward of the Foundation  
(Krasnodar Territory)

– I really liked the performance, because I hear a little. I was holding the double bass, and it seemed to me that these were drums. Now I dream of trying to hold the drum when it is being played. It's very interesting to be inside the orchestra – it's like I was a part of it, and it was great!



**Lyubov Serebryakova,**  
ward of the Foundation  
(Sergiev Posad)

– I touched a musical instrument, I felt like God was talking to me. Feelings are so different – so I cried with joy. I thought I heard wild horses running. In the music I heard the wind disperse the clouds, as if time had stopped. I felt that the music goes inside me and goes further, like a river. And when I felt the musician play, I almost trembled. These were very strong feelings.



ON DECEMBER 24, 2021, THE CONCERT OF THE MARIINSKY THEATER SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, CONDUCTED BY VALERY GERGIEV, WAS HELD IN MOSCOW. IT TOOK PLACE AT THE ZARYADYE CONCERT HALL, WHERE THE DEAF-BLIND WARDS OF THE CON-NECTION FOUNDATION WAS INVITED.

Together with the Information and Engagement program, we translated into RSL interviews related to COVID-19 – with Vladimir Gushchin, one of the developers of the Sputnik V vaccine, and Denis Protsenko, chief physician of hospital No. 40 in Kommunarka.

We also helped translate virtual tours of museums into RSL: the Jewish Museum and Tolerance Center, the Vadim Sidur Museum, the State Darwin Museum, the Shchusev State Museum of Architecture and the Museum of Russian Impressionism.

We also collected wishes from the Foundation's wards for participation in the Christmas Tree of the Dream campaign. We have processed and submitted 98 wishes for participation in the action!





# Community of Families of the Deafblind

## "Mom's School" Program ("Space of Opportunities for the Development of Deaf-Blind Children" project)

"Mom's School" is a place where mothers and children receive qualified assistance from specialists of various profiles. After the field session, they get an individual trajectory of the child's development for months ahead.

In 2021, we held five "Mom's Schools":

- March 3-7 – in St. Petersburg and the Leningrad region, on

the territory of the recreation center "Losevo Park";

- May 12-18 – in the Samara region, on the territory of the recreation center "Nadezhda";
- June 3-7 – in the Kaliningrad region, on the basis of the Center for the Rehabilitation and Correction of Children with Disabilities, a boarding school for children with disabilities and secondary school No. 28;
- August 13-16 – in the Kirov

region, on the basis of the center of the regional public organization of parents of children with disabilities "The Way of Kindness";

- August 20-23 – in the Nizhny Novgorod region, on the basis of the rehabilitation center "Zhemchuzhina".

In 2021, the projects within the framework of the "Mom's School" differed from those carried out earlier. In addition to the face-to-face part, the online part began to play an important role, including the holding of psychological and pedagogical consultations. Preliminary preparation made it possible to shorten the duration of the full-time part without losing the quality of the work. At each "Mother's School" specialists conducted consultations, working through the main requests of the

parents, and determined the direction and development program for each child. These meetings are important not only for supporting children and parents, but also for the development of the professional community. In addition, in August, the project specialists held an online seminar "Organization of education for children with multiple

disabilities, including those with simultaneous hearing and vision impairments."

IN 2021, 51 FAMILIES PARTICIPATED IN THE PROJECT.

The project was implemented with the support of the Presidential Grants Foundation and Beiersdorf LLC (NIVEA brand).

- I managed to take part in the "Mom's School" with my child. I didn't expect it have such a relaxed atmosphere! We were welcomed like family! The child was given classes on AFC, sensory integration, physical therapy, as well as lessons with a surdopedagog. A pedagogical diagnosis was carried out. Now we know our weaknesses and will work to eliminate them.



**Yulia Nalivaichenko,**  
mother of a deaf-blind boy Kolya  
(St. Petersburg)

## Center in Nizhny Novgorod "Open doors"

We started the renovation of the future Day Care and Assisted Employment Center for deafblind people in July 2021.

By the beginning of 2022, there were already renovated and partially equipped rooms not only for classes with specialists (psychologists, speech pathologists), but also a sensory-dynamic hall, as well

as two workshops, in which not only master classes will be held, but also accompanied workplaces will be equipped. Planned crafts: ceramics and carpentry, basket weaving, felting.

All this will help not only the employment, but also the career guidance for children and adults, and will create

important social activities. In addition, the Center becomes an internship platform for specialists and volunteers.

THE GRAND OPENING OF THE CENTER TOOK PLACE ON FEBRUARY 17, 2022.

The center has been renovated and opened thanks to the financial support of Bayersdorf LLC.





**Natalia Sokolova,**  
Executive Director  
of the Con-nection Foundation

- Such a Center, which provides the possibility of rehabilitation, of a short stay, the opportunity to attend classes, is perhaps the first in Russia. Some things that are here are rare even in Moscow. For example, the sensory room is really a very good help for parents and teachers. Children are different, and they should have the opportunity to relieve stress, switch over, in order to continue their studies at the Center with renewed vigor.

## "School of Active Parents" project

The "School of Active Parents" allows not only to bring the participants closer to the development of their own projects, but also to be included in the organization of those initiatives that are being implemented by state institutions and non-profit organizations. This helps mothers and fathers to socialize, adequately understand the needs of the child and the

quality of social services, help other families with children with severe multiple developmental disorders.

In 2021, the project had two formats:

- extramural part (December 3, 2020 - March 5, 2021): 40 participants;
- intramural part (March 11-14, 2021): 20 participants.

The project aims to restore the resources of parents so that they have the opportunity to help their child with SMDD and participate in public life and organization of support, while being involved in the life of their children on a qualitatively new level.



**Yesenia Lutsenko,**  
mother of a deaf-blind boy Oleg  
(St. Petersburg)

The "School" has an amazing atmosphere, there are new acquaintances, exchange of experience, inspiration, useful knowledge and "life hacks" in the rehabilitation of children, education, and the realization of their rights and opportunities. "School" filled me with energy, gave me new strengths and vectors of movement. Mutual support of parents and live communication with those who face similar problems are also very important. So you understand even better that you are not alone!

WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE TARGETED SUPPORT PROGRAM, WE HELPED FIVE FAMILIES: WE PAID FOR AIR TICKETS FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SUMMER SCHOOL PROJECT, HELPED TO PURCHASE SPECIAL MEAL AND SOLVED TRANSFER PROBLEMS.



## "Development of regional branches" program

### I want everything on my own

The project is aimed at organizing the social adaptation of young people with multiple disabilities. It creates a process that ensures the development of independence in everyday life and successful integration into society, due to being in a residential area, the so-called. "residential module".

In 2021, 30 children and adolescents have mastered social and everyday skills. The Community of Families of the Deaf-Blind in Nizhny Novgorod has a kitchen where children come to study. An internship platform for the training of accompanying persons has also been organized. We train parents and other family

members in new communication skills and ways of learning and interacting, as well as helping children and adolescents with various developmental disabilities.

– We have been talking a lot with specialists and parents on the topic "And then what?" lately. What will happen after school. After all, may be that simple everyday skills will bring more benefits to our children in life than knowledge of letters. We spend so much effort, time and money to educate our children. And it is very important to think what and why we teach them.



**Yulia Kremneva,**  
Executive Director of the Community of Families of the Deaf-blind (Nizhny Novgorod)

The project is being implemented with the support of the Contribution to the Future Charitable Foundation.

## Independent Living School

The project participants spent several weeks in training apartments to gain independent living skills. The Community of Families of the Deaf-Blind organized this training together with the resource center Yaseneva Polyana. We have developed an individual training program for

each participant, taking into account his or her current and potential level of development. The work was carried out with the help of trainers who accompanied the young people in everyday life.

IN 2021, 12 YOUNG PEOPLE WITH MULTIPLE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PARTICIPATED IN THE PROJECT.



"Our children happily went to their apartments after the weekend, waited for a meeting with specialists, learned new skills with pleasure, and grew older every day. Thanks to the efforts of specialists and an individual approach, many of them have discovered new abilities, skills, talents. Learned life skills".

**Sofia Varygina,**  
mother of Alexander,  
a young man with SMDD (Moscow)



The project is implemented thanks to grant support from the Department of Labor and Social Protection of the Population of Moscow.



## Hundred by foot

4 TEAMS (16 CHILDREN)  
FROM 9 REGIONS OF  
RUSSIA PARTICIPATED IN THE  
MARATHON.

On August 11-25, 2021, the Hundred by foot marathon was held for children with simultaneous hearing and vision impairments. Within 14 days, each team, consisting of children and accompanying

persons, covered a distance of 100 km. The marathon was held with the support of Perkins International (USA) and Pavic Phils (Philippines).

– The participants made new friends, learned how to work in a team, support each other and empathize. Our children are very purposeful, strong, strong-willed, they know how to overcome difficulties and fight to the bitter end! They were interested in using a tracker to track the mileage of a walk, to use the phone as a tool for work. We sincerely thank each participant of the project and are pleased to invite you to join us next time!



**Ksenia Nikolaeva,**  
coordinator of the Hundred by foot  
project (St. Petersburg)

## Party for moms

The holiday was dedicated to the International Women's Day. Traditionally, we hold it thanks

to SIBUR company. This year we congratulated moms in Moscow. Both times we held a festive

photo session and organized a buffet.

## Handicraft workshops for people with disabilities

We opened workshops in April 2021 together with the "Artel of the Blessed" with the participation of the State Public Institution of the Employment Center of the City of Moscow to provide social services to residents of the capital.

49 PEOPLE VISITED THE  
WORKSHOPS.

Our training platform is based on three components: diagnostics, training and support. Teachers identify the strengths of the teenagers and evaluate their physical abilities. During the training, 1-2 applied

working skills are honed, then the path to real manufacturing is open for our students.

## Skill is in the hands of everyone

The project was launched on the basis of craft workshops. Its goal is to help families in career guidance and mastering the labor and social skills necessary for future employment. As part of the project, the children get acquainted with the crafts and

learn the basics of the chosen skill.

IN 2021, 6 FAMILIES PARTICIPATED IN THE PROJECT.

The project is being implemented with the use of a grant from the Absolut-Help Charitable Foundation

## Class for teaching deaf-blind children

A class for teaching deaf-blind children was opened on the basis of the Nizhny Novgorod regional special (correctional) boarding school for blind and visually impaired children. Since September, three children have been studying there

(one of them has a visual impairment and an autism spectrum disorder). Now the resource class is not only place for teaching children, but also an internship platform for specialists, a place for consultations and additional

classes for parents, as well as webinars and training courses.

### Facts

In 2021, we organized the following webinars:

- "Counseling as an important part of the system of assistance to families raising children with special needs" – lecturer Elena Bagaradnikova, head of the Regional Public Organization for Assistance to Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders "Contact";
- a conversational English course with Marina Shaidullina, a member of the Community (55 lessons);

- Within the framework of the Resource Zone project, consultation meetings were held with a specialist in adaptive physical culture, Ekaterina Tevkina.

In December 2021, the Marathon of social videos "Man, I love you" (organizer: Center for Social Projects "Happy People") ended. The team of the "Community of Families of the Deaf-blind" was trained and

created the film "Full speed ahead". On December 20, team representative Yesenia Lutsenko attended the premiere screening of the finalists at the Illusion cinema in Moscow.

The projects of the "Community of Families of the Deaf-Blind" were implemented thanks to donations from PJSC MMC Norilsk Nickel, PJSC SberBank, JSC Russian Railways.

# "SCIENCE, EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGIES" PROGRAM







# "Con-nection" Academy

## Diagnostic training

During the project, we collect application forms from potential participants from all over Russia. Then the participants are invited to Moscow for a ten-day course at the Yaseneva Polyana resource center. Specialists work with children in a format that imitates learning and diagnose developmental disorders. We also work with parents and teachers of the child. Upon completion of the

course, specialists draw up an individual training program for the next year.

In 2021, four groups of "Diagnostic Training" were held, in which eight children took part from Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Izhevsk, the Chuvash Republic, the Tver Region, the Republic of Tatarstan, the Krasnoyarsk Territory, Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug.

5 of them – with the use of a grant from the Absolut-Help Charitable Foundation

Supervision was carried out for eight program participants who completed the Diagnostic Training course in 2020 (from St. Petersburg, Novosibirsk, Samara, Tyumen and Krasnoyarsk).

Also in 2021, we held a field event in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk (using a grant from the Absolute Help Charitable Foundation), where we conducted diagnostic training for 9 children. Classes were held on the basis of institutions

and at home. In addition, a round table was held with teachers of the compensatory kindergarten No. 37 and a meeting with parents of children with hearing and vision impairments was arranged.

10 SPECIALISTS WERE TRAINED (9 OF THEM WITH THE USE OF THE ABSOLUT HELP CF GRANT).



**Lyubov Dokuchaeva,**  
teacher (Maxatikha)

– In the autumn of 2021, I got the opportunity to undergo diagnostic training together with the family I work with. For our entire educational organization: specialists, parents and children, this event is of tremendous importance! We had the opportunity to gain invaluable experience, knowledge that we are already successfully applying in our work. We see how the quality of life of children improves.

– Professionals worked with us: a typhlopedagogue, a specialist in physical therapy, an ergotherapist, psychologists, a surdopedagog. Classes were held in the sensory room and we also worked with clay. Each time Dasha got new knowledge, skills and recommendations for further development and training. The sessions with psychologists turned out to be versatile. They taught Dasha to eat, dress, tactilely distinguish objects, identify smells and perform logical tasks on her own. All problem areas have been worked out!



**Elena Polkovnichenko,**  
mother of Dasha, a ward of the  
Foundation (Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk)

## Early Help

The project is working in several directions. First, we identify families who need help. Specialists carry out diagnostics, assess the state of motor development, mental functions, and then talk

with parents. Following are correctional and developmental activities, classes with a psychologist, a movement therapist, group developmental classes. Parents are trained in the methods and techniques of

correctional and developmental actions.

SPECIALISTS MONITOR THE INTERMEDIATE RESULTS OF THE CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT AND MAKE THE NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS TO THE INDIVIDUAL WORK PLAN.

In 2021 we implemented:

- home visits: 16 visits, each lasting 2 hours;
- weekly group lessons: 34 lessons, each lasting 2 hours;
- individual lessons (psychologist, movement therapist, music therapist, AFC, ceramic workshop) – 670 lessons, each lasting 45 minutes;
- psychological and pedagogical support for parents: 18 hours;
- 60 children underwent primary admission and diagnostics.

TOTAL IN 2021, 19 CHILDREN AND 19 PARENTS PARTICIPATED IN THE PROJECT.



**Natasha Chirkina,**  
mother of Eva, ward of the Foundation  
(Moscow)

– In addition to the opportunity to work with specialists (who both know and can how to work with the child, and carefully lead the child to results), work in a group has become new and very comfortable for us. In everyday life, it is difficult to choose an environment for a child with special needs, and even more so, a company for communication. The opportunity to be around other children – to play, to observe, to communicate with peers for the first time – is a great new experience!

## Schools and camps

### INTEGRATION CAMP (RC “YASENEVA POLYANA” MAY 31 - JUNE 4, 2021)

The camp takes place on the territory of the Yaseneva Polyana resource center. It is fun and useful for children with bisensory impairments. During each session, we organize joint games and outdoor activities, creative master classes in pottery and carpentry workshops, and much more. That helps children to have fun and make friends. The purpose of the integration camp is to overcome social isolation. During individual and group lessons, in games with each other, working in craft workshops and creative studios, in a common atmosphere of love, children with special needs and normotypical kids rediscover their capabilities, learn to interact without fear.

In 2021, the camp was held from May 31 to June 4. The children were divided into three groups:

- participants of the Early Help Program (6);
- kids attending additional classes at the RC (8);
- normotypical children (2).

For children and mothers from the “Early Help” group, a visit to the Museum of Russian Impressionism was arranged, where a painting workshop for mothers was held. And during the camp, we invited mothers to participate in a creative workshops for the production of a methodological manual for the RC, do ceramics, make candles and take a master class on painting T-shirts. Dance

and movement classes, theater and ceramic workshops were arranged for children.

**TOTALLY 16 CHILDREN  
PARTICIPATED IN THE CAMP,  
12 OF THEM ARE WARDS OF  
THE FOUNDATION.**



## SUMMER SCHOOL (JUNE 25 - JULY 3, 2021)

THE TOPIC OF THE SCHOOL-2021 WAS "TRANSITION TO ADULT LIFE OF PERSONS WITH SIMULTANEOUS HEARING AND VISION IMPAIRMENT AND TMND".

We invited to participate in the project,:

- 11 families raising deaf-blind teenagers from 12 to 20 years old;
- 20 specialist teachers;
- 11 volunteers – students of specialized pedagogical universities.

The geography of participants covered the whole of Russia: from Moscow and Yekaterinburg to Yakutsk and Tyumen.

The wards, accompanied by volunteers, underwent physical rehabilitation (classes with hydrorehabilitologists in the pool and AFC instructors "on land"), attended classes aimed at "separation" from their parents and gained independent living skills.

Specialists-listeners completed a refresher course (72 hours) and gained practical skills in working with deaf-blind teenagers.

Volunteers learned to accompany deaf-blind children.

Mothers listened lectures on the topic of transitional age and the problems associated with this tough time; attended daily psychological support groups and individual consultations with specialists.

– After the "Summer School" I identified for myself two areas in which we have "failures". The first is the psychosexual education of children and adolescents with disabilities. We immediately added the topics of conversations and consultations for parents to the annual plan. The second direction is career guidance for children and adolescents with disabilities. We are already introducing them to work: we have a carpentry workshop, a sewing workshop, a kitchen and a greenhouse.



**Lilia Lepshokova,**  
psychologist at the Sadko Center  
for Social Assistance to Families  
and Children (Novy Urengoy)

## Additional education

(for people with simultaneous hearing and vision impairments)

As part of this program, we are engaged in diagnosing the perceptual, cognitive and communicative needs of the child, motor, social and everyday skills, behavioral and emotional-behavioral characteristics. We develop an individual program that includes classical methods and techniques, as well as the copyright methods of the project team members. For adult wards, classes and workshops are a prevention

of depression, isolation, contributes to the development of social ties and the formation of individuality.

In 2021, the program was attended by:

- 23 adults (carpentry, ceramics, psychological correction, cooking, drawing and tactile coloring, dance and movement therapy, etc.), a total of 369 classes were held;
- 73 children (six additional education programs

implemented), 2,272 classes in total;

- individual psychological consultations were held for the deaf-blind and their families, totaling 111 consultations.



**Tatyana Kochanova,**  
ward of the Foundation (Moscow)

– I really liked carpentry – you can learn how to create beautiful and necessary things. Working with paper, I created mosaics, paintings and landscapes. Knitting is also important! Going to classes is a great pleasure for the soul and mind, I think it is important for every deaf-blind person, because it rehabilitates his mental and psychological state.

## Skills training

In 2021, six wards of the Foundation continued their studies in vocational education programs at the Technological College No. 21: four were transferred to the 3rd year,

two – to the 2nd year. We also helped students by paying for 911 hours of tutor support.

On the basis of the Yaseneva Polyana resource center, master

classes were held on:

- culinary;
- dance-movement therapy;
- manufacture of leather products;
- drawing and tactile coloring.

## Training of specialists

Training of specialists is carried out within the framework of field schools / camps, seminars, webinars and distance professional development courses.

### Project goals:

- formation of a system of continuous education for specialists working in the field of sensory and severe multiple developmental disorders;
- an increase in the number of such specialists;
- formation of a unified database of Russian specialists working with deaf-blind people.

### In 2021, the following events were held:

- lecture "First Aid" (19 participants);
- practical seminar by ergotherapist Tatyana Kovalevskaya on the topic "Positioning and movement of children with motor developmental disorders" (9 participants);
- lecture by Maria Pukach "Children with SMDD in the educational process: myth or reality?" (14 participants);
- distance learning for specialists in the course "Actual Issues of Psychological and Pedagogical Support for Children with Developmental Disabilities" (116 people

completed training and tests and received certificates);

- training in the course "Growing up in special conditions" (15 people completed training and tests and received certificates).

An online project "Club of Practitioners" was created to exchange practical experience in working with children with deafblindness and SMDD between teachers. The first meeting was attended by 45 people. Meetings are scheduled to be held quarterly.

– Much of the course "Actual Issues of Psychological and Pedagogical Support for Children with Developmental Disabilities" was interesting and important for my work. "Common problems of children's disability" helped to recall and systematize knowledge about various diagnoses. "Sensory Integration" helped me navigate the topic and understand how to implement its techniques in my work. "Psychological foundations of working with a family with special needs" is important for understanding how parents feel, how to help them properly. And "Issues of Sexual Education" is a topic that, unfortunately, is not talked about much; the topic of boundaries, growing up, the health of children with special needs, something that is important and needs to be thought about.



**Ksenia Kozina,**  
speech therapist, teacher of group  
classes under the program  
"Early Help" (Kirov)



## Social workers and professional parents

In this project, we establish contact with the administrations of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation and evaluate their readiness to provide care and supervision services in semi-stationary and home forms of service.

If the region is ready to help, we hold seminars on the topic "Basics of care for people with sensory and multiple developmental disabilities." The duration of the seminar is 5-6 days.

The training program consists of the following modules:

- home and outdoor short-term care service for people with developmental disabilities;
- idea of alternative and augmentative communication;

- issues of upbringing and behavior of adults in difficult life situations;
- practice of occupational therapy in the care of people with disabilities;
- general problems of disability and psychological characteristics of members of families with disabilities;
- the use of sensory integration techniques in the complex social adaptation of people with multiple developmental disorders;
- a system of developmental interaction with a person with multiple developmental disorders.

During the implementation of the project, the following were carried out:

- three Weekend Camps in Yekaterinburg, Perm and Tyumen;

- four regional schools for professional parents and social workers in Yekaterinburg (71 people), Perm (37 people), Tyumen Region (49 people) and Altai Territory (140 people).

In addition, three focus groups were held in Yekaterinburg, Perm and the Tyumen region.

Within the framework of cooperation and with the financial support of the ICPA "Doctor Lisa's Fair Aid", six seminars were held for social workers in the

Republic of Crimea (October 11-15), the Orenburg Region (October 15-19), in the Far East (October 25-29), in the Kamchatka Territory (November 22-26),

the Krasnoyarsk Territory (December 6-10) and the Komi Republic (December 20-24). In total, more than 260 people took part in the training.

The project was implemented with the support of the Presidential Grants Foundation.



# Scientific activity and work with the professional community

## Mentors and students

Participants receive expert support for their research, learn to work with sources in English, speak at conferences, publish abstracts or articles, meet young scientists and

**TOTALLY 27 PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN THE PROJECT: 15 STUDENTS AND 12 MENTORS.**

leading experts in the field of deafblindness.

Students can visit leisure centers, libraries and resource rooms for the deaf-blind, and establish professional

connections throughout the country.

In 2021:

- two sessions of the project were held;
- the defense of 15 scientific papers in regional universities were held;
- students took part in conferences with presentations of their research (12 in total);
- 6 articles published.

In 2022, we decided to restart the project in a new format in order to attract even more participants from the regions, to develop and strengthen the community of young

researchers. Concluding the previous format, we invited the participants of the last intake of 2020/2021 to the final science battle: three days of intensive training and the defense of scientific projects in the Science Slam format. Our students performed using the TEDx Talks technique, which is popular today. 9 students and 9 supervisors took part in the "battle".

– The "Con-nection" Foundation pointed out to us a group of people who was rarely engaged in adaptive physical education. When we first started, there were those who doubted our work. But thanks to close cooperation, we have new themes and ideas. We have already developed an elective course on adaptive physical culture and health-improving technologies. Together with students, we create outdoor games for children with special needs, as well as a technology for teaching them skiing.



**Olga Klimenko,**  
Ph.D., Associate Professor,  
Department of Pedagogy,  
Transbaikal State University (Chita)

The project is being implemented with the support of a grant from Rosatom Corporation.

## Respite project

"Respite" creates a "safety cushion" for moms, dads or guardians of children with a severe disability – they can go out when they need it, leaving the child in the care of a specially trained professional nanny, entrusting her with the care of the child for a while. Such a simple type of assistance allows you

to save a family for a child, reduce psychological tension in the family and improve the quality of its life, since caring for a child with special needs requires a lot of effort from parents and takes almost all the time.

The project uses two service formats:

- the nanny helps the child at a basic level: takes care of him, walks, feeds, prepares for bed;
- A nanny – professional defectologist is engaged in the correction and development of the child's independence skills.

We were able to provide Respite in Moscow to 40 families for 10,000 hours.

And using a grant from the Presidential Grants Foundation "Governor of a Special Child", we were able to provide "Respite" for 70 people in five regions of the country (Veliky Novgorod, Nizhny Novgorod, Chita, Yekaterinburg and Moscow) for more than 25 thousand hours.

**TOTAL IN 2021, OUR  
WARDS GOT MORE THAN  
35 THOUSAND HOURS  
OF "RESPITE".**



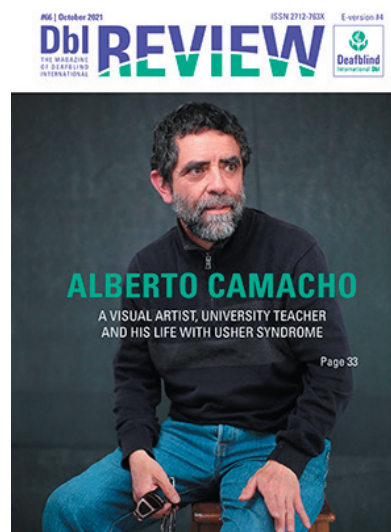
**Natalya Maltseva,**  
mother of Ilya, ward of the Foundation  
(Moscow)

– It was not easy to get acquainted with the program, there was a feeling: "How can I leave my child who does not speak, does not sit, does not walk, and many, many more with a stranger?" Caring for a child with special needs is a serious work that requires every minute inclusion, investment, faith ... Thanks to a nanny (professional parent), you stop being a part of the child for a while. Only after a few hours the reboot occurs – and life next to the child becomes different, you begin not only to feed and change clothes, but also to communicate, tell tales, wait for the movement of the hand, sound, smile ...

With the support of a grant from the Department of Labor and Social Protection of the Population of Moscow.



IN 2021, WE RELEASED ONE RUSSIAN AND TWO ENGLISH ISSUES OF THE DBI REVIEW MAGAZINE.



The program was implemented with the support of PJSC SberBank, PJSC MMC Norilsk Nickel, PJSC Novatek, PJSC Severstal, PJSC Polyus.



# Development of a network of resource centers

## Resource centers for the support of the deafblind in the regions России

There were one federal (Moscow, Yaseneva Polyana) and 15 regional resource centers for deaf-blind people: in St. Petersburg, Voronezh, Kaluga, Leningrad, Nizhny Novgorod, Novosibirsk, Novgorod, Rostov, Sverdlovsk, Tula, Tyumen, Omsk regions, Udmurtia, Krasnoyarsk and Perm regions in Russia in 2021. Each of them provides

assistance to deaf-blind children and adults: functional diagnostics, drawing up programs for correctional and rehabilitation work, and in some regions, conducting correctional and developmental classes.

RCs are also methodological centers where teachers receive advice on organizing

the educational process with children with multisensory impairments.

## Education

In 2021, we continued to train specialists who will be able to work with deaf-blind people, trying to fill the existing deficit of the professionals.

### 1. TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN WITH DEAF-BLINDNESS AND MULTIPLE DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS (LEVEL 1) (APRIL 15 - JULY 21, 2021)

- under the Perkins School for the Blind program;
- training was conducted on the Foundation's educational platform (<https://teaching.so-edinenie.org/>);
- participants: 20 teachers from 11 regions of Russia.

### 2. "EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH MULTIPLE DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS (LEVEL 2)" COURSE (MARCH 30 - JULY 5, 2021)

- under the Perkins School for the Blind program;
- training was conducted on the Foundation's educational platform (<https://teaching.so-edinenie.org/>);
- participants: 18 teachers from 10 regions of Russia.

### 3. "EDUCATION OF STUDENTS WITH SMDD/SG: DEVELOPING QUALITY PROGRAMS (LEVEL 3)" COURSE (OCTOBER 11, 2021 - JANUARY 25, 2022)

- under the Perkins School for the Blind program;
- training was conducted on the Foundation's educational platform (<https://teaching.so-edinenie.org/>);
- participants: 31 teachers from 13 regions of Russia.

### 4. ONLINE CONSULTATION SESSIONS FOR SPECIALISTS OF REGIONAL RCs (JANUARY 20 - MARCH 19, 2021)

- participants: 42 teachers.

– Thanks to the courses, I received excellent material for work and correction of my work. The course is designed in such a way that when you master it, you learn to analyze, exercise constant self-control, and identify your strengths and weaknesses. Knowledge about building a developing environment for children, strategies for the formation of social and communication skills, skills for developing orientation and mobility for children, using the calendar method at the Center, etc. were especially important for me.



**Lilia Lepshokova,**  
student who completed the full  
course of study at the Perkins  
School program, courses L1T-L3T  
(Novy Urengoy)

## Equipping resource centers with equipment

In 2021, we were able to equip one resource center in Nizhny Novgorod.

There were installed:

- equipment for conducting classes on sensory integration;
- allowances needed to equip the class;

- storage containers in student and play areas.





**Maria Efimova,**  
tutor (Nizhny Novgorod)

– My pupil has visual impairment and autism spectrum disorder. We are the most frequent “visitors” of the corner of psychological relief. Emotional outbursts of a child happen almost daily – and it is impossible to predict the next outbreak. In order not to interrupt the work of the rest of the children, we go to the “corner” where the child can recover. A heavy blanket, a tunnel, a pouffe are our faithful assistants. Sometimes he needs to lie down, and I can roll him on a soft mat, then put a weighted scarf on his shoulders and let him swing on the fitball... Five to seven minutes are enough, and the child is ready to continue the lesson again!

## Research work in Russia

On October 28, 2021, the All-Russian Conference with international participation “Modern approaches to the socialization of children and adults with multiple developmental disorders, bisensory disorders: development, education, correction” was held on the Zoom platform.

- 705 listeners from 65 regions of Russia was registered for the Conference;
- 37 participants made presentations;
- 34 listeners presented poster presentations;
- 60 people participated in absentia sending articles.

As a result of the conference, methodological materials were prepared for publication and for placement in the Russian Science Citation Index database.



**Elena Domova,**  
employee of the resource  
office (Tula)

– There are no unified approaches to children with severe multiple developmental disorders, it is always a unique, individually designed process. It is vital for specialists to share the nuances of work and developments, both for professional development and for improving the quality of life of students. This conference is one of those where we, practitioners, can bring our experience and knowledge to a wide audience. The participation of experts who develop programs, use modern methods and help to see new ways of interacting with our wards is also important.

Olga Belyaeva, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Head of the Resource Center from Krasnoyarsk, developed a professional development program "Identification of children with suspected hearing and vision impairments".

– The program has a strategic goal – to train specialists of psychological and medical pedagogical commissions in methods for identifying children with bisensory disorders. When developing the program, we relied on the importance of training of the specialists in the methods of functional diagnostics, so that not a single child with a bisensory disorder is left without help and support.



**Olga Belyaeva,**  
author of the program (Krasnoyarsk)

## Socialization of orphans with bisensory disorders

In 2021, face-to-face consultation sessions were held in two regions: Nizhny Novgorod and Tula regions. In the case-study format, issues of functional

diagnostics of children with multiple disabilities, planning and implementation of developmental care, and conducting training activities for the socialization of children

by staff of boarding schools and volunteers were considered.

A COMPREHENSIVE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PEDAGOGICAL DIAGNOSTICS OF 50 ORPHAN CHILDREN WERE CARRIED OUT. THESE ARE CHILDREN LIVING IN BOARDING INSTITUTIONS.

For each child, a socialization protocol has been drawn up with a sequence of steps to develop the skills necessary for communication and social interaction and the maximum possible realization of educational potential.

From November 30 to December 16, we conducted an online training program (8 lectures) for boarding school staff and volunteers. The purpose of the training was to form ideas about their role in the socialization of children

with special needs living in boarding schools, as well as to transfer knowledge and practical skills.



# Sensor-Tech laboratory

## ELVIS Neuroimplant



The first and, to date, the only Russian neuroimplant designed to restore vision to blind people. The technology is patented in the Russian Federation.

The project was publicly announced as part of the SPIEF 2021 and became one of the main news of the year in the field of science and technology. The development attracted the attention of government organizations, business representatives, as well as Russian and international media

(more than 350 publications about the technology were published).

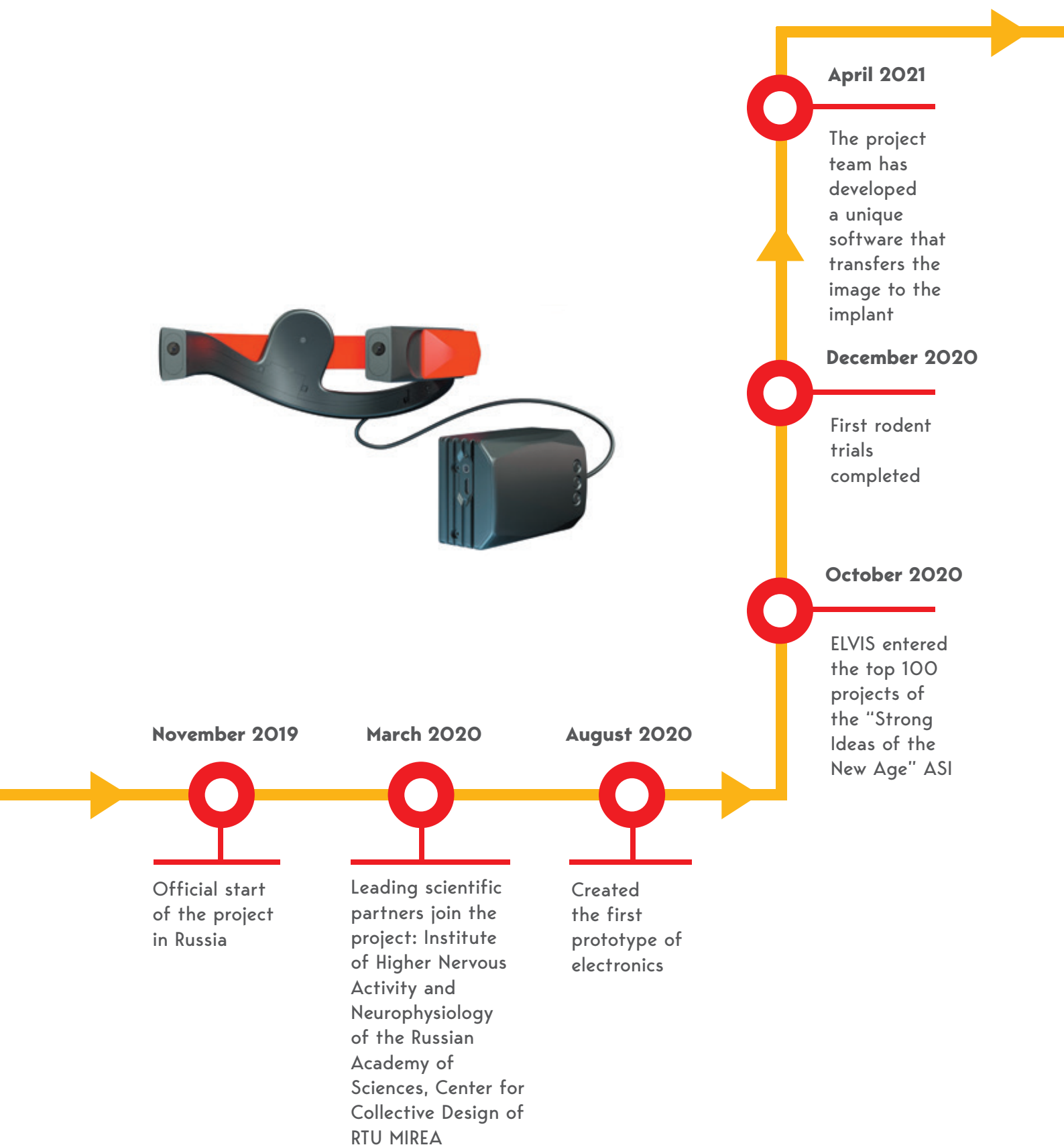
At the beginning of 2022, the first operation in Russia was performed at the Research Institute of Medical Primatology in Sochi to install an ELVIS electrode array in the brain of a monkey. A six-year-old male baboon was chosen for the experiment. The operation was successful, the animal feels well and recovers quickly. The project team started testing the biocompatibility of the

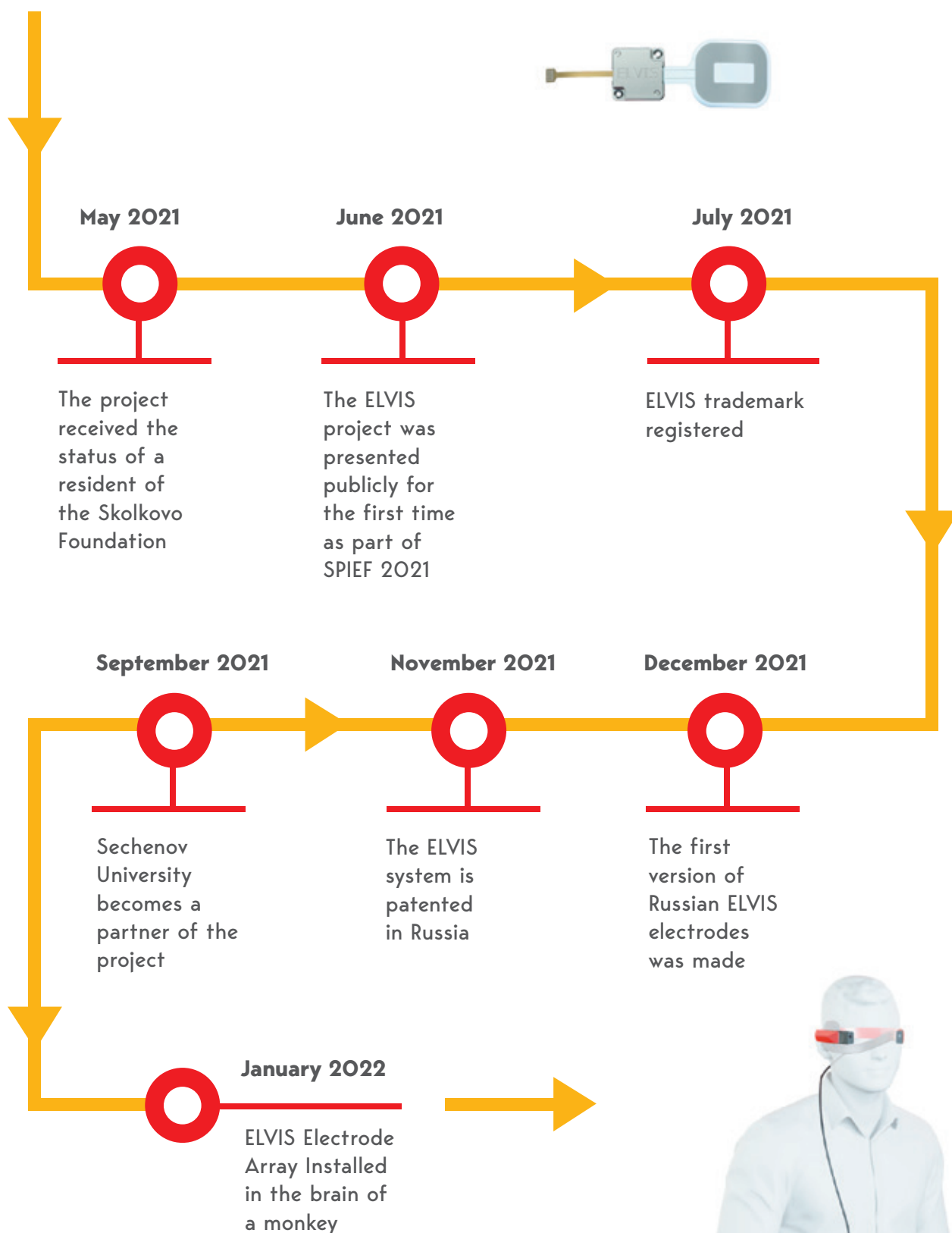
neuroimplant with brain tissues. This stage will soon allow us to move on to a series of similar operations with other monkeys to conduct behavioral experiments.

Testing of the technology with blind volunteers will soon begin. According to the forecasts of the project team, the operation to install a neuroimplant will become widely available in Russia in 2027. The ELVIS device will restore sight to 20% of blind people.



## ELVIS timeline







**Denis Kuleshov,**  
Director of ANO "Sensor-Tech"  
Laboratory (Moscow)

– Many of the Foundation's wards, and indeed all totally blind people in Russia, no longer hope to regain their sight. They are just trying to get used to the world of complete darkness. We make ELVIS for them. Our task is to create a "technological miracle" that will really make life easier for the blind. We are still 6 years away from a product in the form of a medical device, but I am sure that we will be able to go this way, and the most modern neuroimplant will appear in our country, and blind and deaf-blind people will get what they so dream of – vision.



The project was implemented with the support of the Renova Charitable Foundation, PJSC Polyus, PJSC VTB Bank, PJSC MMC Norilsk Nickel, JSC Russian Railways, PJSC SberBank, PJSC Rosseti.



## Smart assistant for the blind “Robin”



An artificial intelligence gadget helps blind and deaf-blind people navigate in space – the device suggests what or who is in front of the user.

The Sensor-Tech laboratory, with the support of the Vinchel Foundation, donated 15 Robin devices to schoolchildren in different regions of Russia. Kids quickly mastered the controls and use them every day.

In July, 13-year-old Malika Aliyeva from Adygea got the gadget, the girl wrote an appeal to the President of Russia with a request to include the device in the TMR list.

– I read in fairy tales about a magic wand that gave people a better life. For me, Robin has become such a magic wand. He pushed the boundaries of my world, allowed me to be independent of the presence of human assistants, allowed me to feel myself independent! After all, it's great – to know even 10 meters away that it is dad who is walking towards you, find, without getting burned, a cup of tea on the table, be aware of the approach of a car at a pedestrian crossing, without the squeal of brakes. Basically, be like everyone else. Exactly! Can you imagine, I, a girl who has been blind since the age of six, is now almost the same as other sighted people. I can do a lot again!



**Malika Aliyeva,**  
blind girl (Maikop)

## Speech recognition device "Charlie"



Allows people with hearing impairments to communicate without assistance – the device translates speech into text, and a deaf person can easily read what they are told. For the deaf-blind, a Braille display is connected to Charlie – this allows you to read the information with your fingers and enter the answer.

"Charlie" is installed and actively used in key Russian organizations, including institutions of the Moscow Government, MFCs, social assistance centers, universities. The device helps to work with deaf people more effectively.

In the fall of 2021, Charlie was installed in the innovative branch of the Russian Post, a customer experience laboratory in the Skolkovo Technopark, where the most advanced technological solutions for working with different clients are collected.

– Charlie is a very useful device, I liked it! You can read what the other person is saying on a braille display and respond immediately in the same way. Very comfortable. I would use this, for example, in hospitals, at a doctor's appointment.



**Lyubov Zhukova,**  
ward of the Foundation (Moscow)

## Electronic ball "Soundball"



The Sensor-Tech laboratory has developed a "smart" ball for blind football players "Soundball". Its main advantage is continuous sound. The ball can be heard at any time

during the game, even during a complete stop. Sensor-Tech engineers worked on the project in active cooperation with the Federation of Blind Football Players. During the

development process, trial trainings were carried out, thanks to which the technology was improved every time.

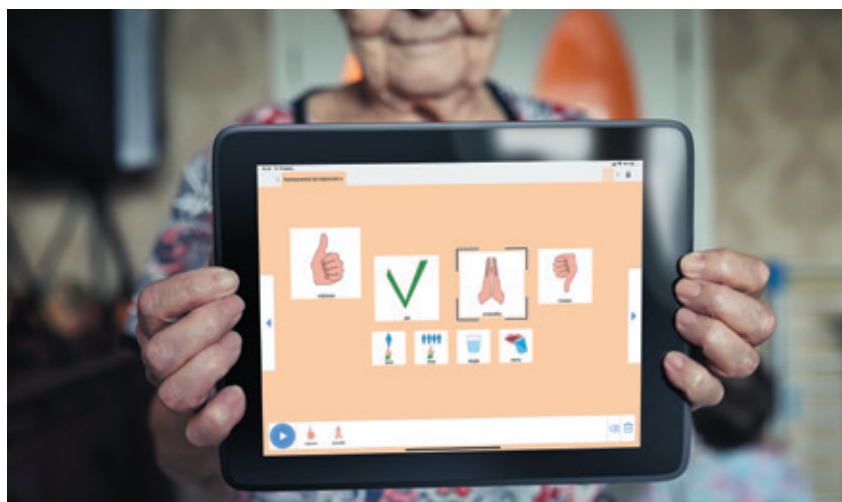
– It is very comfortable to play with this ball. Today I threw it far away specifically to understand how quickly I would find it. If there was no such technology, it would take much longer, and I would need the help of a trainer. And now everything can be done faster, very cool!



**Alexey Perevozchikov,**  
defender of the Avangard team  
(Moscow)



## Albert app



In 2021, the Sensor-Tech Laboratory released the Albert app, which allows adults and children with autism spectrum disorders, impaired communication skills or mental disabilities to report their needs and requests, talk about

their condition and mood.

The communicator works very simply: the user selects cards with visual pictures from the gallery (for example, on the topics of food, emotions, hygiene, etc.), arranges them,

and the service voices the meaning with a single phrase: "I'm hungry", "I have to go" and others

– We liked the Albert app, first of all, because it is completely in Russian, it is easy to master and easy to explain how to use it, how to set it up for parents of children with special needs. Because it's free, it's possible to introduce families to this (so important!) tool without having to buy it. Now two teenagers, one with an autism spectrum disorder and one with a complex of disorders, including sensory alalia and intellectual delay, are constantly learning how to use the Albert app when communicating with people around them. It allows you to individually customize the interface and appearance of the communicator, which is very convenient – you can use Albert with different people.



**Ruslan Vyalitov,**  
specialist in the field of alternative  
and additional communication  
(Moscow)

## The ABC of Accessibility Online

In 2021, the Sensor-Tech Laboratory, with the support of grants from the Mayor of Moscow, launched the ABC of Online Accessibility project

aimed at promoting and helping to build an accessible environment for people with disabilities. Within its framework, an educational

portal was created, where free lessons and consultations were held.

OVER 50 THOUSAND PEOPLE VISITED THE SITE, ALMOST 2.5 THOUSAND PARTICIPATED IN THE MASTER CLASSES AND DOWNLOADED THE MOBILE APP.

## "Polygon" space of assistive technologies for the deaf-blind

Here, our colleagues from the Laboratory test new developments designed to improve the lives of deaf-blind

people. In 2021, more than 25 tests of new devices were held, more than 20 master classes for the blind and deaf-blind

people on the use of high-tech developments, as well as several events to promote the use of TMR.

– It is very important that there are people who are doing something for us, this is the right direction already. As a person who participated in many testing events at the Polygon, I can say that such events contribute to a clearer understanding of what we, the deaf-blind, want. This is the connection between us and engineers, developers.



**Anatoly Gordeev,**  
ward of the foundation (Moscow)

The project was implemented with the support of PAO Novatek, JSC Russian Railways, and the Renova Charitable Foundation.

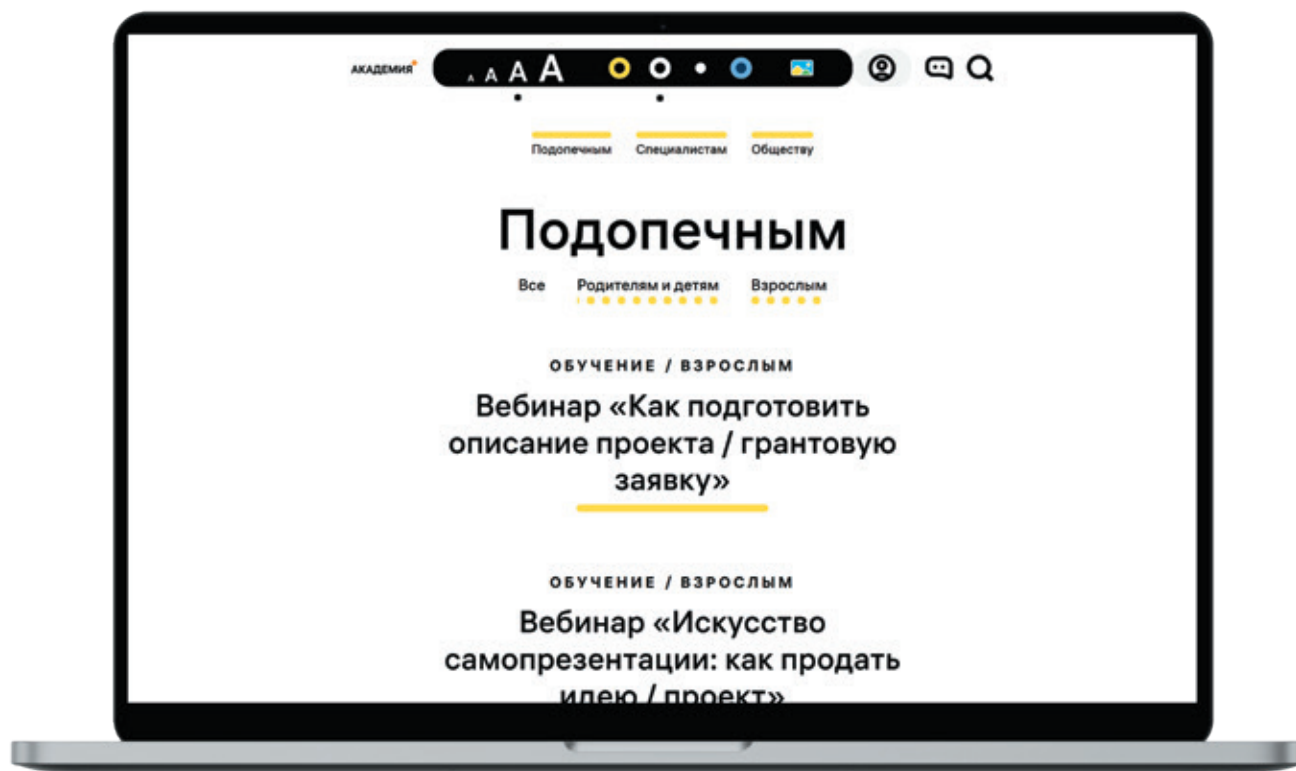


# INFORMATION AND ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM





# All-Russian information and educational portal



Portal address:  
[edu.so-edinenie.org](http://edu.so-edinenie.org)

Designed by Art. Lebedev Studio.

The portal was created thanks to the support of our partners: Vladimir Potanin Charitable Foundation, Severstal PJSC, Bayersdorf LLC and MTS PJSC.

In 2021, the All-Russian Information and Educational Portal was launched, accessible to people with hearing and vision impairments, their relatives and specialists who work with deafblindness. The portal contains educational, cognitive materials for the wards of the Foundation.

THE RESOURCE IS FULLY ADAPTED FOR THE PERCEPTION OF INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET BY DEAF-BLIND PEOPLE.

Users with hearing and vision impairments, after registering, get access to individually selected materials, webinars and courses adapted to the perception of people with deafblindness.

Specialists registered on the portal also get the opportunity to improve their skills and participate in the events of the professional community through their personal accounts.

But you can use the portal without registration!

The materials on the site are divided into three categories:

- for wards (webinars, shows, courses, information, interviews, etc.);
- for specialists (announcements, courses, library, training, etc.);
- for society (information about deaf-blindness, about the foundation, rules for helping deaf-blind people, etc.).

– There were no particular difficulties in using the portal. At first, I registered and watched one of the museum tours on the phone, later I logged in from the computer. Appearing messages are not read automatically, but for me this is not a problem. Probably, it is even better – you read it when it is convenient. I used both the voice reading and the display. And the incomprehensible has to be read by hand. Accessibility, in my opinion, gets a five points with a minus. I think we need the portal. Our people are, of course, very complex. We are all different. Objective problems should not be forgotten. Someone does not see, someone does not hear, and someone has a complete set. It's nice when things get better, so of course I welcome the creating of the portal.



**Mikhail Belogortsev,**  
ward of the foundation (Moscow)

## Website guide

All socially oriented companies should think about the availability of their sites for the blind. We decided to help them along the way. In the process of working on the All-Russian Information and Educational Portal, the Con-nection Foundation, together with the Art. Lebedev Studio, prepared a free guide to creating websites and content accessible to those who have vision problems (there are more than 285 million people in the world) or who cannot see at all (40 million of them). Adapting a website or app opens the door for brands to a new audience of potential customers.

It is important to understand that even special gadgets and special system settings will not work correctly if the page violates the standard of the site's accessible layout.

The web guide is suitable for those who create a site from scratch, as well as for existing portals.



«Runet»  
award

YOU CAN FIND THE GUIDE HERE:  
[HTTPS://GUIDE.SO-EDINENIE.ORG/EXPLAIN](https://guide.so-edinenie.org/explain)

WE TAKEN THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WEBLIND PROJECT AS A BASIS: SUPPLEMENTED THEM WITH EXAMPLES AND COLLECTED INTO A GUIDEBOOK. AFTER MANY CONSULTATIONS WITH EXPERTS AND WARDS OF THE FOUNDATION WE HAVE CREATED THE MOST SIMPLE AND UNDERSTANDABLE GUIDE.



IF Social Impact  
Award 2021



Anthem Awards  
Bronze Prize

– We forget that in the world more than 285 million people have vision problems, of which 40 million do not see at all. It is difficult for them not only to leave the room, but also to check the news feed, go to the social network, and make a purchase in the online store. Even special gadgets and special system settings will not work correctly if the page violates the site's accessible layout standard. But helping these people is not difficult: it is enough to follow a number of simple rules while creating or posting content.



**Julia Shlyandina,**  
program manager (Moscow)

The project was implemented with the support of the Vladimir Potanin Charitable Foundation and MTS PJSC.



## "Not Alone in the Dark" mini-festival

On June 27, the Con-nection Foundation together with the Inclusion Center held a mini-fest "Not Alone in the Dark" in the New Manege. The event was timed to the International Day of the Deaf-Blind.

The mini-fest was presented as a series of intersecting art projects and art spaces designed to acquaint viewers with how people with hearing and visual impairments experience the world.

On this day, the festival halls hosted:

- presentation of the collection based on the results of the II literary competition "Co-creation" "Recovered Light" (with the participation of the authors of the book

Irina Povolotskaya and Alena Kapustyan);

- performance "Initial Event" (dir. Daria Kovalskaya) based on the documentary series "Lost and Found Light" by Vladimir Korkunov with monologues of deaf-blind people about the last thing they saw in life;

- Irina Povolotskaya's performance "Everyone in the City" – theatrical reflections on the relationship between a person and a big city;

- master class by Natalia Sokolova and Dmitry Polikanov on the dactyl alphabet;

- installation "Us" – a sound composition written by people with hearing and vision impairments, supplemented with objects from monologues about the last seen in life;

- exhibition of tactile models

"A touching story" – copies of bas-reliefs from St. George's Cathedral, antique coins and sculptures;

- photo exhibition "I see. I hear. I feel" with the faces of deaf-blind people, sign language interpreters, etc.

Each guest of the mini-fest could play the online game "Life by Touch" – try to guess the objects hidden by filters that simulate visual impairment.

– I had the opportunity to participate in all the events of the festival, which began with the presentation of the collection following the results of the literary competition "Co-creation" (in which I was on the jury). I said a few words in memory of Sergei Sirotkin, after which Dmitry Polikanov read my poem "Hand in hand". Then the performance of "Inclusion" began – based on documentary stories about the last seen. During the performance, we talked with the guests of the festival, there was a demonstration of a video with my interview, where I speak dactyl, and a musical composition composed by the arranger from my tunes on the guqin, flute and wind chimes sounded in the background. One of the last chords of the festival was the inclusive performance of my theatrical project Cosmoopera Performing Arts - "Everyone in the City", with deaf-blind and sighted-hearing actors. It was an interesting and eventful day, I think such events are useful for everyone!



**Irina Povolotskaya,**  
artist, actress, poetess, deaf-blind  
(Moscow)

## Online museum tours

In 2021, the Con-nection Foundation, together with Pike Media Lab, conducted five online tours of the museums, accompanied by translation into Russian sign language and subtitles.

Five museums took part in the project:

- Jewish Museum and Tolerance Center;
- Museum of Vadim Sidur / Moscow Museum of Modern Art;

- State Darwin Museum;
- Shchusev State Museum of Architecture;
- Museum of Russian Impressionism.

Here's how the project went:

- the film crew made pre-shooting of museum collections;
- on the day of the live broadcast, museum employees went on the air, talking about the expositions;
- at the same time, a sign language interpreter Victoria Bakunova was connected from the foundation office;

- after the broadcast captions were created, based on the story of the guide/employee, which were superimposed on the video, and also placed separately in the form of text on social networks (for totally deaf-blind people). It was important for us to open a new cultural space for deaf-blind people – many of them could not study the collections of

museums (often there are no tactile exhibits) and even visit them (it is often difficult for deaf-blind people from the regions of the country to get to Moscow).

The audience of the project was, first of all, hearing-impaired and deaf-blind people, young people aged 14-35 (active Internet users among the hard of hearing), high school students and university students, as well as young parents with children 6+.

Award received



– The Pike Media Lab team is extremely happy to cooperate with the Deaf-blind support foundation Con-nection. The expertise of our colleagues has helped us understand the challenges that the deaf-blind have to face in order to obtain information, from physical movement to the perception of audio and visual information. Together, we managed to implement a truly necessary and important inclusive educational project. Online tours and lectures from Moscow museums received almost a million coverage, as well as feedback from viewers asking them to extend the project for the next season. It was a great pleasure for us to work with the Foundation's team, and we hope that the second season will be met with no less enthusiasm from the hard of hearing and deaf-blind people, opening up new cultural territories for them. We are proud that such a project was implemented for the first time in Russia – previously there were no similar projects for deaf-blind people, or they dealt with the official side of life (translations into RSL of appeals of the first persons of the state).



**Valeria Vitvitskaya,**  
Advisor to the General Director for  
Social and Cultural Projects at Pike  
Media Lab (Moscow)

– In my opinion, this is a very important and significant project. Especially given the difficult epidemiological situation. A great opportunity to broaden your horizons, replenish your stock of knowledge, enrich yourself spiritually. Information is presented in a concise and accessible way. I managed to visit the Darwin Museum in the fall of 2015 and tactilely get acquainted with a significant part of the exhibits. It was doubly pleasant to listen to such a fascinating and picturesque tour. The described exposition was easily recreated in the imagination. I sincerely hope that the project will receive support and will continue. And in the future there will be videos from many wonderful museums.



**Karina Zhakova,**  
ward of the Foundation (Bryansk)

## The project "In the Language of Silence" and the anthology "I am Silence"

A large-scale international project has been completed, in which authors from 20

countries of the world (poets, prose writers, essayists) presented their texts, one way

or another related to the topic of deafblindness.



The texts of the project participants were posted on the website <https://silence.so-edinenie.org/> from June 2020 to August 2021.



In May 2021, In the Language of Silence won Silver Mercury Bronze for Best Integrated Outreach Campaign for a Non-Profit or Government Institution.

At the same time, the work on the world's first anthology of texts on deaf-blindness "I-Silence" began, which was completed in September 2021.

124 AUTHORS AND 13 TRANSLATORS FROM AUSTRALIA, BELARUS, GERMANY, DENMARK, ISRAEL, KAZAKHSTAN, CANADA, RUSSIA, USA, UKRAINE, MOLDOVA, SPAIN, POLAND, SWEDEN, SLOVAKIA, BRAZIL, GREAT BRITAIN, JAPAN, SERBIA PARTICIPATED IN THE PROJECT.



Lyudmila Ulitskaya noted in her review on the cover: "From birth, a person enters a world filled with sounds and colors. And most of humanity does not even think about what the world of a person deprived of sight and hearing is like. Is this a truncated world? Yes, definitely. But this truncated world is rich in its own way: things are sometimes revealed to the blind and deaf, which

are hardly grasped by those whose organs of sight and hearing are all right. This is what the texts collected in this collection testify to.

COVER REVIEWS WERE WRITTEN BY LYUDMILA ULITSKAYA AND ALEXEY SALNIKOV.



The project was supported by many social media: news about it was published in the Philanthropist magazine, on the ASL website, in Moscow Charity, etc. Literary resources did not stand aside: selections

of project participants and authors of the anthology appeared in the journals Paradigma and Discourse, as well as in the art digest Soloneba. Reviews of the anthology were published

by DBI Review, POETICA and Teacher's Newspaper.

– I am totally deaf, but this does not interfere with my self-expression. I am losing my sight, and this condition is tragic, but I want to share these feelings with the sighted, I want them to understand my reality. This is how "Bird in the Fog" was born, which I performed at the "Flowering of Talents" competition in sign language. Later, "Shadows" and "Old Photos" were born – sketches from my current reality. And when I found out that a draft anthology of texts about deaf-blindness had appeared and they asked me for the text "Birds ...", I also proposed new poems. And they were taken! This is an amazingly stimulating project! It has the most important goals – to show the society our possibilities in creativity and self-expression, and also: to acquaint people with the concept of deaf-blindness, it is very important that society recognizes us as intellectually complete and does not reject us.



**Galina Ushakova,**  
ward of the Foundation (Sochi)

## Tactile exhibition "Applied art of Ancient Russia"

The exhibition "Applied Art of Ancient Russia" is a continuation of the global project "A Touching Story", which the Con-nection

Foundation is conducting together with the "AURATech" Association and the "ArcheoLab" restoration laboratory.

walls of Orthodox churches of Ancient Russia were presented at special stands: St. George's Cathedral, located in the city of Yuryevo-Polsky, Vladimir Region, and Dmitrievsky Cathedral, located in Vladimir.

THE EXHIBITION WAS HELD  
FROM DECEMBER 15, 2021  
TO JANUARY 16, 2022.

The new exposition opened on December 15 at the Bagratuni Art Gallery of Contemporary Art (SEC Riviera). 10 tactile copies of bas-reliefs from the

All the exhibits could not only be examined tactilely – the copies were made of metal with a semi-gloss chrome coating – but also hear the audio commentary: historical

and visual description of the exhibition material in the format of an audio track using a media player and headphones. The SensorTech laboratory creates electronics

and produces stands for the project.

AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, EVERYBODY WAS ABLE TO TEST THE SEEMYWORLD VISION DISEASE SIMULATOR BY THE SENSOR-TECH LABORATORY (VISUAL ASSISTANT FOR OPHTHALMOLOGISTS).

– I am glad that I came to the exhibition. I managed to look, touch tactilely – very interesting bas-reliefs, in Ancient Russia there were wonderful architectural works! The mood lifted immediately. The material is very good, pleasant to the touch.

– The exhibition could not be missed! After all, in my student years, one might say, I did not get out of Vladimir, Suzdal, Novgorod ... And in parallel with my main studies, I was fond of ancient Russian art, mainly icons ... I liked the exhibition very much! I remember something I saw previously, but most of the exhibits were touched for the first time. Great material – metal! So nice, and everything is very clear, feels great. I really liked the explanations for the exhibits. They were written both in Braille and in bulging flat letters – that is convenient for different visitors, with different abilities. And the plates are arranged horizontally – it is convenient and easy to read for braylists. For this – a special big thanks to the organizers!



**Alexander Silyanov,**  
sculptor, deaf-blind (Balashikha)



**Natalya Kremneva,**  
editor-in-chief of the magazine for the deaf-blind "Your Interlocutor", deaf-blind (Moscow)

The project was implemented with the support of the Moscow Public Relations Committee, grants from the Mayor of Moscow and PJSC Novatek.

## "Your interlocutor" magazine

The magazine for the deaf-blind "Your Interlocutor" has been published since 2003, it is a quarterly publication and the only one in Russia aimed at people with simultaneous

hearing and vision impairments. In 2021, four issues of the magazine were published. Circulation of flat-printed version: 150 copies, Braille – 60 copies. A total of 117 people

subscribed to the magazine. In addition to Russia, "Your Interlocutor" is issued in Moldova and Ukraine.

YOUR INTERLOCUTOR IS ISSUED IN THREE FORMATS: FLAT-PRINTED, RELIEF-DOTTED AND ELECTRONIC (.PDF AND .DOC).

The Braille magazine (raised dot format) is also received by special libraries for the blind in different regions of the country.

– I am not only a grateful reader of "Your Interlocutor", but also an author of articles, I have been writing for the magazine for 6-7 years! The opportunity to learn something new, to follow the news in the world of the deaf-blind, to get acquainted with the work of my deaf-blind friends from other regions, to fulfill my potential as an author – that's what the magazine means to me. I like to tell readers about the life of people, interesting phenomena and events, I like to receive positive feedback on my articles. I would also like to note the design of the magazine – it is bright, beautiful. For the visually impaired, the aesthetic component of the edition matters. It is pleasant to take our magazine in your hands – the flat-bed version is made on good paper, the photo illustrations are of high quality, the font size is comfortable.



**Lyubov Malofeeva,**  
ward of the foundation (Izhevsk)

## Charity activities with Beiersdorf (NIVEA brand)

The New Year began for us with the Beiersdorf (NIVEA brand) charity project "Time for Good Deeds", launched back in 2020. Its goal is to raise 3 million rubles for the

"School for the Rehabilitation of the Deaf-Blind". Part of the income from each NIVEA product sold from November 18 to January 12 in the Magnit chain of stores, our partners

transferred to the Foundation. A similar promotion was held in the Lyubimy chain of stores in the Far East from December 1, 2020 to January 31, 2021.

Support was provided in the form of compensation for self-purchased hearing aids for Dmitry Pavlov. A young man from Khabarovsk started taking guitar lessons and needed hearing aids, as the old ones just didn't work anymore.

And at the end of the year, together with our partners, we launched four more charity events:

"Touch the Care" – together with the Podruzhka chain of stores (for the Mom's School);  
 "Let's help together" – with the

O'KEY retail chain (for holding the Mom's School);  
 "Give care to children" – with the Magnit retail chain (for the improvement of a children's inclusive tactile playground in Nizhny Novgorod);  
 "Give a Respite" – with the L'Etoile retail chain (for the "Respite" project to support families of the deaf-blind ).  
 Promotions were held throughout the country – in all stores of retail chains.

Charity events on social networks were supported by

popular bloggers: Rita Dakota (2.9 million subscribers), Yulia Razina (2.3 million), Elena Fentsik (1.9 million) and Alyona Pogrebnyak (0.7 million).

## DURING PROMOTIONS RUB 7,750,000 HAS BEEN RAISED

In addition, NIVEA employees raised money for a hearing aid for Dmitry Guryanov (who is employed by the company) – NIVEA doubled the amount, and Dmitry got the device he needed.

– Cooperation with the Deaf-Blind Support Foundation Connection is extremely important for our company. Thanks to our joint work, in addition to caring for the skin of billions of people, we can positively influence the lives of those in need and society as a whole. Since 2018, NIVEA, together with the foundation, has been comprehensively helping families with children and adults with hearing and vision problems, qualitatively changing their lives for the better. Our company is proud that together we managed to implement socially significant projects and provide real help and support to the wards. The main slogan of NIVEA is "Care through the touch", and thanks to cooperation with the foundation, "Care through the touching of human life" can be added to this slogan.



**Marcin Kuhta,**  
NIVEA CEO



## Social video series with NIVEA

In the fall of 2021, our friends from Baiersdorf (NIVEA brand) filmed six inclusive videos about the hobbies and achievements of deaf-blind people, the work

of our resource centers and the imminent opening of a new one in Nizhny Novgorod. Employees of the Yaseneva Polyana Foundation and Resource Center

(in particular, teachers of our school), NIVEA employees, and, of course, deaf-blind people also took part in the videos: sculptor Alexander Silyanov, actress Alyona Kapustyan, masseuse Alyona Shirin and model Artyom Leontiev.

THE CENTER "OPEN DOORS" IN NIZHNY NOVGOROD STARTED TO WORK IN FEBRUARY 2022.

VIDEOS HAVE OVER 2 MILLION 250 THOUSAND VIEWS ON YOUTUBE.

Beiersdorf has been actively helping deaf-blind people for a long time – in addition to supporting the Foundation's

projects, our partners employ deaf-blind people in their company. The company employee Artyom Leontiev

is the character of the social videos, as well as Dmitry Guryanov, Tatiana Kochanova and others.

– It was very interesting to dive into the filming process. This is the right thing, it is important to show people that we exist. And we have our talents. So that as many people as possible learn about you and deaf-blind people. It will be easier for them to adapt to us. It is important that we are shown from the positive sides, and in this sense we are the same people as everyone else. Let people look at us and see themselves: we have the same hobbies, we can do almost everything the same. There are limitations, but you can adapt to almost everything. Thank you NIVEA for this experience!



**Alena Shirina,**  
ward of the foundation (Moscow)

## About the coronavirus and the vaccine – with translation into RSL

In the summer of 2021, the Con-nection Foundation translated into Russian sign language an interview with Denis Protsenko, chief physician of hospital No. 40 in Kommunarka (interviewer

Alexander Tsyppkin) and one of the developers of the Sputnik V vaccine, Vladimir Gushchin (interviewer Daria Kartasheva). Both interviews were about coronavirus infection and vaccination. It was especially

important that they were released in an accessible format for deaf-blind people – this helped us calm them down in a difficult pandemic time.

TOTAL WE HAVE TRANSLATED SEVEN VIDEOS WITH A TOTAL DURATION OF 2 HOURS 19 MINUTES 50 SECONDS.

Sign language translation was performed by Victoria Bakunova, an employee of the Con-nection Foundation. Volunteer videographers – and personally Tatyana Serdyukova – helped us with the editing.



## "Co-creativity" contest

In 2021, the third literary competition "Co-creation" was held, in which 134 nominees took part. The competition partner was Canon Russia.

This time "Co-creation" was divided into nominations:

poetry (21 participants); prose (15 participants); essay/publicism (16 participants); works about the deaf-blind/deafblindness (categories: poetry, prose, essays, media; 82 participants).

The first three nominations were for deaf-blind people, the last one was open to everyone.

TOTAL NUMBER OF COMPETITION PARTICIPANTS: 134 NOMINATES.

Based on the results of the work of the three juries (selective, main and final), the winners are:

- nomination "Poetry": Evgenia Lagunina;
- nomination "Prose": Vera Filatova;
- nomination "Essay/publicism": Lyubov Malofeeva;
- Nomination "Works about deaf-blind/deaf-blindness":

Nadia Delaland (poetry category), Yuna Letz (prose category), Elena Vasilyeva (essay category) and Anna Demidova (media category).

The Grand Prix of the competition (book release) was awarded by the jury to Evgenia Lagunina from Troitsk, who had won prizes in our competition twice before. A special prize from Canon Russia went to

Lyubov Molodykh from the Altai Territory.

As a result of "Co-creation", a collection with the best works of the contestants "Word in your hand" and a book of poems by Evgenia Lagunina "Swans" were prepared for the publication.

– The "Co-creation" competition is very important for me and other deaf-blind people. It reveals talented people who find it difficult to express themselves and fulfill their potential in the conditions of the modern world. I and other participants look forward to the competition, which has become an annual event. It's so interesting – to prepare texts, to follow the stages of the competition, rejoice for one another. And then wait for the competition collection and its presentation. All these events fulfill life, bring joy and positive emotions. It is important that there are more and more participants every year, people tell each other about the competition, this inspires others to try their hand at something new.



**Evgenia Lagunina,**  
ward of the foundation (Troitsk)

In April 2022, a selection of the winners of the Co-creation literary competition was published in the Degusta magazine.

## "I see. I hear" photo exhibition in Tagansky Park

The exhibition in Tagansky Park opened in June 2021 and was dedicated to the International Day of the Deaf-Blind – June 27. It was a selection of portraits of the Foundation's wards, volunteers, defectologists, teachers and translators of RSL, created to draw public attention to the

problems of deaf-blind people.

The exposition included 20 stands (10 double-sided) with a description of the Foundation's activities, portraits and a brief commentary on the people depicted in the photo. The wards of the foundation shown in the photographs live all

over Russia: from Moscow to Mineralnye Vody, and from Yekaterinburg to Kaliningrad. Additionally, the exposition could be seen on screens in metro and buses in Moscow, when one connected to the wi-fi of the subway, on billboards, in the Aeroflot magazine, etc.

SEVERAL THOUSAND PEOPLE VISITED THE EXHIBITION IN TAGANSKY PARK.

## "Christmas Tree of the Dream" photo exhibition

The "Christmas Tree of the Dream" exhibition brought bright emotions to the visitors of Sokolniki Park from December 20, 2021 to January 8, 2022. Moscow citizens and guests of the capital could see portraits of the Foundation's wards. Like the exhibition "I see. I hear", a new exposition was organized to draw public attention to the problems of people who have lost sight and hearing.

Claus for those who need it so much. Each booth had a QR code leading to the "Christmas Tree of the Dream" website, where anyone could make a deaf-blind person's New Year's wish come true.

Also, from December 20, 2021 to January 12, 2022, the exhibition was shown on Lipovaya Alley near Krymskaya Embankment in the Museon Arts Park.

Each portrait of the Foundation's ward was accompanied by a short story about a New Year's miracle. And a call to become Santa

We thank the Volunteer Photographers community for their help in creating the photo exhibition.

"THE CHRISTMAS TREE OF THE DREAM" ACTION THIS YEAR WAS ESPECIALLY SUCCESSFUL. 70 WARDS OF THE FOUNDATION GOT NEW YEAR GIFTS. ABOUT 60 PEOPLE BECAME GOOD WIZARDS FOR THEM – SOME OF THEM GAVE GIFTS TO SEVERAL OF OUR WARDS AT ONCE!

– I don't see photos myself, but I like to be photographed, especially since it was the New Year, I wanted to feel the spirit of the holiday. Therefore, I liked to be photographed and write the story of the New Year's miracle with joy. My husband joined me. It is difficult for him to write, so I helped. It was very nice to receive a gift later. The festive mood was in full swing!



**Natalia Demyanenko,**  
ward of the Foundation  
(St. Petersburg)



## "Con-sonance" with WIDEX

From April 1 to May 31, 2021, the Con-nection Foundation and the Videx Hearing Center held a joint action called Con-

sonance. When buying one Widex or Signia hearing aid, the Foundation's wards and friends received the second

one free of charge. The action was valid in Moscow, Voronezh, Kazan and Perm.

– The old devices did not work well – there were interferences, the ears felt uncomfortable. So we decided to buy new ones. At first, my husband did not want to buy them, he thought that the device would be the same as the Russian one. But I took him with me to the Videx Hearing Center, he sat and watched how they picked up new "ears" for me (it took about three hours). He was inspired, and we also made an appointment for him. As a result, we bought a device, and they gave us two more. Kostya is very happy: no extraneous sounds, speech is transmitted clearly, ears do not get tired. And we sent the old devices for storage to the home museum. We still love them, they let us so much to hear.



**Albina Snizhko,**  
ward of the foundation (Moscow)

## Short family story competition

The competition of a short family stories for the wards of the Con-nection Foundation became part of the global international competition "We and our little wizards" (chairman of the organizing committee is Sofia Agacher). 21 people took part in the

competition from the Con-nection Foundation.

The winners of the literary competition are:

- Elena Volokh (Moscow);
- Nina Solovtsova (Moscow region);
- Galina Ushakova (Sochi/Kingisepp).

The stories of the winners were published in the Classroom Journal, and Aleksey Khodorych,

Director of Children's Projects at the Open Systems Publishing House (Classroom Journal), gave them and the finalists a six-month electronic subscription.

SEVERAL STORIES OF THE WINNERS WERE ALSO PUBLISHED IN TUESDAY MAGAZINE.

Moreover, deaf-blind authors triumphantly performed at the main competition site, ten people at once became laureates of the competition "We and Our Little Magicians".

These are: Elena Volokh, Alexander Galan, Arina Denmukhamedova, Irina Zhukova (Balykina), Elena Kakorina, Lyubov Molodykh, Alexandra Nechaeva, Nina

Solovtsova, Galina Ushakova and Khamzat Tsurov; and six of them were included in the final competition collection "When I write."

THE AWARDING CEREMONY WAS HELD IN NOVEMBER 2021 AT THE MOSCOW HOUSE OF BOOK ON ARBAT STREET. ALEXANDER GALAN AND ALEXANDRA NECHAYEVA SENT THEIR VIDEO MESSAGES.

In the spring of 2022, the stories of ten winners of the

competition "We and Our Little Magicians" were published in a

special Braille storybook.

– For me, the family is a bastion of reliability, tranquility and security. I consider that I was lucky with my family: wonderful loving parents, a brother who is always ready to support me at any moment, he is my close and dear friend. When I found out about the short family story competition, I thought, why don't I take part in it and tell about my family? This contest stirred up so many positive emotions and pleasant memories in me. I wrote her story and recalled, recalled ... May every person on Earth be lucky with his family and live in peace, love and tranquility!



**Irina Zhukova (Balykina),**  
ward of the foundation (Nizhny Novgorod)

## Competition for the best logo of the Con-nection Foundation

In 2021, we wanted to celebrate our birthday in a beautiful way, and on the seventh anniversary of the Con-nection Foundation, we announced a competition for the best interpretation of our logo using any available material: drawing, clay, beads, embroidery, etc.

The works that we received surprised and delighted us: the fantasy of our wards turned out to be inexhaustible!

The first place was taken by a ladybug by Svetlana Magomedova (Ust-Labinsk), molded from plasticine of different colors and covered with acrylic lacquer. On the back of the ladybug were Braille "dots" from our official logo.

The second place was taken by the collective work of the wards of the Association "Integration" (Novosibirsk) – a plate with a Braille letter in the middle, in

the circles of which there were thematic drawings.

The third place went to Maya Zhakova (Bryansk) – she presented a panel with a felt base and a Braille letter made of six clay plates, three of which were filled with orange lentils.

FOR SEVERAL MONTHS THE LADYBUG OF SVETLANA MAGOMEDOVA BECAME OUR LOGO ON THE WEBSITE OF THE FOUNDATION AND IN SOCIAL NETWORKS.

– I love arts and crafts. And as soon as the logo contest was announced, I immediately decided that I would take part in it. Every creative person wants to share his thoughts, achievements, ideas. I really want to "infect" with the happiness to create other people who are sure that their illness is an obstacle to any creativity. I am grateful to the Foundation for the gift (smartphone). Of course, you could ask for help, but when the prize is a recognition of your merits, then it's just great!



**Svetlana Magomedova,**  
ward of the foundation (Ust-Labinsk)

## TeamIdea company action

At the end of 2020, a campaign was held by TeamIdea and the Con-nection Foundation, which became an annual event. Employees decided to make a donation

to the Foundation instead of receiving of a New Year's gift. The funds received by us were used for hearing and speech rehabilitation (3 people), training for the deaf-blind

(5 people), medical care (6 people), TMR: smartphones, video enlargers (25 people), etc.

TOTALLY 897 THOUSAND RUBLES WERE SPENT TO SUPPORT DEAF-BLIND PEOPLE

## "Change the game!" Championship

For the second time, the women's team of the Con-nection Foundation took part in the charity football championship of Sergei Ignashevich "Change the game!". We called our team "Not Alone in the Dark" – it included

our colleagues and volunteers of the Foundation; those who help deaf-blind people not to be left alone with their illness. We not only played football, between matches we fundraised on the official website of the project,

and all the funds raised were sent to pay for accompanied accommodation for the deaf-blind wards of the foundation.

PLAYING MEANINGFULLY, WE COLLECTED 85.5 THOUSAND RUBLES AND SENT IT TO SUPPORT THE WARDS OF THE FOUNDATION.

– For me, the “Not Alone in the Dark” team is an opportunity to help really important and necessary projects of the Con-nection Foundation, to do it in a circle of friends and at the same time get great pleasure from the process. Excitement captures you not only on the football field, but also when you follow the reports on the fundraising. When you see the daily activity of fans, it's very nice to realize how many caring people surround you.



**Ekaterina Yuldasheva,**

captain of the “Not Alone in the Dark” team, leading expert of the working group 2035 of the NTI SportNet market (Moscow)

## Stand-up shows with sign language translation



Jokes – both out loud and in hand gestures. Stand Up Club #1 on Novy Arbat hosted two stand-up nights with interpretation into Russian Sign Language. The first inclusive performance was dedicated to the Punchline festival. Sasha Malaya, Viktoria Skladchikova, Kirill Selegey, Zhenya Sidorov, Artem Vinokur and others took the stage. Two translators, Maria Rumyantseva and Ekaterina Migitsko, “voiced” the comedians’ jokes with their hands. The second evening brought together new artists:

Yasya Thirnadtsatko, Ilya Ovechkin, Yegor Alexandrov, Ruslan Khalitov, Denis Antipin and others. This time, translators Tonya Stolyarova and Ekaterina Golovanova helped them to convey their performance to the audience with special needs. The first experience was recognized as successful – evenings with the transfer of stand-up to RSL in Stand Up Club # 1 will continue.

AMONG THE DOZENS OF VIEWERS, THERE WERE SEVERAL DEAF-BLIND PEOPLE.



– It was a non-standard task: to translate the monologues not only meaningfully, but also to make the translation funny. This is where the main difficulty lies: when translating synchronously, without knowing the material in advance, it is very difficult to predict what intonation to maintain, how exactly to translate or build a phrase. You want to listen to some jokes in their entirety and shift them to gestures, turning them "upside down" in order to fully build a visual story. But we must pay tribute, the second concert with translation into RSL was better than the first: the comedians took into account that they should avoid jokes based on wordplay, take their time and not turn away so that the interpreter on stage could hear the comedian well.



**Tonya Stolyarova,**  
sign language interpreter (Moscow)

## Alexander Suvorov's book "Lifelong Experiment"

The life of Alexander Vasilyevich Suvorov, the most famous deaf-blind person in the world today, is worthy of books and screen adaptations. He is a participant in the famous "Zagorsk experiment", during which four deaf-blind people (Suvorov himself, Sergey Sirotkin, Natalya Korneeva and Yuri Lerner) graduated from the Moscow State University, and two – Suvorov and Sirotkin – received scientific degrees. Alexander Vasilyevich is an honorary international doctor of humanities from the University of Susquahan (Pennsylvania, USA), a full member of the International Academy of

Informatization at the UN. He was awarded a commemorative medal dedicated to the International Year of Volunteers established by the UN General Assembly (2002). In 2021, the Con-nection Foundation released a book of memoirs and diaries by Alexander Suvorov, which tells the story from his childhood to the present day. In the "Experiment ..." Suvorov talks about the family, the acquisition of deaf-blindness, life in the Zagorsk orphanage, acquaintance and communication with defectologist Alexander Meshcheryakov and philosopher Evald Ilyenkov, the "Zagorsk

experiment" itself, the beginning of teaching, the defense of candidate and doctoral dissertations, his current life ... The publication is completed by Alexander Suvorov's "orlyatsk" diary "RGK Artillery", dedicated to the shift in the Orlyonok camp in 2017. The monograph was edited by Vladimir Korkunov and Elena Vasilyeva.

IN 2020 AND 2021, FRAGMENTS FROM THE BOOK WERE PUBLISHED IN THE DBI REVIEW MAGAZINE, THE ARTICULATION ALMANAC AND ON THE POLUTONA PORTAL.

– The deaf-blind need to communicate with the sighted-hearing to increase mutual understanding. I have always considered this the main task of my work. For some time now, this has become a collective task, as evidenced by the anthology “I am silence” and the annual literary competition “Co-creation”. The sighted and hearing now have more material to delve into our problems.

“A Lifetime Experiment” is as important for me as the final book as “A Meeting of the Universes, or Deaf-Blind Aliens in the World of the Seeing and Hearing”. This is the final, the most exhaustive, as far as I can, result of getting a higher education by “the four” and the subsequent life of at least one of the four – myself. I summed up our studies, bowed to our teachers and told about the continuation, the refraction of the experiment in my personal destiny. The Lifetime Experiment is a truly life-changing book for me.



**Alexander Suvorov,**  
Doctor of Psychology, deaf-blind  
(Moscow)



## “Life by touch” with MTS Bank

On the International Day of the Deaf-Blind, we, together with MTS Bank, launched a special version of the online game “Life by Touch”, the purpose of which is to show what a person with simultaneous hearing and

vision impairment is going through. The game consists of 3 levels of varying difficulty, during which you need to guess what item is in the hands of the character. Completing the levels of the game is complicated by

using the filters that simulate various visual impairments.

AUDIENCE COVERAGE IS APPROX. 200 THOUSAND PEOPLE.

## Cashback for good

In 2021, we joined a new social service from Tinkoff – Cashback for Good. All owners of Tinkoff

bank cards could transfer cashback to the account of one of 200 charitable organizations,

which included the Con-nection Foundation.

DURING THE WORK OF THE SERVICE WE RECEIVED DONATIONS FOR 108 818 RUBLES

## Ask a deafblind question

At the beginning of 2021, the second season of the "Ask a Deaf-Blind question" project ended. Answers of four deaf-blind people to questions from readers were published on the Colta portal.

Our participants were asked a variety of questions: from what kind of dreams they have to overcoming everyday difficulties.

Four deaf-blind people took

part in the project:

- Vladimir Elfimov (Novosibirsk);
- Irina Povolotskaya (Moscow);
- Nikolai Kuznetsov (St. Petersburg);
- Alyona Kapustyan (Mytishchi).

THE DEAF-BLIND PARTICIPANTS OF THE PROJECT WERE ASKED ABOUT 70 QUESTIONS TOTAL

How do deaf-blind people know that someone is standing outside the door to their apartment? For example, a neighbor came to borrow salt or a gasman to check the stove ...

### Vladimir Elfimov:

– There are different options. For the visually impaired, these are "flashing lights" connected to the doorbell. And for the deaf and totally deaf-blind, there is a "sound signaling device" – a signal is wirelessly transmitted from the doorbell through a microphone to a vibration device, which the deaf-blind person attaches to a "sensitive bodypart". Personally, I wear it around my neck. But if the deaf-blind person lives alone, the best option is to agree in advance on the arrival time of guests or send an SMS, which the deaf-blind person will read using the Braille display. So you can protect yourself from the risk of letting intruders into the house.

– Participation in the project left me with very warm impressions. It was nice that there were a lot of questions, one could feel the sincere desire of people to learn better and deeper about various aspects of the life of the deaf-blind. Such projects are important. On the one hand, they enable people to discover the unusual world of the “other”. On the other hand, they help the deaf-blind to more effectively comprehend themselves and the world around them, to feel the joy of communication.



**Nikolai Kuznetsov,**  
ward of the foundation  
(St. Petersburg)

## 5th International Russian Film Festival

In 2021, the pilot episode of the TV series “SG: Deafblind/ Superhero” (directed by Nata Pokrovskaya and Anton Utkin) won a prize in the special nomination “Striving for the

Light” at the 5th International Russian Film Festival.

Our film was shown on the screens of the film festival on November 20 at the Golden

Ring Hotel (Moscow). And on December 2, we received our prize.

## Lampa Film Festival

Our video about the Deaf-Blind Internet project, made jointly with the advertising agency Nectarin, became a participant in the international film festival about social cinema and social innovations.

**IN 2021, THE DEAF-BLIND INTERNET PROJECT RECEIVED THE BRONZE PRIZE OF THE SILVER MERCURY AWARD.**

As a reminder: within the framework of the Deafblind Internet project, a Digital switch appeared on the websites of our media partners during

the day, which darkened the display. This gave users the opportunity to briefly feel like a deafblind person. The total coverage of the project

amounted to more than 8.1 million people.

**A VIDEO ABOUT “DEAF-BLIND INTERNET” HAS BEEN SHORT-LISTED IN THE NOMINATION “SOCIAL VIDEO” OF THE FILM FESTIVAL.**



## Merch at large marketplaces

The T-shirts of the Con-nection Foundation, designed by Art. Lebedev Studio, which were previously set up for sale on the Takie Dela marketplace and the Art. Lebedev Studio store, started selling in Lamoda – one of the largest online stores.



THE DESIGN WAS MADE  
WITH DOTTED BRAILLE  
LETTERS.

## Media and social networks

In 2021, approx. 1500 publications about the Foundation were published. We wrote and sent 30 press releases. In 2021, the number of subscribers in our

social networks increased by 3064 people. 539 original posts were posted in the main social networks of the Foundation, as well as 94 materials in the account of

the ceramic workshop of the Foundation. The total coverage of publications amounted to at least 500 thousand people.

RECOGNIZABILITY OF THE CONCEPT OF  
"DEAF-BLINDNESS" BY RESULTS OF 2021 AMOUNTED  
TO 41% (ACCORDING TO THE INFOM DATA).





# Inclusion

## Un Certain Regard. Regions Festival



Forum-festival of the social theater “Un Certain Regard. Regions” became a continuation of the All-Russian festival “Un Certain Regard”. It was held at the National Library of the Republic of Tatarstan on March 25-28, 2021.

The purpose of the Forum-Festival is to unite the regional professional community and caring people as a driving force that forms a dynamic inclusive society. The organizers of the festival also aim to develop creative cooperation

in the regions and improve the professional level of groups involved in social and inclusive art.

The program of the Forum-Festival included:

- seven performances;
- five interdisciplinary projects.

An educational program for specialists in sociocultural inclusion was also presented.

As part of the festival, performances in Kazan, Izhevsk, Perm, Naberezhnye Chelny were

shown. These are productions that touch on topics important to modern society, created with the participation of people with disabilities, adolescents who find themselves in a dysfunctional family situation, people from other “excluded” groups.

The new interdisciplinary program included exhibitions and performances by artists of the Volga Federal District, raising social issues, as well as an extensive educational program with lectures, workshops and master classes from sociocultural inclusion specialists.

The theater program was curated by director Boris Pavlovich and theater critic Alexandra Dunaeva, the interdisciplinary program was

supervised by the head of the Pushkin for All program Evgenia Kiseleva, the educational program was curated by a theater researcher, curator of the Inclusion.Tverskaya, 15 school Daria Kovalskaya.

"Special view. Regions" brought together 200 participants from the cities of the Volga Federal District. The audience of performances is more than 700 spectators, in total more than 2000 people took part in the events. Entrance

to the performances was free, the performances were accompanied by translation into Russian sign language and audio commentary. Online broadcasts of performances were held in the social networks of the organizers.

– Everything was interesting and useful! Even those performances that I personally consider not the most successful, it was important to see in order to understand something about social theater and about yourself. Everything that happened at the Forum encouraged me to think, feel, communicate, write and do.

Now I want to try out some trainings, a form of verbatim and more in my theater. I met amazing people who sincerely believe in their work and love it. It was a super concentration of good people in the same space. The exchange of energy, thoughts, experience, knowledge was fantastic. Such a Forum is a very important thing that is needed today and now! He really inspired me to engage in social theater, showed me what a lively and interesting process it is.



**Anastasia Pavlova,**  
participant of the educational  
program of the festival (Izhevsk)

Organizers of the Forum-Festival: Alisher Usmanov Charitable Foundation "Art, Science and Sport" within the framework of the program to support people with visual impairment "Special look" and the Center for Creative Projects "Inclusion" with the support of the Living City Charitable Foundation and the Con-nection Charitable Foundation.







## "Inclusion for Small Towns of Russia" project

"Inclusion for Small Towns" is a tour of the most impressive inclusive performances in small towns of Russia. The goal of the project was to show residents the opportunities and sociocultural resources of an inclusive theater and form a creative and professional community in these towns.

Tours of inclusive performances took place in nine towns. The performances were watched by residents of Orsk, Almetievsk, Kineshma, Torzhok, Vyshny Volochok, Berdsk, Iskitim, Vyborg and Gatchina. Tours were held at theatrical venues and in cultural centers of the towns.

They were attended by performances of the Center "Inclusion" and "Inclusion. Schools":

- "The In-Touch" play, a nominee for the "Golden Mask" award (Inclusion Center, director Ruslan Malikov) in Orsk, Almetyevsk and Kineshma;
- "Carmen" performance (Centre "Inclusion", directed by Svetlana Opalenik) in Vyshny Volochek and Torzhok;
- "Alexander Sergeevich is with us" play ("Inclusion. School. Novosibirsk", directed by Yana Sigida) in Berdsk and Iskitim;
- "The Man Who Went to the Moon" play ("Inclusion. School. St. Petersburg", directed by Alexander Savchuk) in Vyborg and Gatchina.

During the tour, workshops and lectures were held on social and inclusive theater. In each town, discussions and meetings of the actors with the audience and representatives of local inclusive projects were initiated. Local media (TV, radio and online media) produced publications for each performance.

– We were worried before the show. Still, inclusive performances are not very common, if we are not talking about the capitals. But our fears were not justified – the audience reacted very well to the performance. Many spectators remained in the discussion, took pictures, asked questions: it was clear that both the process of creating the performance and the personal stories of the actors were interesting. I remember the girl at the show in Vyshny Volochek – she said that she wanted to become an actress and our performance inspires her to continue moving towards her dream.



**Svetlana Opalenik,**  
director (Moscow)

The project was supported by the Presidential Grants Foundation and CF "Art, Science and Sport".

– It's great that there were many spectators! We felt their support and warmth, they accepted the performance very well. They even learned to applaud in such a way that was understandable to the deaf-blind – with the clatter of feet!



**Alexey Gorelov,**  
actor, ward of the foundation  
(Moscow)



## Events and facts

- The performance "There's more than just a herring here" became a laureate of the theater festival "Tower";
- From 23 to 26 September, the IN.ART Theater Festival took place in Moscow. The organizers were the Center for Creative Projects "Inclusion" and the Center for Socio-Cultural Rehabilitation of Diana Gurtzkaya. The festival brought together professional and amateur inclusive theater groups. The expert council of the Festival included theater and film actors, public figures and specialists in sociocultural inclusion.

The IN.ART theater program has been supplemented with an educational block. Its participants mastered the techniques of theatrical pedagogy, got acquainted with the concept of "directing the educational environment", and also learned about the

- "pitfalls" of training work and staging an inclusive performance. The experts were the actress of theater and cinema, the creator of the project "Naive? Very much" Nelly Uvarova, theater producer Yevgeny Khudyakov, deputy head of the Rossotrudnichestvo agency, ex-president of the Connection Foundation Dmitry Polikanov, theater, film and circus actress Ekaterina Dar;
- published the collection "Social Theater in Russia. Regions" (electronic version);
  - together with the Connection Foundation and Manege held a mini-festival "Not Alone in the Dark";
  - conducted two international educational online programs of the LearnTogether cycle (together with inclusive projects from the UK and Finland);
  - broadcasts of seven performances of "Inclusion" were held at the festival "Other Art";

- participated in discussions, forums, festivals as speakers (All-Russian Forum of Inclusive Creativity "Extraordinary People", "Other Art", "Chir Chayan" festivals etc.);
- performance of the "Inclusion.Kazan" – "Meetings. Fragments" were in the longlist for the Golden Mask award;
- "There's more than just a herring" play was included in the list of significant projects of the "Map of Vulnerability" festival of the Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts;
- released a video version of the first inclusive "Inclusion. Yolka (New Year's performance for children)".

## Performances

The repertoire of the Inclusion Center and Inclusion.Schools has grown to 29 performances, including 7 premieres. Two more premieres were released as part of the side project "Inclusion. St. Petersburg" – "Changing the cultural environment together – theater."

The artists of Inclusion took the stage 21 times (in 2020 – 19). In 2020, 3481 spectators saw the productions of the Inclusion Center (in 2020 – 1285).

Performances of the Inclusion Center in 2021:

- 10 performances were held as part of the Inclusion for Small Towns of Russia project;
- four performances of the "There's more than just a herring" play took place at the Center named after Vs. Meyerhold and one was performed at the Kaliningrad State Drama Theater as part of the second international theater festival "The Tower";
- two pre-premiere

performances of The Real Stories of Fairies and Other Magical Creatures took place at the Orsk Drama Theater (the performance was created with the support of the Mikhail Prokhorov Foundation for the Orsk Theater School "Inclusion");



- the show of the "Carmen" play was held at the Management Workshop

- in Solnechnogorsk for participants in the "Leaders of Russia" project;

- The documentary performance "Tell the City" was shown in the inclusive center "Tverskaya, 15".

– We were very warmly welcomed in Kaliningrad with the play "There is More Than Just a Herring", the stage was comfortable. And the new, introduced into the performance during the rehearsal (circling of the stage platform), caused a lot of positive emotions in us, the actors. The performance began with this and set the tone for the entire performance. It was unexpected and pleasant to learn that we got the first place at the festival "The Tower", as our inclusive performance participated on an equal footing with other non-inclusive professional participants.



**Irina Povolotskaya,**  
artist, actress, poetess, deaf-blind  
(Moscow)





## Theater schools

### INCLUSION.SCHOOL.MOSCOW

After the graduation of the second group of students, the school changed the format of the organization. Together with the Diana Gurtskaya Center for Sociocultural Rehabilitation, "Inclusion. Studio" was opened: the graduates of two school groups and participants of the performances of the Center with stage experience are

engaged in it in a laboratory format. There is also a group for "newcomers" – studio members who have not previously been involved in theater practices

#### **Achievements of 2021:**

- premiere of the graduating performance "The Thing" based

on the works of Daniil Kharmis;

- defense of own projects within the course "Project Management";
- release of the second group of students "Inclusion.School. Moscow";
- opening of the "Inclusion. Studios" on the basis of the School.

### INCLUSION.TVERSKAYA, 15 (MOSCOW)

#### **Achievements of 2021:**

- students of the school became participants in the inclusive laboratory of the Sovremennik Theater under the direction of Boris Pavlovich;
- preparation and demonstration of the performance "Tell the City"

(shown at the Manege as part of the mini-fest "Not Alone in the Dark");

- preparation of the installation "Us" – a sound composition written by people with hearing and vision impairments under the direction of the composer, supplemented with objects from monologues

about the last thing seen in life. Objects were accessible for tactile inspection and complemented the stories in a graphic novel way;

- conducting an open demonstration of laboratory work.

### INCLUSION.SCHOOL.SAINT PETERSBURG

#### **Achievements of 2021:**

- organization and holding of the laboratory "Changing the Cultural Environment Together: Theatre" together with ANO "KontArt" and the New Stage of the Alexandrinsky Theatre. According to the results of the laboratory, sketches of

performances were presented, two of which were finalized to performances. The premieres took place on the New Stage of the Alexandrinsky Theatre;

- holding the forum "Theater as an inclusive space". The Forum included performances, and workshops by inclusive theater specialists, public

discussions on the topic of socio-cultural inclusion;

- issue of a methodological guide for working with inclusive groups;
- a new youth group has begun work.

### INCLUSION.SCHOOL.KALININGRAD

#### **Achievements of 2021:**

- video project about the theater behind the scenes "Theater is";

• conducting the training "We and Sculptures" at the Kaliningrad Museum of Fine Arts.

## INCLUSION.SCHOOL.NOVOSIBIRSK

**Achievements of 2021:**

- holding an inclusive laboratory together with the Novosibirsk "Laboratory of Contemporary Art". As a result of the laboratory, sketches of performances with the participation of students with disabilities from the Novosibirsk

school were created. One of the students was the author of the sketch. As a result of the laboratory, three sketches were finalized to performances and were included in the repertoire of the Novosibirsk "Laboratory of Contemporary Art";

- premieres of performances "Forest Symphony", "Robots",

"My way", "Visible-invisible friends";

- The performances of the School became participants in the VI International Festival of Arts "Inspiration" at VDNH, the festivals "Chir Chayaan" and ARTWEEK-2021.

## INCLUSION.SCHOOL.EKATERINBURG

**Achievements of 2021:**

- premiere of the Maryino Field play;

- participation in the Interregional Festival of Inclusive Theaters "Dream!";

- performance of students of the School at the Ural Industrial Biennale;

- participation of students and teachers in the Russian-American inclusive project "Dance every day"

## INCLUSION.SCHOOL.KAZAN

**Achievements of 2021:**

- premiere of the "Collectors" play. The performance was

included in the repertoire of the theater stage MON;

- performance "Meetings. Fragments" entered the long

list of the festival "Golden Mask" in the nomination "the most significant performances of the season".

## INCLUSION.SCHOOL.ORSK

**Achievements of 2021:**

- release of the play "The Real Stories of Fairies and Other

Magical Creatures". The play entered the repertoire of the Orsk State Drama Theatre;

- start of a new group of students.

## INCLUSION.SCHOOL.KURGAN

**Achievements of 2021:**

- Opening of a school together with the Department of Culture of the Kurgan Region and the Kurgan Regional Public Organization of the Achilles

Club for the Disabled. The first group of participants;

- holding a Russian-German program for the exchange of experience, which was attended by theater teachers from Germany and Switzerland,

representatives of the DeutschlandTheater "Comedia", the Yekaterinburg ORA Theater, the Nyagan Youth Theater, etc.

TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: 133

– Thank you for the most interesting and productive time in this difficult year, which we and our children spent with you! Thank you for your kind attitude to all project participants; for our children, "Inclusion" is one of the few places where they can communicate, feel like equal participants in creative life, develop their abilities, just be glad that they are needed, talented and can play a sketch, or even a performance! Is it possible to name the price of self-confidence, gradually coming to each and every one of our daughters and sons after such projects? Thanks to everyone who made this possible!



**Olga Bulgakova,**  
mother of the student Alexander  
(St. Petersburg)

– I love our classes so much! Pleasant communication, excellent teachers, and it is valuable for me to spend free time with friends. I found friends here and began to better navigate the city: in addition to the fact that the Inclusion school is located on one of the most beautiful streets in Novosibirsk, we often go to other interesting places – theaters, workshops. This gives you the opportunity to discover something new in the world and in yourself!



**Ekaterina Petrova,**  
student (Novosibirsk)

– We have a lot of newcomers, literally at every lesson someone new joins us. Everyone is very open and interested, but the road will be mastered by the walking one. In a word, we create together again and inspire each other.



**Natalya Kiseleva,**  
school curator (Yekaterinburg)

– The students of our school are bright and gifted individuals, for whom the theater has become an opportunity not only to express themselves, but also to share their vision of the world with others. They worked hard to create a fairy tale for the audience, but for them the fairy tale has already come true. We hope that our performances can become a meeting place for completely different people and a way to learn to hear and understand everyone.



**Elena Marchenko,**  
school curator (Orsk)

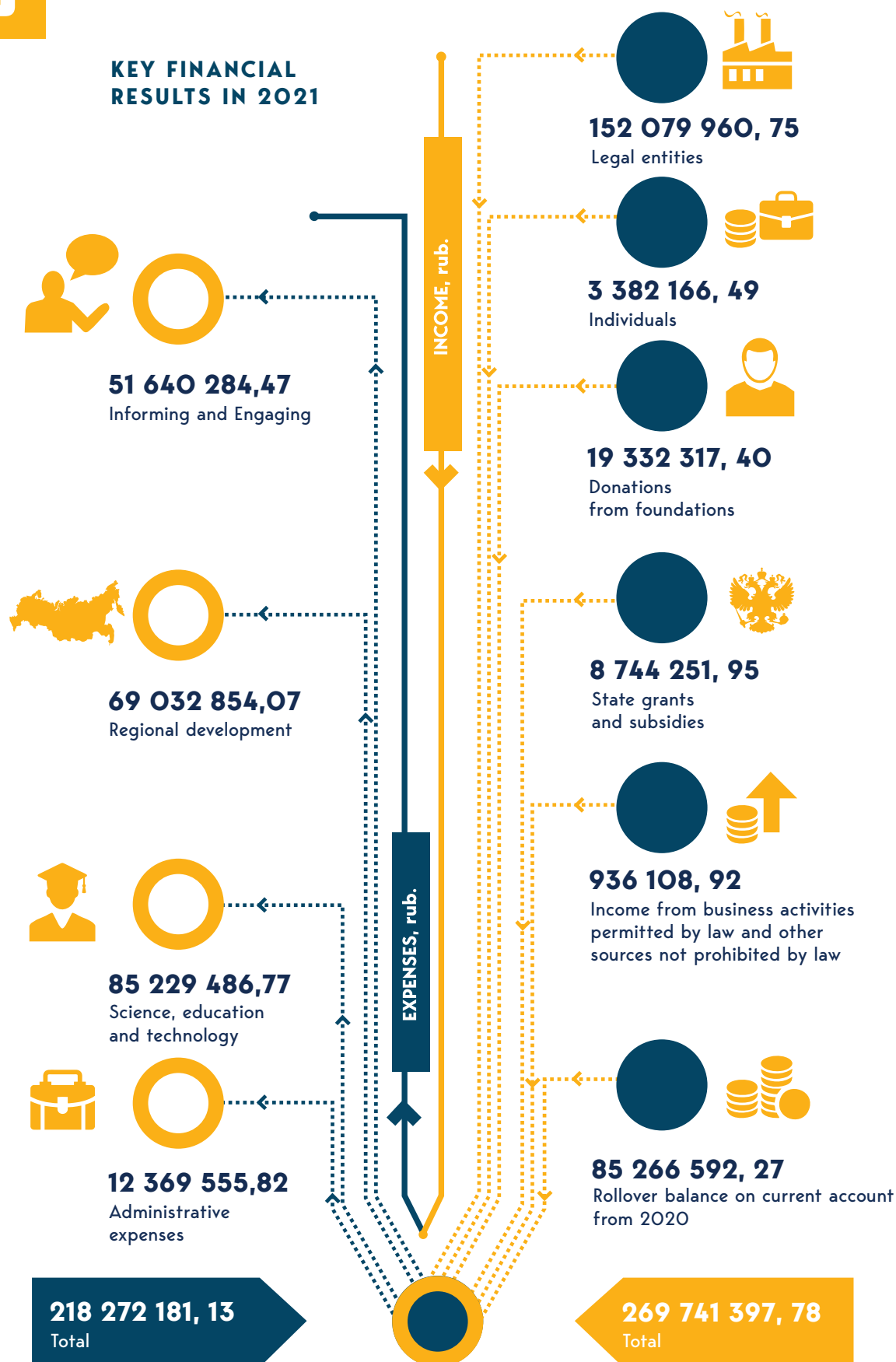
The theater project was implemented with the support of the Art, Science and Sport Charitable Foundation, PJSC SberBank, PJSC VTB Bank, PJSC Rosseti, and the Magnit network.





# Financial report

## KEY FINANCIAL RESULTS IN 2021



**Gref German**

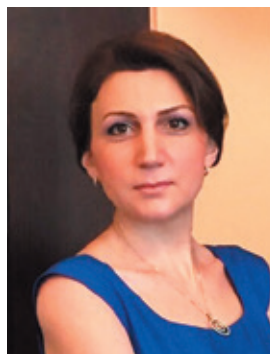
Chairman  
Board of Trustees of the  
Foundation;  
President, Chairman  
of the Board of PJSC  
Sberbank

**Belousov Andrei**

First Deputy Chairman of  
the Board of Trustees of  
the Foundation;  
First Deputy Prime  
Minister of the Russian  
Federation

**Alexandrov Anatoly**

Russian scientist, doctor  
of technical sciences;  
President of MSTU N.E.  
Bauman

**Baranova Yanika**

Executive Secretary of the  
Board of Trustees of the  
Foundation;  
financial ombudsman of  
PJSC Sberbank

**Bezrukov Sergey**

Artistic director of the  
Moscow Provincial Drama  
Theater

**Vekselberg Viktor**

Chairman of the Board of  
Trustees of the Skolkovo  
Institute of Science and  
Technology;  
Chairman of the Board of  
Directors of the Renova  
Group of Companies

**Vinokurov Alexander**

President of the  
investment company  
Marathon Group

**Gergiev Valery**

General Director and  
Artistic Director of the  
Mariinsky Theater

**Golikova Tatyana**

Deputy Prime Minister of  
the Russian Federation for  
Social Policy

**Daikhes Nikolay**

Director of the Federal  
State Budgetary  
Institution «National  
Medical Research Center  
for Otorhinolaryngology  
of the Federal Medical  
Biological Agency»

**Epifanova Galina**

Director of the Sergiev  
Posad Orphanage for  
the Deaf-Blind, of the  
Ministry of Labor of  
Russia

**Kat Frank**

President of the Deafblind  
International (DBI)

**Kerimov Suleiman**

Member of the Federation  
Council of the Federal  
Assembly of the Russian  
Federation from the  
Republic of Dagestan

**Kostin Andrey**

President-Chairman of  
the Management Board of  
PJSC VTB Bank

**Kotyakov Anton**

Minister of Labor and  
Social Protection of the  
Russian Federation



**Kotyakov Anton**

Minister of Labor and Social Protection of the Russian Federation



**Mordashov Alexey**

Chairman of the Board of Directors of PJSC Severstal



**Murashko Mikhail**

Minister of Health of the Russian Federation



**Morbay Jillian**

Advisor of the Sense – for deafblind people. Member of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation (until 07/14/2021)



**Neroev Vladimir**

Chief freelance specialist-ophthalmologist of the Ministry of Health of Russia, Director of the Research Institute of Eye Diseases named after the Helmholtz



**Nisan Bella**

President of the Interprofessional Alliance for the Protection of Vision «Gate of the Sun»



**Potanin Vladimir**

President of MMC Norilsk Nickel



**Pumpyansky Dmitry**

Chairman of the Board of Directors of PJSC Pipe Metallurgical Company (until 03/09/2022)



**Sirotkin Sergey**  
(1949-2021)

President of the society for social support of the deaf-blind «Elvira». Member of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation (until 07/14/2021)



**Skvortsova Veronika**

Head of the Federal Biomedical Agency



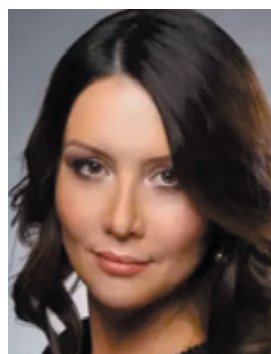
**Slipchenko Sergey**

General Director of Philip Morris Sales and Marketing LLC



**Topilin Maxim**

Chairman of the Committee on Economic Policy of the State Duma of Russian Federation. Member of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation (until 07/14/2021)



**Chupsheva Svetlana**

General Director of ANO «Agency for Strategic Initiatives»



**Chemezov Sergey**

General Director of Rostec Corporation. Member of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation (until 07/14/2021)





## Council of the foundation



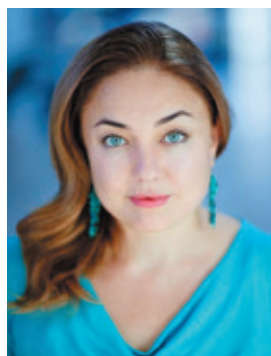
**Bashkirova Olga**

General Director of the RENOVA Charitable Foundation. Member of the Council of the Foundation (for 2021)



**Goldberg Maxim**

Member of the Council of the Foundation



**Gordina-Nevmerzhitskaya Irina**

Member of the Council of the Foundation (for 2021)



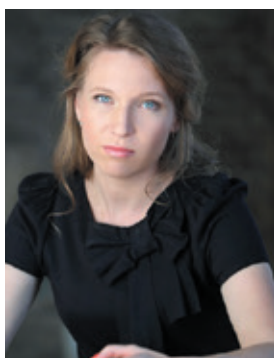
**Kaminarskaya Natalya**

Director of the Blagosfera Center. Member of the Council of the Foundation (for 2021)



**Konstantinova Tatyana**

Member of the Council of the Foundation (for 2021)



**Nesterova Anna**

Member of the Council of the Foundation



**Smirnova Kira**

Member of the Council of the Association of the SO NPO "Charity Meeting "All Together". Member of the Board of the Foundation



**Shcherbakova Olga**

Managing Partner at ZOOM Executive Search/Boyden. Member of the Board of the Foundation

The Deaf- blind Support Foundation "Con-nection" was established on April 8, 2014 at a meeting of the Supervisory Board of the Agency for Strategic Initiatives chaired by the President of Russia V.V. Putin. Our goal is systemic changes in the field of support and social integration of people with simultaneous hearing and visual impairments. Every year, the Foundation implements many programs and supports projects that improve the quality of life of deaf-blind people.





## Our partners

### Strategic partners



## Partners



## Information Partners



"CON-NECTION": PASSWORD TO THE WORLD OF THE DEAFBLIND

2021

annual report of the Foundation "Con-nection"

Managing editor Vladimir Korkunov  
Design by Sergey Krasnenko

**Made by order of the Con-nection Foundation**

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"CONNECTION": THE PASSWORD TO THE WORLD OF THE DEAFBLIND

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MOSCOW  
2022

