



Russian International
Affairs Council

FIVE YEAR --- SUMMARY

RUSSIAN INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS COUNCIL

FIVE YEAR SUMMARY

2016



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01

WELCOME REMARKS BY **SERGEY LAVROV**



Dear colleagues and friends,

Our heartiest congratulations on this significant date - the fifth anniversary of the Russian International Affairs Council.

There is a lot to be proud of. Having come a long way, RIAC has gained vast experience and was rightfully recognized both in Russia and abroad. Today the Council serves as a link between government institutions, civil society, and political scientists. It is also an actual platform for constructive dialogue on the current key issues, which contributes to the strengthening of our country's position in international affairs.

RIAC's international activity, including cooperation with the OSCE and the Council of Europe, has gained wide recognition. In the current challenging situation, the efforts made are aimed to promote an unbiased image of Russia, to consolidate an atmosphere of trust and mutual understanding, and are of vital importance.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation values the close cooperation with the Russian International Affairs Council. The proposals brought forward in the analytical materials are taken into consideration in the course of work and are considered in decision making processes. It is rewarding that a number of outstanding academics, RIAC members, are part of the Scientific Council at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and successfully engage in its activity.

RIAC's work is inseparably associated with the name of Evgeny Primakov, who was the Chair of the RIAC Board of Trustees for four years. I am sure that Evgeny Primakov's rich legacy and his fundamental works will remain your vital asset.

With the traditions formed, RIAC is sure to serve as an intellectual and analytical pillar for Russia's foreign policy, remaining a credible partner for Russian diplomacy.

I wish you plentiful inspiration, health, new achievements for the benefit of our Fatherland, and all the best.

Sergey Lavrov

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IGOR IVANOV'S WELCOME ADDRESS



One of the features of civil society is that time flies rapidly in this area of activity. For a university or a business five years is a launching period, while for an NGO it is maturity. Not many NGOs manage to reach this point - working conditions change, enthusiasm runs low, the founding team breaks, and a promising initiative starts fading away, eventually ceasing to exist.

Fortunately, this sad fate was not destined for the Russian International Affairs Council. The first five years of our life were a period of active work towards the organizational development of the Council, defining our priorities, constructive networking with the governmental structures, scientific and educational centers, business structures, the expert community, and international partners.

The most valuable asset the Council accumulated in these years is its members. Prominent politicians, diplomats, scientists, leading experts in international affairs, and journalists encouraged the rapid development of the organization and defined its place as an independent public research center with their authority, competence, and interest in the work of RIAC. Over the past five years the number of Council members doubled, although the criteria for becoming a member has remained rigid, and the number of members is not viewed as a key performance indicator of RIAC's work.

I would like to express special appreciation to Evgeny Primakov, the first Chair of the RIAC Board of Trustees. It is his wise advice and constant genuine interest in RIAC's activity that helped us to resolve many complicated and sometimes even impossible tasks over these five years. We are proud that the torch is now taken up by Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, and we are sure that with him being elected the Chair of the RIAC's Board of Trustees our organization will continue to successfully accomplish its aims.

However, RIAC is not only its members. It is also a wide network of experts in different areas of world politics and foreign affairs, experts from different regions of Russia – from Kaliningrad Oblast to Primorsky Krai. In several years our Council managed to bring together leading experts in foreign policy and international relations. We work with hundreds of specialists, creatively cooperating with each of them, which guarantees a high analytical level of the materials published under RIAC's trademark.

RIAC is also our website, which is rated as one of the most popular sources of professional information on international relations. There are many people in Russia and abroad who start their day with an analytical article on the RIAC website.

According to the aims stated in RIAC's Statute, the Council promotes the broadening of cooperation between the government and the expert community in terms of relevant international issues research, and preparing relevant recommendations. We often receive positive feedback from the Administration of the President of the Russian Federation, the Security Council, the Government, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and other ministries and departments. It inspires us and proves that we have embarked on the right track.

From the very beginning, cooperation with Russia's leading universities has been an important field of RIAC's work. We see it as part of our input in educating future specialists in international affairs. Corporate members of the Council include 11 universities. RIAC cooperates with all of them on various projects, addressing the individual needs of each educational partner institution.

The Council is going to work more actively with Russian business circles. Some of the leading Russian corporations and companies have become RIAC corporate members. It is important for us to justify their trust and gradually build mutually advantageous cooperation. We are just at the beginning of this path, gaining experience, and elaborating the mechanisms of interaction. Though we are convinced that RIAC might and must be helpful not only for the Government, but also for the Russian business community.

The Council has created the necessary organizational structure and has obtained relevant skills to organize large scale cross-subject research and practice conferences as well as scientific research performed at a high professional level. The topics for the conferences and research cover a wide range of issues, including regional and global issues like migration, trans-regional economic cooperation, cooperation in the Arctic, cybersecurity, arms control, regional conflicts, etc.

The Council's work is carried out by an ambitious team of young professionals who will keep resolving the pending issues on RIAC's agenda at a high professional level.

My congratulations to all RIAC members, our numerous partners and friends in Russia and abroad on this small but important festive occasion, our Fifth Anniversary.

Igor Ivanov

03 «Another 5 Years»

ANDREY KORTUNOV'S OPENING REMARKS



"The secret of all victory, – as Marcus Aurelius presciently pointed out about 2,000 years ago, – lies in the organization of the non-obvious". This notable observation is rightly treated as universal, though it is more relevant for young and flexible structures that are not bound by traditions, procedures and rules, and are ready to search for the "non-obvious", which is considered untimely, excessive, and even risky by serious and well-established organizations. RIAC's work has always had this intention to look beyond the horizon of the current international situation, to note the "non-obvious" tendencies in the developments of world politics, and to try to find answers to the subtle questions of today that might shape tomorrow's global agenda.

We definitely could not foresee the harshness of the systemic crisis to the full extent five years ago – to be more precise, the entirety of the different crises that tear at the thinned out fabric of aging world politics and economy. In 2011, many of the international relations development trends looked a lot less alarming, and many prospects seemed a lot brighter than in 2016. Evidently, the upcoming five years will be complicated and dangerous for Russia, its allies and opponents, for our partners and our competitors, and for the international system as a whole.

What can a small non-profit organization actually do in this situation?

Firstly, with the crises and rapid shift of the independent variables going on, innovative ideas and out-of-the-box suggestions on mid-term planning are becoming really valuable. One can say that alongside with the customary foreign strategy and tactics, what is known in domestic military thinking as the "operational art", and in Western terminology called "major tactics" or "minor strategy", comes to the foreground. The ruptures and lacunas between the strategy and the tactics are inevitable. While they are almost invisible in a stable international system, they become quite dangerous when the system is progressively destabilized. The role of RIAC and other expert organizations is to detect such ruptures and lacunas and to fill them up professionally.

Secondly, swift polarization (and politicization) of the expert community dealing with foreign policy issues is one of the most obvious negative consequences of any acute international crisis. Very often the line between independent professional analysis and political rhetoric becomes almost indefinable. Expert discussion skills are disappearing, as well as the skills of earnest dialog on policy options and constructive professional feedback. Our task is to allow no political discourse degradation to happen, to promote, preserve, and develop the Russian community of international affairs experts in all their diversity and plurality of opinions.

By all means, it is especially important for the new generation of Russian international relations analysts who are starting their career in the conditions of a severe information and propaganda standoff between Russia and the West.

Thirdly, the current tense atmosphere suggests serious challenges for the bonds of partnership between Russian and foreign analytical centers, universities, professional associations, and civil society institutions, that have taken years and even decades to build. Not all of our partners are ready to continue cooperation in the default mode, the political environment bringing its negative trends into the work of even the most independent organizations and institutions. It is especially vital in this situation to preserve the strong network of international contacts, the accumulated potential of bilateral and multilateral dialogues, the readiness to work on "Track 2" and even "Track 1.5". Sooner or later this resource will be much needed.

Of course, any of the tasks mentioned above cannot be resolved with the efforts of the Russian International Affairs Council alone. Perhaps, a similar five-year set of tasks is now being considered in the leading universities, in the institutions of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and in independent research centers. It is obvious that only joint efforts will allow our expert community to help our country at this crucial stage of the formation of the new world order. And as it was five years ago, RIAC is open to all forms of cooperation with the partners concerned.

Andrey Kortunov

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GENERAL INFORMATION

The non-profit partnership Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC) is a membership-based Russian non-profit organization. The partnership was established by the Resolution of its founders in accordance with presidential decree no. 59-rp dated 2 February 2010 "On the establishment of the non-profit partnership Russian International Affairs Council".

RIAC MISSION

TO FACILITATE RUSSIA'S PROSPERITY
THROUGH INTEGRATION INTO THE
GLOBAL COMMUNITY.

RIAC SERVES AS A LINK BETWEEN THE
STATE, ACADEMIC COMMUNITY, BUSINESS,
AND CIVIL SOCIETY TO PROVIDE
SOLUTIONS TO FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES.

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Russian Federation
www.mid.ru



Ministry of Education and Science
of the Russian Federation
mon.gov.ru



Russian Academy of Sciences
www.ras.ru



Russian Union of Industrialists
and Entrepreneurs
www.rspp.ru



Interfax International Information
Group
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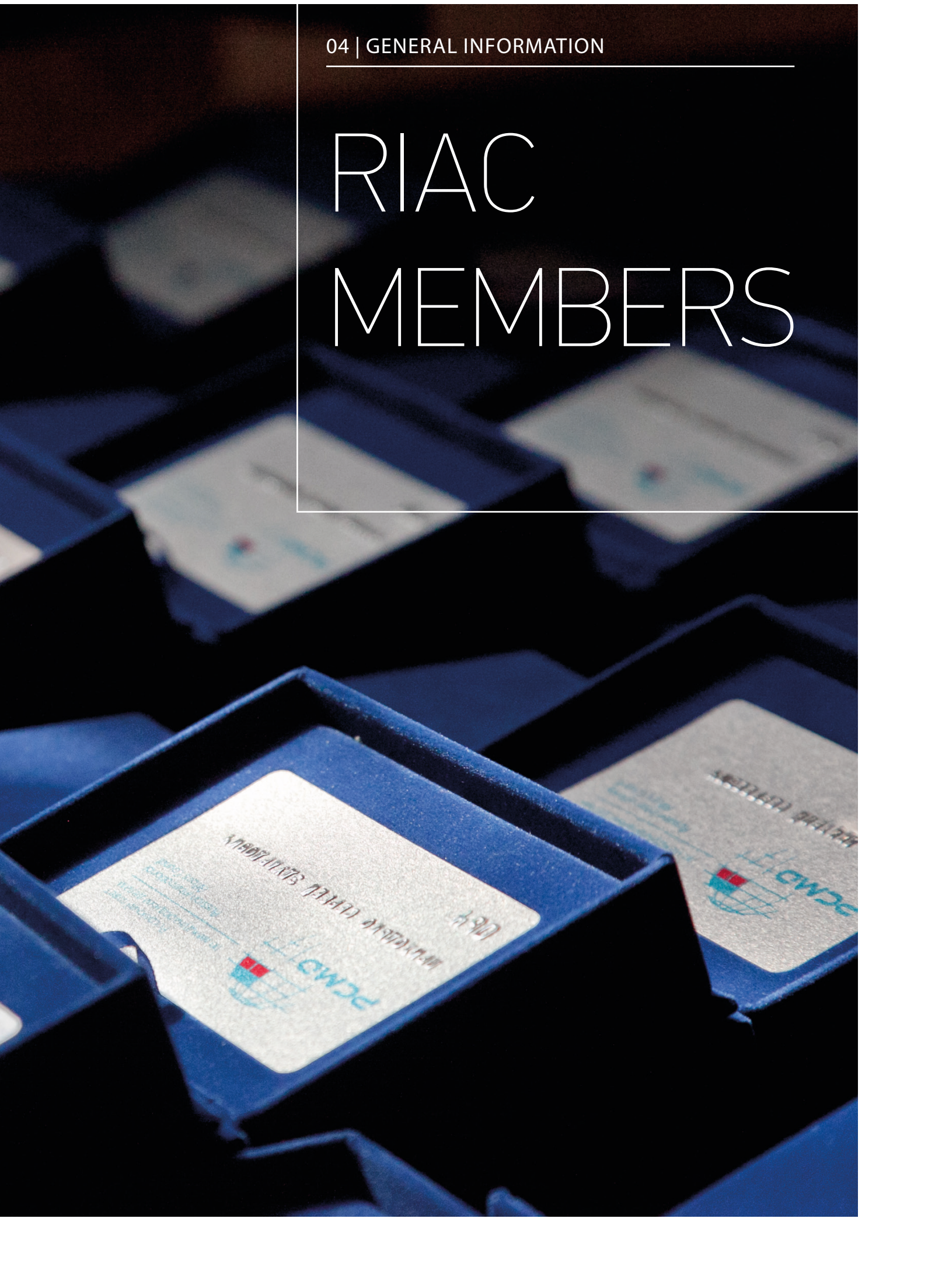
RIAC GOVERNING BODIES

RIAC MEMBERS GENERAL MEETING

THE GENERAL MEETING IS THE HIGHEST GOVERNING BODY OF THE PARTNERSHIP. THE KEY FUNCTION OF THE GENERAL MEETING IS TO ENFORCE THE AIMS FOR WHICH THE PARTNERSHIP WAS ESTABLISHED.



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- REPORTS, WORKING PAPERS, PUBLICATIONS, GUIDANCE MATERIALS, POLICY BRIEFS
- SEMINARS, ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS, EXPERT MEETINGS, DEBATES, WEBINARS
- CLUB MEETINGS, CLOSED EXPERT MEETINGS
- INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES
- PUBLIC LECTURES, TRAINING SESSIONS, SUMMER AND WINTER SCHOOLS
- PRESS-CONFERENCES AND BRIEFINGS



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www.eurocement.ru

PAO "LUKOIL"
www.lukoil.com

Russian Technologies State Corporation
www.rostec.ru

PAO "Severstal"
www.severstal.com

"Summa" Group
www.summagroup.ru

Federal Grid Company of Unified Energy System
www.fsk-ees.ru

Omsk Production Association named after
A.S. Popov
www.relero.com

IQ ONE
www.iqone.ru

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www.kantiana.ru

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www.narfu.ru

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www.urfu.ru

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www.rggu.com

MGIMO-University
www.mgimo.ru

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www.unn.ru

Ammosov North-Eastern Federal University
in Yakutsk
www.s-vfu.ru

Tomsk State University
www.tsu.ru

RIAC VICE-PRESIDENTS

- **Alexander Dzasokhov**
Deputy Chairman, Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO
- **Georgy Mamedov**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation
- **Mikhail Margelov**
Vice-President, "Transneft", PJSC
- **Vyacheslav Trubnikov**
Member of IMEMO Directorate, Army General, Russian Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Vice-presidential candidacy is to be approved by the RIAC Presidium for the duration of one year.

RIAC INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION





HISTORY OF RIAC ACTIVITIES



05

FIVE YEARS OF RIAC HISTORY

RIAC: KEEPING UP WITH THE TIMES

In 2011–2016, the world went through sharp and diverse changes. Russia's foreign policy changed accordingly. Addressing the new challenges, 2011 was the year the Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC) was established pursuant to the presidential decree. It was founded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation, Russian Academy of Sciences Presidium, Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, and Interfax International Information Group. RIAC's key objective is to link the efforts of the state, academic community, business, and civil society to raise the effectiveness of Russia's foreign policy course. Following this mission, RIAC started providing regular analysis of key international issues.

2011

One of RIAC's main objectives has always been the development of international studies in Russia. The first major initiative was the publication of a six-volume anthology "Russia in the Global World: 2000-2011". The most substantive articles by Russian foreign affairs experts published in the first decade of the 21st century were thoroughly selected and compiled by geographical and functional areas of study. This was the first publication of its kind in Russia. Shortly after the first anthology, RIAC published a handbook "International Research in Russia" that compiled information about the leading foreign affairs specialists in Russia. Now it is freely available on the Internet as an interactive database.

Since 2011, RIAC has been regularly organizing contests for journalists, scientists, bloggers, and students, aiming to enhance the interest of the youth towards professional activity in international relations.

A milestone event of 2011 was the launch of RIAC's website (russiancouncil.ru) which was created to serve several purposes. First, to prepare and publish high-quality analytical materials on international issues that would be both expert and practice-oriented. Second, to create a communication platform for a wide range of participants to exchange opinions: from decision makers to students and young professionals.



Third, to turn the RIAC website into an educational resource for young foreign affairs specialists.

One of the first large online analytical projects was the series of articles about the Break-up of the Socialist Bloc, dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the independence of the new states in the post-Soviet space.

Russia's strategy in terms of the establishment of a multipolar world – BRICS and G20 — was also among the first of RIAC's areas of research. This project designed the key features of "RIAC's method" – resting on a wide network of experts and institutions, the testing of ideas on international communication platforms, and a constant practical approach, primarily with the help of representatives of the relevant ministries and departments.

2011 was marked by special attention to the Asia-Pacific in terms of regional priorities of Russia's foreign policy. At the time, Russia was preparing to host the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in Vladivostok – an event that, according to many experts, has hitherto been one of the most important in the history of Russia's Eastern policy since Mikhail Gorbachev's Vladivostok Speech in 1986. As part of the preparations for the APEC Summit, RIAC brought together Russian and foreign experts at the First Asia-Pacific Forum in Moscow, where the participants elaborated the agenda for the APEC Summit.

2012

RIAC continued to work in the Asia-Pacific area in 2012 as well, and included APEC in its educational topic list and as the theme for the Summer School — a short-term program with training sessions, lectures, and seminars, that gave a full spectrum of knowledge and competences to a group of selected participants, members of the Russian team for the APEC Youth Summit.

A month after the Vladivostok Summit concluded, in October 2012, RIAC held the Second Asia-Pacific Forum. In Moscow participants of the Summit, politicians, businessmen, and experts from Russia and APEC countries gathered to have a 2-day discussion on the outcomes of the summit meeting. They brought up their own ideas on maintaining the positive momentum of the past events, turning political arrangements on a wide range of issues into a substantive reality of Russia-Asia relations - from regional security and energy to cooperation in education and science, with all the proposals being summed up in the final report, confirming the discussion outcomes in a separate publication.

Preparations for this large-scale event go along with the analytical support of other areas of Russian foreign policy. The "Arab Spring" brought

a new turn of instability in the Middle East, which affected Russia's interests in the region. In 2012, RIAC began a new project called "Middle East: Political Dynamics and Russia's Interests". Experts and diplomats analyzed the new elites of the region, and sought to find ways for interaction with them in order to restore peace, and to prevent instability from reaching Russia's Islamic regions.

At the same time the Council began to work on two new topics, which soon became the flagship for RIAC, anthologies with articles by Russia's most prominent academics published in each of them. The first topic was international cooperation in the Arctic due to the continual growth of interest in the topic from national authorities. On this topic there was an intersection of multiple issues pertaining to international cooperation: economy, security, human development, and environmental protection.

The second topic was that of international migration. The management of international migration had already then become a global issue, long before the crisis of 2015, not only due to the complicated situation in Syria, but also due to the inability of the international community to





strategically react to the massive flow of refugees from the Middle East to Europe. RIAC published a five-volume anthology on immigration, as well as a handbook of Russian experts and organizations conducting research and surveys on migration.

Relations between Russia and the Western countries were actively developing in 2012. Both sides were trying to find paths of mutual understanding and to create a new agenda for cooperation. In this context RIAC held a conference entitled "Euro-Atlantic Security Community: Myth or Reality?" in March 2012, that was marked by a speech of Dmitry Medvedev, then the President of the Russian Federation. A similar format for an expert-political discussion was implemented at an international conference under the name "Nuclear Weapons and International Security in the 21st Century", that was organized in cooperation with the Global Zero movement. The speakers included deputy prime-minister of Russia Dmitry Rogozin. Serving as a platform for both open and closed discussions, it is common practice for RIAC to encourage leading experts, politicians in office, and diplomats to share their opinions.

The Global Science program was developed for Russian academics of international affairs in 2012 in order to develop skills for writing academic papers in English. Publication in international academic journals enhances the rating of Russian universities on a global scale.

Meanwhile, Russia entered a new political cycle in 2012: Vladimir Putin's new term in office and his "May Decrees" set an objective for the international affairs community to update the approaches and priorities for Russia's global strategy. Based on the cumulative experience and intellectual potential of RIAC's members, postulates were prepared on the foreign policy of Russia for the years 2012-2018 – conceptual material proposing concrete approaches for addressing key international challenges. This publication had a direct impact on the foreign policy process. Some of its amendments were used in the development of Russia's foreign policy conception in 2013, signed by President Vladimir Putin.

2013

The development of European research continued in 2013. "Russia—European Union: Potential for Partnership" conference speakers included Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, President of the European Commission Jose Manuel Barroso, and a number of prominent politicians and community leaders from Russia and the EU. The participants were trying to find points of contact, to strengthen mutual trust. In a similar way the Council was working on the "Building a Greater Europe" project with regular meetings and joint statements by opinion leaders and politicians from Russia and other European countries.

In October 2013 the President of RIAC Igor Ivanov and the Head of the Federal Migration Service of the Russian Federation Konstantin Romodanovsky made speeches in the UN, at High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, where they represented the opinion of the Russian expert and political community in resolving this global issue.

By 2013 Russia had accumulated foreign policy resources that made it possible not only to pay more attention to the European area of research, but also to find new quality in relations with Asian countries. RIAC got into gear in a number of areas, including proposals on raising the effectiveness of Russian policy towards China, Japan, South Korea, and India. All these projects were being implemented in close cooperation with the relevant countries, where RIAC's initiatives are always perceived with interest. Along with public and analytical work, RIAC was actively implementing its own projects on professional training of foreign affairs specialists. In pursuing these aims, RIAC started cooperation with higher educational institutions, RIAC corporate members, who were 10 by 2013, on a broad scale. The cooperation included presentations of educational projects, public lectures by guest expert speakers, and summer schools. With RIAC's support, the Ural Federal University (UrFU) now hosts a SCO and BRICS Center.



In December 2013 RIAC hosted a cornerstone event for its Arctic project – the international conference "The Arctic: Region of Cooperation and Development". The Council invited representatives of all governmental agencies, organizations, and relevant experts to make a presentation of its analytical research: a three-volume anthology and an "International Cooperation in the Arctic" report.

In 2013 RIAC created and added a unique program on Internet-resource development to its educational projects. A set of training materials and training sessions with modifications for university and business made it possible to improve the quality of Russian universities presence in the global network. RIAC added the youth to the ranks of its priority audience. A workgroup of young americanists was formed in order to help promising Russian experts to discuss issues pertaining to Russia-US relations in a free format, adopting the experience of the older generation.

In 2013, according to online traffic, the RIAC website was among the leading online resources publishing high-quality analytical articles on international relations and Russia's foreign policy. With about 100,000 visitors a month, RIAC's website became an authoritative platform of international expertise. Analytical materials are published daily in Russian and in English.

There were also a number of meetings with the former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Senator Sam Nunn, Ambassador Thomas Pickering, and others.



2014

2014 was marked by new challenges for the world order. At the very centre of Europe, Ukraine plunged into an armed conflict, which resulted in a dramatic split between Russia and the West, forcing their relations into a downward spiral, reaching low point after low point. In this context, RIAC interacted with European and U.S. partners, trying to find ways to resolve the issues at hand. Experts, RIAC members and administration continually worked with the representatives of Western partner organizations, e.g. the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, Carnegie Center, Center for Strategic and International Research, Marshall Fund, Atlantic Council, East-West Institute, and many others. Finding common points continues via different channels and on different levels - from narrow format group meetings like the Ivanov-Talbot-Albright meeting, to the Russian-European Youth Dialog.

Arrangements for the 40th anniversary of the 1975 Helsinki Final Act were an essential part of this work. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly performed a thoughtful analysis of the OSCE activity over the past decades, and selected four international research centers to prepare proposals for the final colloquium. RIAC was responsible for the Russian part: Moscow hosted some discussions for a closed group of parliamentarians, diplomats, and experts. At this complex juncture for the OSCE, the parties managed to perform a critical analysis of the organization's achievements. The finale of this project was RIAC's partaking in the anniversary session of the OSCE PA in the legendary Finlandia Hall in Helsinki.

Working in certain areas of Russia's foreign policy made it possible for the Council to sum up analytical and communication experience and take part on a conceptual basis in the development of Russia's global strategy. In 2014, RIAC joined the ranks of the co-founders of the Valdai Discussion Club Development and Support Foundation, and took part in content-related preparations of the annual Club meeting with President Vladimir Putin. Specifically for this event RIAC conducted a survey "Global Order and Global Anarchy: A Look at the Modern System of International Relations". Since then, RIAC has regularly participated in preparation for the Club's annual meeting.

The active interaction with governmental institutions since the first years of the Council's

work can be considered an acknowledgement of RIAC's intellectual potential. In June 2014 the Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov gave a speech to the members of the Council and defined Russian foreign policy priorities. At an operational level, in 2014 RIAC was closely working with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, the Presidential Administration of Russia, Executive Office of the Government, Security Council, relevant ministries, Federation Council, and regional administration offices.

In 2014 RIAC published a handbook "Military-Political Research in Russia" as a follow up to its continuous work on classification and consolidation of the Russian expert community. The handbook contains information about all competent experts, research organizations, and periodicals whose main focus is the development of the armed forces and Russia's security assurance.

The withdrawal of coalition troops from Afghanistan was scheduled for 2014. Russia's interests were quite obvious - to prevent the destabilization of Afghanistan and to prevent instability from spreading beyond the country's borders. That is why since 2013 RIAC experts have been assessing the risks for Central Asian states in terms of the developing situation in Afghanistan. This systematic work continued in 2014 in cooperation with George Washington University by assessing the possibility for Russian and U.S. cooperation in the region. Together with the UN Development Program the discussion focused on socio-economic issues in Central Asia countries. A number of expert meetings were held to discuss the Islamic factors in regional and global policy.

However, to discuss Central Asia and Afghanistan without considering Russia's interests in a broader geographical context would have been unproductive. In 2014 RIAC's work on Russian-Iranian relations entered a new phase. Numerous expert events and publications were followed by an international conference, "Development of Strategic Partnership between Russia and Iran", with the participation of Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hadi Soleimanpour. In the same year, the

Council began to look for partners in Turkey and held several discussions between Russian and Turkish experts.

In January 2014, prior to the President of Palestine Mahmoud Abbas' visit to Moscow, the Council hosted a meeting with member of the Fatah Central Committee Dr. Nabil Shaath, who is in charge of international relations.

Along with the Central Asian countries, RIAC was actively working with Russia's neighboring states on the Istanbul Process – an expert dialog supported by the Swiss government as part of its mediating role in Russia-Georgia relations, aimed at providing expert support to the dialog between the two countries. Bi- and multilateral meetings in Russia and in Georgia demonstrated that the difficult condition of their bilateral relations after the conflict of 2008 could be improved by means of expert cooperation.

One of RIAC's principle ideas has always been the search for foreign policy areas where Russia has the greatest potential and most room for growth. Proceeding from the belief that specific controversies should not impede practical international cooperation, RIAC in 2014 worked on developing functional projects on international scientific and technological cooperation as well as cyberspace challenges.

In 2014 RIAC translated and published a book by one of the most authoritative Asian theorist of the XXI century K. Mahbubani "The Great Convergence: Asia, the West and the Logic of One World".



2015

In 2015 relations between Russia and Western countries remained in a state of crisis, with the conflict in Ukraine being the main stumbling block, with ramifications extending far beyond just one country. RIAC was performing regular analysis of the Ukrainian issues not only by means of an interactive event overview, but also by publishing a number of materials on Russian-Ukrainian relations and interaction with East European countries. However, the freeze in relations between Russia and the West had more underlying causes than just the disagreement on the future of Ukraine. In order to provide a multi-dimensional overview of the interests of Russia, the U.S., and the EU, RIAC published a report "Managing Differences on European Security in 2015" in cooperation with the Atlantic Council and the European Leadership Network. The analysis showed how different the approaches of Moscow and Brussels are towards current events on the global arena.

RIAC's major book publication in 2015 was the three-volume anthology "Contemporary Foreign International Relations Studies". For this purpose, a total of 140 most essential articles by international affairs experts from 26 countries over the last 20 years were selected, translated, and reviewed.

In order to enhance a bilateral rapprochement between Russian and European positions, and continue the search for possible areas of cooperation, a series of Embassy Seminars on Russia-EU relations was launched in 2015. In cooperation with the Delegation of the EU to Russia and the Embassy of the Presidency-holding country in the Council of the European Union, RIAC hosted meetings for European ambassadors, Russian diplomats, and experts to share opinions on the most pressing bi- and multilateral issues. Such meetings took place during the Presidency of Latvia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and Slovakia.

In 2015 the Council broadened its digital presence by elaborating new forms of visual and interactive work with webinars, long-reads, digests, and online streaming. This approach made it possible to provide a dynamic response to the rapid changes in daily agenda. RIAC is actively engaged on social networks like Facebook, Twitter, VKontakte, LinkedIn, and the RIAC YouTube channel.

2014 and 2015 were marked by the rapid development of Russian-Chinese relations which resulted in the participation of the two leaders in Moscow and Beijing festive events in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the victory in the Great Patriotic War and WWII. Economy-wise, this resulted in a new gas supply contract. RIAC was constantly working in close contact with Chinese partners on proposals for development of financial, cross-border, and SCO cooperation, as well as an improvement in the respective images of each country. Moscow and Shanghai hosted a number of events - from expert meetings and briefings for the mass media to the political expert conference "Russia and China: a New Partnership in a Changing World", that brought together over 500 participants.

RIAC contributed to the celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the victory in the Great Patriotic War by compiling materials on the outcome of the war for different countries in a web-project.

The launch of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) was a significant international event in 2015. The Union is supposed to develop economic relations between Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, and their partners. RIAC started to provide analytical and media support to this project in cooperation with the EAEU regulating authority — the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC). Moscow hosted a Summer school for young specialists from all five countries to increase awareness of different Eurasian



integration aspects. RIAC Published working paper on Kyrgyzstan's joining the EAEU and its associated migration aspects. In order to support the expert discussion within the Eurasian space, RIAC became a partner organization of the Astana Club - a new platform for discussion on the role and place of Eurasia in a globalized world.

In 2015 RIAC started publishing Educational Materials — thematic collections of materials that can be used for building a university course curriculum or a professional development program for specialists of certain international affairs and global politics. The first topics covered are international cooperation in the Arctic and the economic aspects of cross-border migration in Russia.

It was in 2015 that the world really felt the severity of the threat from Islamic radicalism when the instability caused by the ISIS offensive in the Middle East splashed onto the Western world in the form of a migration crisis and terrorist attacks. RIAC was dutifully working on a wide range of issues linked to the Middle East.

In summer 2015 the Council invited the former president of Afghanistan Hamid Karzai, who had a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin and several senior government officials in Moscow. H. Karzai gave a speech before the members of RIAC and took part in a special press-conference on the situation in Afghanistan and Russia's interests in the Greater Middle Eastern region. Similar topics were covered by another famous politician, Egypt's former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Amr Moussa, who came to Moscow on RIAC's invitation.

In September 2015, in cooperation with the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration under the President of the Russian Federation (RANEPA), RIAC organized an international conference "Transnational Migration and Modern States in a Period of Economic Crisis" as a reaction to the migration crisis in Europe and the Middle East. During the event, leading Russian and foreign experts discussed key aspects of international migration and their impact on the economic crisis.

Before the downfall of Russian-Turkish relations, the Council maintained a constant liaison with relevant analytical centers and leading international affairs experts from Turkey. A Moscow conference in October 2015 functioned

as a platform to discuss the differing opinions of the two states, as well as to caution on potential future challenges. Even after Russia-Turkey relations were damaged, RIAC preserved its contacts to find ways out of the situation that had arisen.

The most significant accomplishment in RIAC's cooperation with universities was the creation of a rating of the English-language sites of Russian universities, as well as a program for their further development. The project was accorded recognition both in Russia and abroad. A lot of work had been done to study the opportunities for developing contacts with the Russian academic diaspora abroad.

The Council constantly works on bilateral relations research projects. By 2015 RIAC organized research and forwarded recommendations to develop connections between Russia, the USA, the UK, France, Germany, Italy, Greece, Poland, Egypt, Iran, India, China, Japan, South Korea, and Mexico.

Yevgeny Primakov, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC), passed away in 2015. He was an active participant in the formation of RIAC's development strategy from the very beginning. Sergey Lavrov, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, was elected to be the new Chairman of the Board of Trustees.



2016

By its fifth anniversary, RIAC had a great portfolio of projects, each of which providing analytical support to Russian foreign policy and the promotion of public diplomacy. In order to assist in quality development of Eastern policy prior to the visit of Vladimir Putin to China, RIAC organized the second Russian-Chinese conference for politicians, diplomats, experts, and journalists who have the greatest influence on the promotion of bilateral partnership.

A Memorandum on cooperation between RIAC and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) was signed, serving as a confirmation of RIAC's success in the Chinese area of work. The ceremony took place within the framework of Vladimir Putin's official visit to China, in the presence of both countries' leaders.

Meetings proceeded on the European track in bi- and multilateral formats. Namely, German-Russian Dialog (GRID) was used to compensate for insufficient Russian-European cooperation on "Track 1.5".

In September 2016 RIAC, in cooperation with RANEPA, organized the Second international conference "Migration Crisis: International Cooperation and National Strategies". The urgency of the topic encouraged attention towards the event. Over the course of two days more than 100 leading Russian and foreign experts on migration issues, human capital, and security, as well as representatives of ministries, departments, and foreign organizations took part in the conference. RIAC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) held a separate discussion session on the humanitarian aspects of migration process.

A number of meetings were held to discuss a variety of issues, including strategic stability, in order to analyze the ways to improve Russian-U.S. relations. Former Senator Sam Nunn, U.S. Ambassador to Russia John Tefft, and experts from the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) were among the American participants of those events.

In 2016 the project "The World in 100 Years" was completed, followed by the publication of a series of 55 articles in Russian and English on expert predictions for the future of world politics, economy, and everyday life at the beginning of the XXII century.

2016 further demonstrated the urgent character of cyber-threats to leading global powers. In October 2016 RIAC and the East-West Institute held a seminar entitled "Russia-US Cooperation to Combat Cybercrime and Protect Critical Infrastructure". In the course of the event, experts gave important remarks on existing problems in the approach of both countries in countering cyber-crimes and cyber-terrorism, and mapped out a number of proposals to promote cooperation.

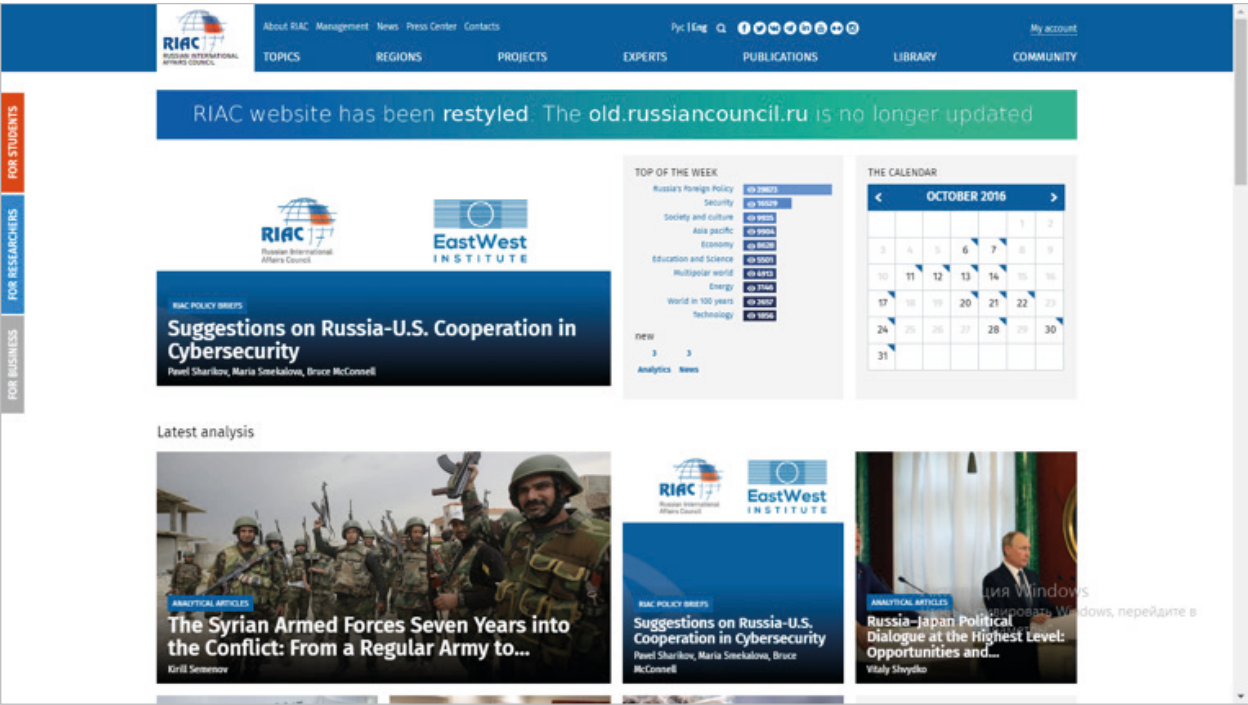
2016 was marked by the development of RIAC's Arctic project. In October, Moscow hosted the conference "International Cooperation in the Arctic: New Challenges and Vectors of Development". The event was confined to the 20th anniversary of the Arctic Council (AC). Representatives of all international forum member-states, including senior officers in the AC from Russia, Norway, Iceland, public officials from Denmark and Canada, business leaders, and leading experts of Arctic states took part in the event. The opening remarks were made by the Deputy Prime Minister of Russia and the Chair of the State Committee on Arctic Development Dmitry Rogozin.



The 18th International Book Fair for High-Quality Fiction and Non-Fiction Books was a milestone event in promoting RIAC’s activity and its newest books and electronic materials.

At the end of 2016 a new version of the Russian International Affairs Council Web-portal was introduced to the general audience.

The updated website provides easier access to analytical materials of the Council from any electronic device, and boosts the level of quality of RIAC’s active media support, as well as contains a number of unique services for experts: publications of long-reads on international affairs, a system of mutual review, an expert blog platform, etc.





RIAC's five year history demonstrates how the Council has responded to the rapid changes in the international situation. Russia's foreign policy is not only RIAC's object of research, it is also RIAC's field of activity in which it joins major initiatives and forwards its proposals and recommendations. By using a wide international network of contacts and partnerships the Council has a chance to read out political and expert sentiments, track the most effective initiatives, test ideas and suggestions, and be a representative of Russia's position for foreign audiences.

Over the first five years RIAC managed to become one of the channels of expert diplomacy and an organizer of international discussions for politicians, diplomats, entrepreneurs, and researchers of international affairs.

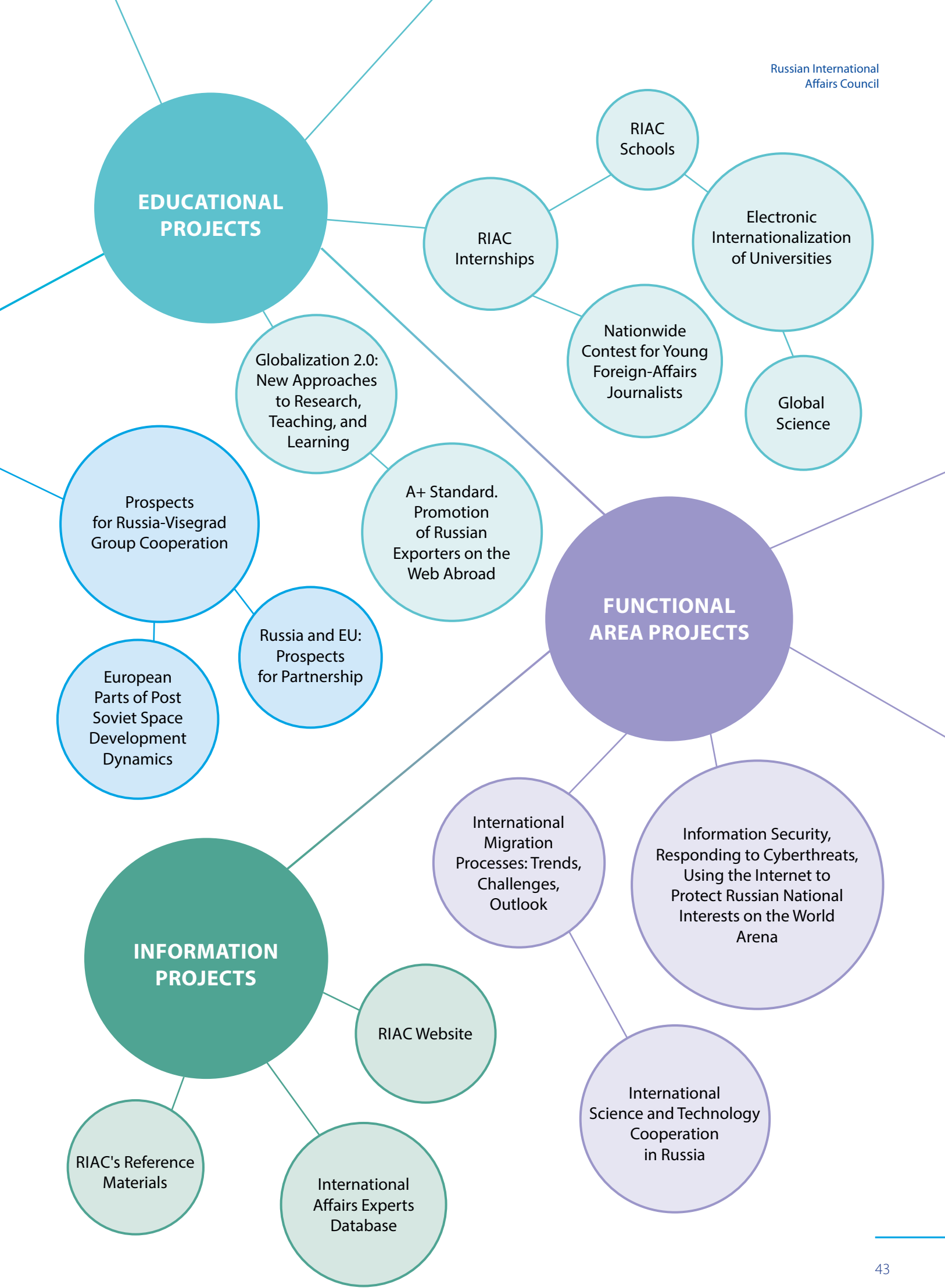
RIAC has become a source of quality international analysis in the Russian media space, one which is provided in a modern format, but at the same time is not oversimplified. RIAC helps the business community to see the international context when entering foreign markets, and provides an objective evaluation of political risks abroad. The university community can find in RIAC intellectual support for its course programs for the professional training of foreign affairs specialists and implementation of international educational projects.

The founders of RIAC aimed to harmonize the interests of all these communities. Open and proactive work by modern standards made it possible for RIAC to become a world-class think-tank that not only analyzes the role and place of Russia in the modern world, but also promotes the integration of our country in a global world and protection of its interests.

06

RIAC PROJECTS







Российский совет
по международным
делам

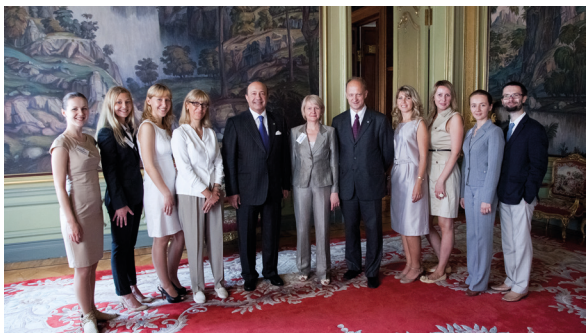


07 | TIMELINE

KEY EVENTS



07 KEY EVENTS



EVENTS

- RIAC General Assembly founding meeting, *July 2011*
- First Asia-Pacific Forum, *November 2011*
- RIAC members club meeting on "Russia's Foreign Policy Postulates" project discussion, *February 2012*
- "Euro-Atlantic Security Community: Myth or Reality?" Conference, *March 2012*
- Second Asia-Pacific Forum, *October 2012*

2011–2012

PUBLICATIONS

- 2011 — ANTHOLOGY
"Russia in a Global World: 2000-2011"
- 2011 — HANDBOOK
"International Research in Russia"
- 2012 — THREE-VOLUME EDITION
"Russia's Foreign Policy: 2000-2020"



EVENTS

- International conference: "Russia and the European Union: partnership and its potential", *March 2013*
- "Building a Greater Europe", organizational meeting of the prep-team, *March 2013*
- Presentation of publications and a press-conference Project "International Migration Processes: Trends, Challenges and Outlook", *May 2013*
- RIAC members club meeting on "International Consequences of the Syrian Crisis", *September 2013*
- RIAC workgroup special meeting on Russia-United States relation with Henry Kissinger, *October 2013*
- International Conference "The Arctic: Region of Cooperation and Development", *December 2013*

2013

PUBLICATIONS

- 2013 — HANDBOOK
"Russia's Migration Field"
- 2013 — ANTHOLOGY
"Migration in Russia: 2000–2012"
- 2013 — ANTHOLOGY
"Arctic Region: International Cooperation Issues"



EVENTS

- Meeting with Nabil Shaath, member of the Fatah Central Committee, co-chairman of the Russian-Palestinian Committee on the Middle East, *January 2014*
- Meeting of RIAC members and experts with senators from the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation: Russia-US Relations Under Barack Obama and Beyond, *February 2014*
- The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Sergey Lavrov's meeting with the RIAC members, *June 2014*
- International Project "Helsinki +40: Prospects for Strengthening OSCE", *September 2014*
- The 11th annual meeting of the Valdai International Discussion Club "World Order or World Anarchy?", *October 2014*. RIAC has been co-founding the Foundation for Development and Support of the Valdai Club since 2014.

2014

PUBLICATIONS

- 2014 — HANDBOOK
"Politico-Military Research in Russia"
- 2014 — TRANSLATION OF K. MAHBUBANI'S BOOK
"The Great Convergence: Asia, the West and the Logic of One World"
- 2014 — ANTHOLOGY
"Migration in Russia: 2000–2013"

EVENTS

- International Conference "Russia and China: Taking on a New Quality of Bilateral Relations", *May 2015*
- Club meeting of RIAC with former President of Afghanistan Hamid Karzai, *June 2015*
- Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC) and Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) summer school, "Eurasian Economic Integration: priorities, perspectives, instruments", *July 2015*
- Final seminar "Helsinki+40: Reaffirming the Strengths, Envisioning the Prospects" project presentation at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on the 40th anniversary of The Helsinki Final Act, *July 2015*
- International Conference "Transnational Migration and Modern States in a Period of Economic Crisis", *September 2015*
- Club meeting with John Tefft, the U.S. Ambassador to Russia, *April 2016*
- International Conference "Russia and China: Taking on a New Quality of Bilateral Relations", *May 2016*
- International Conference "Migration Crisis: International Cooperation and National Strategies", *September 2016*
- International seminar "Russia-US Cooperation to Combat Cybercrime and Protect Critical Infrastructure", *October 2016*
- Conference "International Cooperation in the Arctic: New Challenges and Vectors of Development", *October 2016*
- EEC and RIAC School "EAEU: Integration for All. Outcomes and Perspectives until 2025", *November 2016*
- RIAC participated in the 18th International Book Fair for High-Quality Fiction and Non-Fiction Books, *November-December 2016*

2015–2016

PUBLICATIONS

- 2015 — ANTHOLOGY
"Contemporary Foreign International Relations Studies"
- 2016 — ANTHOLOGY
"The World in 100 Years"
- 2016 — HANDBOOK
"International Research in Russia"

РАБОЧАЯ ТЕТРАДЬ

СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВО РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ И АРАБСКОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКИ ЕГИПЕТ: ВОЗМОЖНОСТИ И ОГРАНИЧЕНИЯ

№ 22 / 2015

РСМД
РОССИЙСКИЙ СОВЕТ ПО МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫМ ДЕЛАМ

Atlantic Council

European Leadership Network

ДОКЛАД

ПРЕОДОЛЕНИЕ РАЗНОГЛАСИЙ В ВОПРОСАХ БЕЗОПАСНОСТИ В 2015 ГОДУ

RIAC PUBLICATIONS





RIAC PUBLICATIONS

REPORTS

1. Russia's Interests in the Context of Asia-Pacific Security and Development. *Report No. 1 / 2012*
2. G20, G8, BRICS Development Momentum and Interests of Russia. *Report No. 2 / 2012*
3. Workshop Conference Materials "Euro-Atlantic Security Community: Myth or Reality?". *Report No. 3 / 2012*
4. Postulates on Russia's Foreign Policy (2012–2018). *Report No. 4 / 2012*
5. Ten Years without ABM Treaty. The Issue of Missile Defense in Russia-US Relations. *Report No. 5 / 2012*
6. Current State of Russia's Relations with Japan and Prospects for Their Development. *Report No. 6 / 2012*
7. The Arctic. Proposals for the International Cooperation Roadmap. *Report No. 7 / 2012*
8. Nuclear Weapons and Strategic Stability: Search for Russian-American Consensus in the 21st Century. *Book of Reports / 2012*
9. Russia's Guiding Landmarks in the Asia-Pacific after the APEC Summit in Vladivostok. *Report No. 8 / 2013*
10. Russia and the Greater Middle East. *Report No. 9 / 2013*
11. Russia's Interests in Central Asia: Contents, Perspectives, Limitations. *Report No. 10 / 2013*
12. Russia–European Union: Potential for Partnership. *Report No. 11 / 2013*
13. International Cooperation in the Arctic. *Report No. 12 / 2013*
14. Internationalization of Russian Universities: The Chinese Vector. *Report No. 13 / 2013*
15. Materials of the International conference "Nuclear Weapons and International Security in the XXI Century". *Book of Reports / 2013*
16. Perspectives of Russian-United States Cooperation in Central Asia. *Report No. 14 / 2014*
17. The Russian Federation's International Science and Technology Cooperation: An Overview and Development Issues. *Report No. 15 / 2014*
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29. New Stage of Russia–Turkey Economic Relations. *Report No. 28 / 2016*

WORKING PAPERS

1. International Cooperation in Environmental Protection, Preservation, and Rational Management of Biological Resources in the Arctic Ocean. *Working Paper I / 2012*
2. Russian Research and Education on International Affairs: 20 Years on. *Working Paper II / 2013*
3. Postulates on Russia–India Relations. *Working Paper III / 2013*
4. Policy for Integration of Immigrants in Russia: Challenges, Outlook, Risks. *Working Paper IV / 2013*
5. Russia and the "New Elites" of "Arab Spring" Countries: Opportunities and Cooperation Perspectives. *Working Paper V / 2013*
6. Development Roadmap of the International Legal Framework of Russia's Cooperation in the Arctic. *Working Paper VI / 2013*
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28. Prospects for Russian-Chinese Cooperation in Central Asia. *Working Paper XXVIII / 2016*

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36. Conflicts in the Post-Soviet Space: Troubleshooting and Russia's Role. *Working Paper XXXVI / 2016*

37. Second international conference "Russia and China: Taking on a New Quality of Bilateral Relations". May 30–31, 2016. *Event Report / 2016*



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1. Trans-Dniester: Peaceful Reconciliation Dilemmas. *Policy Brief I / 2016*
2. Four Scenarios for European Integration. *Policy Brief II / 2016*
3. Cooperation in Science and Education to Promote an Innovative Approach to Russia–China Relations. *Policy Brief III / 2016*
4. New Agenda For Russia–EU Relations. *Policy Brief IV / 2016*
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9. The Northern Sea Route: National Regime in the Changing International Context. *Policy Brief IX / 2016*
10. Migration Crisis: International Cooperation and National Strategies. *Policy Brief X / 2016*

LONGREADS

1. Yemen / 2015
2. ISIS / 2015
3. Minsk Accords / 2015
4. The United Nations / 2015
5. Northern Sea Route / 2015
6. Political Extremist Movements in the Middle East and North Africa / 2015
7. Arctic Oil and Gas Resource Development / 2015
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17. School Education in the World: stages, types, legislation, specifics / 2016
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EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

1. Educational Materials "Arctic Region: International Cooperation Issues", I / 2015
2. Educational Materials "Migration in Russia: Economic Aspects", II / 2015



BOOKS

1. Anthology "Russia in the Global World: 2000–2011", 2011 *(in Russian)*
2. Handbook "International Research in Russia", 2011 *(in Russian)*
3. Anthology "Russia's Foreign Policy: 2000–2020", 2012 *(in Russian)*
4. Handbook "Migration Field in Russia", 2013 *(in Russian)*
5. Anthology "Migration in Russia: 2000–2012", 2013 *(in Russian)*
6. Anthology "Arctic Region: International Cooperation Issues", 2013 *(in Russian)*
7. Multi-authored monograph "British Dilemmas: Russian View", 2014 *(in Russian)*
8. Handbook "Politico-Military Research in Russia", 2014 *(in Russian)*
9. Translation into Russian of K. Mahbubani's book "The Great Convergence: Asia, the West and the Logic of One World", 2014
10. Anthology "Migration in Russia: 2000–2013", 2014 *(in English)*
11. Igor Ivanov's book "Ukrainian Crisis through the Lens of International Relations", 2015 *(in Russian)*
12. Anthology "Contemporary Foreign International Relations Studies", 2015 *(in Russian)*
13. Anthology "The World in 100 Years", 2016 *(in Russian and English)*
14. Handbook "International Research in Russia", 2016 *(in Russian)*
15. Anthology "Evolution of the Post-Soviet Space: the Past, the Present, and the Future", 2016 *(in Russian)*
16. Igor Ivanov's book "European Vector of Russia's Modern Foreign Policy", 2016 *(in Russian)*



09

RIAC 5 YEARS IN FIGURES

STATISTICS

RIAC HELD OVER

3000

EVENTS — EXPERT SEMINARS,
WORK MEETINGS, AND
CONFERENCES

OVER

10000

MEDIA HITS

PUBLICATIONS

29

REPORTS

37

WORKING PAPERS

10

POLICY BRIEFS

16

BOOKS

PUBLICATIONS

4000

ARTICLES AND
INTERVIEWS,
DIGESTS, AND
SPECIAL PROJECTS

35 000

TOTAL NUMBER OF FOLLOWERS ON SOCIAL
MEDIA ACCOUNTS

1 500 000

TOTAL NUMBER OF RIAC INTERNET-
PUBLISHED MATERIALS READERS
(PER YEAR)

14 000

NEWSLETTER AUDIENCE

200

INTERNS

ABOUT

40

PROJECTS
IMPLEMENTED
ANNUALLY

10

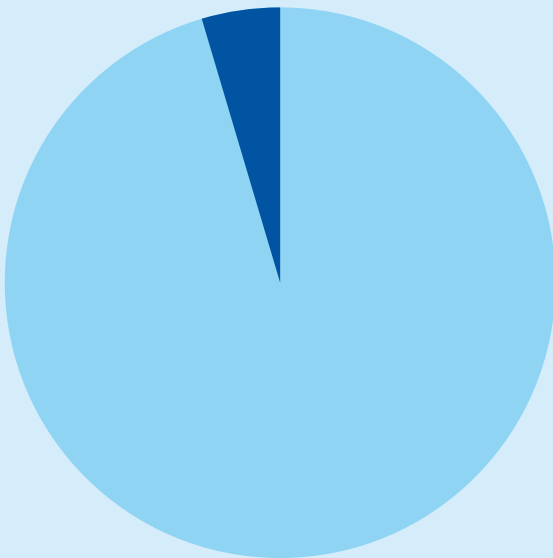
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2011–2015 (2016 AS OF 9 MONTHS)

From the very beginning RIAC considered diversification of the Council’s project activity funding sources and promotion of financial stability one of the key development objectives. With the employment of funds in different forms in five years we managed not only to compensate the reduction in target financing, but also to increase RIAC project budget overall.

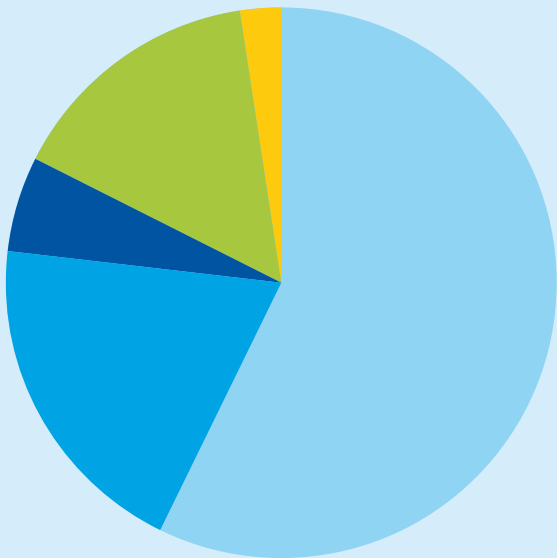
TOTAL BUDGET 2011

RUR 110,306 thousand

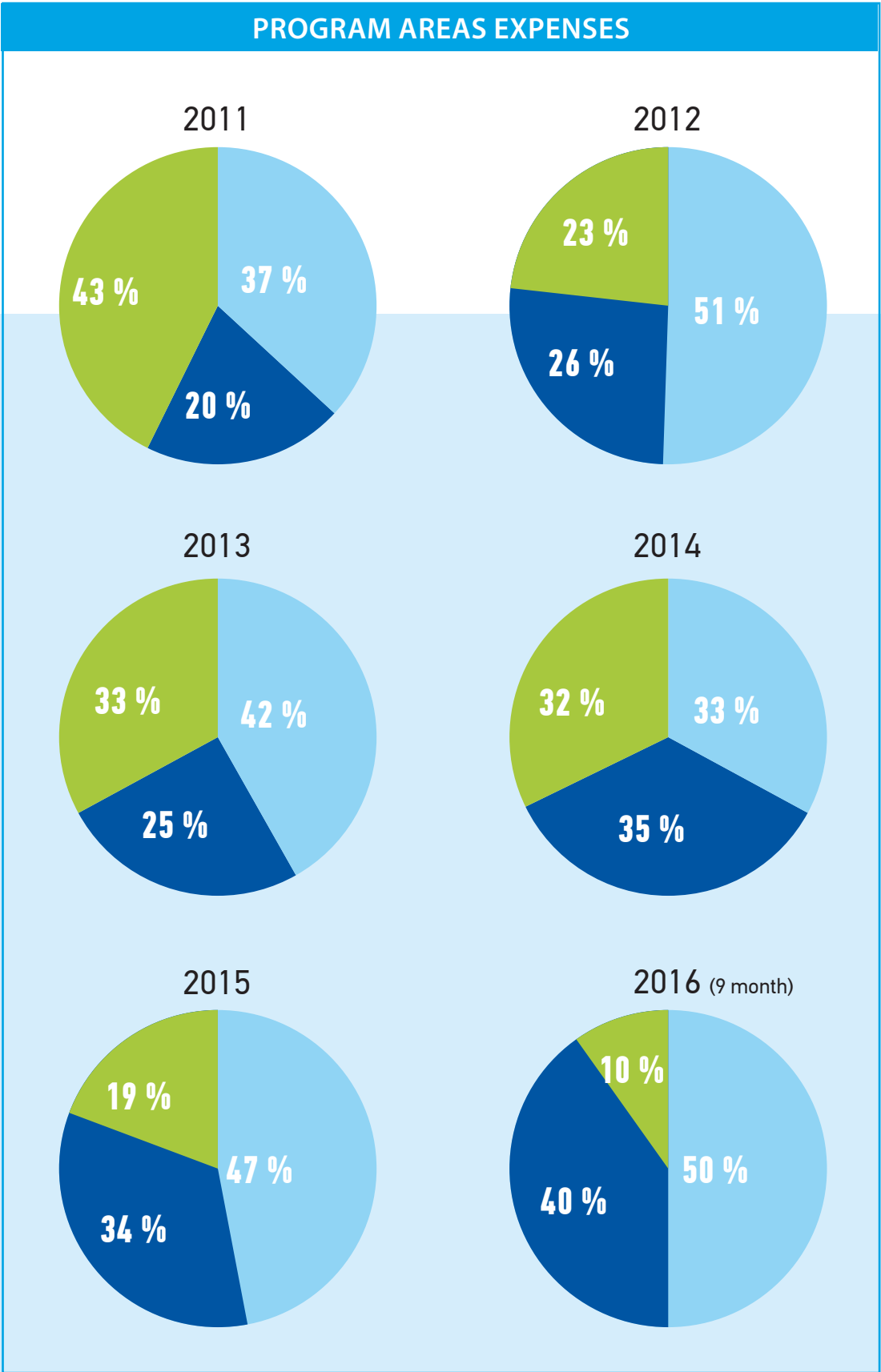


TOTAL BUDGET 2016

RUR 154,750 thousand



- Subsidies
- Employed Funds
- Membership Fees
- Commercial Activities
- Donations



Events
Analytical Work
Publications

11

RIAC WEBSITE

RUSSIANCOUNCIL.RU

MONTHLY AVERAGE
WEBSITE VISITORS

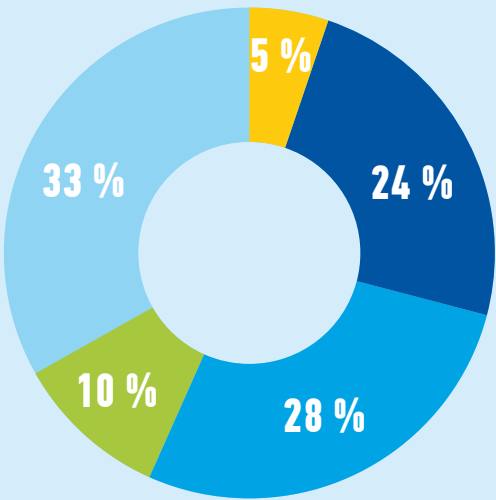
130 000

PEOPLE






BY 2016 THE RIAC WEBSITE HAS BECOME ONE OF THE LEADING RUSSIAN ANALYTICAL WEBSITES BY THE NUMBER OF READERS AND ONE OF THE RECOGNIZED INTERNET-RESOURCES ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. UP TO 10 ANALYTICAL ARTICLES AND EXPERT OPINIONS ON PRESSING ISSUES OF GLOBAL POLICY AND ECONOMY ARE PUBLISHED DAILY IN RUSSIAN AND IN ENGLISH.

AGE

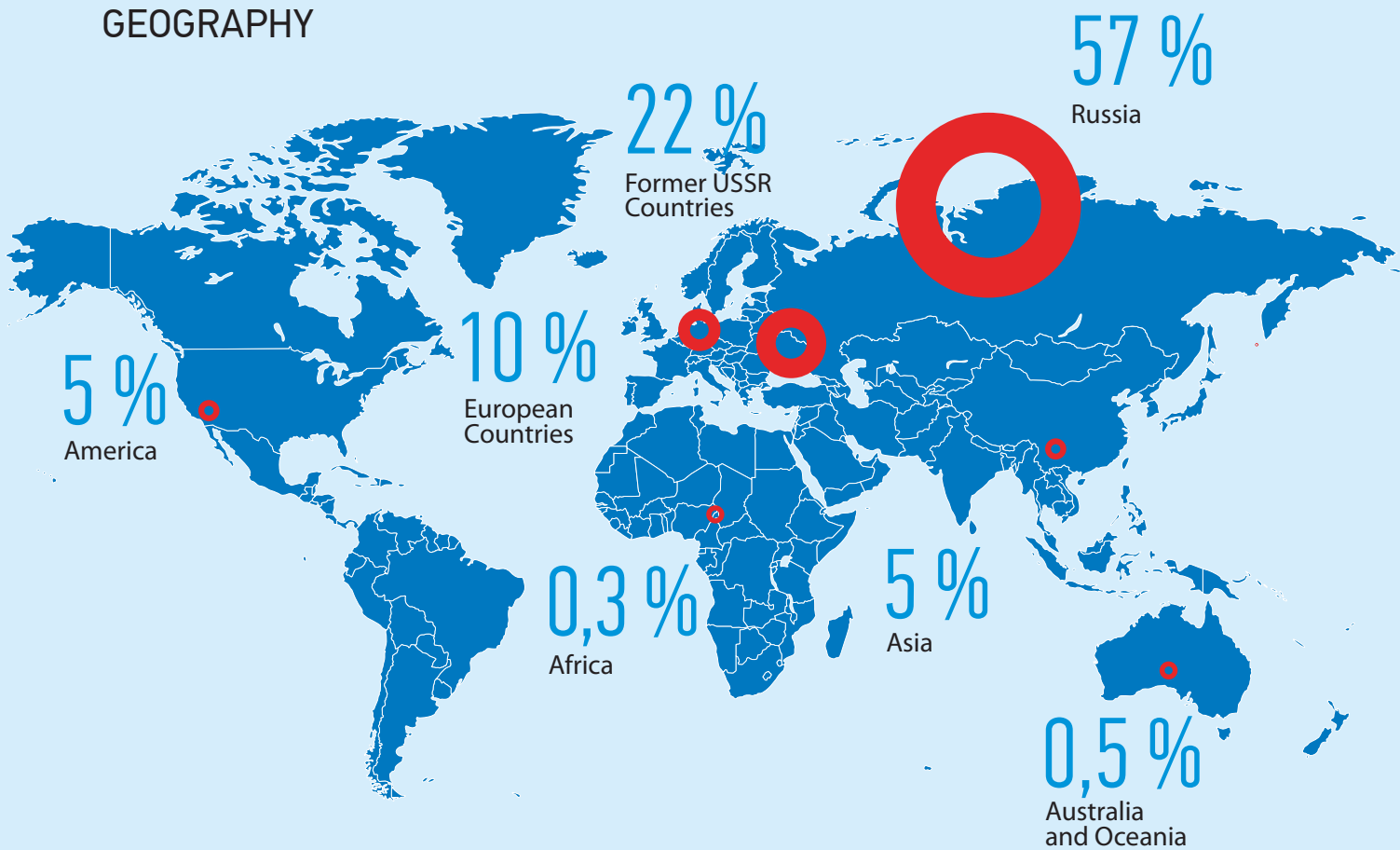
- < 18
- 18–24
- 25–34
- 35–44
- > 45



KEY TRAFFIC SOURCES

				
Search networks	Click-Through the link or bookmarks	Social media	Other websites	Other
52 %	27 %	15 %	4 %	2 %

GEOGRAPHY



TOP-10

COUNTRIES BY
WEBSITE TRAFFIC

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| 1 Russia | 6 Germany |
| 2 Ukraine | 7 India |
| 3 USA | 8 China |
| 4 Kazakhstan | 9 Uzbekistan |
| 5 Belarus | 10 Great Britain |

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