

# The Loginova Russian NGOs Cooptation Dataset 2023

## Codebook

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## Introduction

The primary objective of this dataset is to quantitatively assess both formal and informal co-optation strategies applied to environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Russia during 2023. The theoretical foundation of this dataset is based on the typology of government-organized NGOs (GONGOs) developed by Reza Hasmath and Hsu (2019), which focuses on the origins of Government-organised NGOs and their ties to the state. Building on this influential framework, the current dataset expands the scope of analysis to include a broader range of stakeholders beyond the government, offering a more comprehensive understanding of co-optation dynamics.

The dataset is structured into six sections, each labeled with a corresponding letter:

- **W:** General Information
- **A:** Institutional Constraints
- **B:** Foreign Influence
- **C:** Ties with Government
- **D:** Ties with Public Business
- **E:** Ties with Private Business

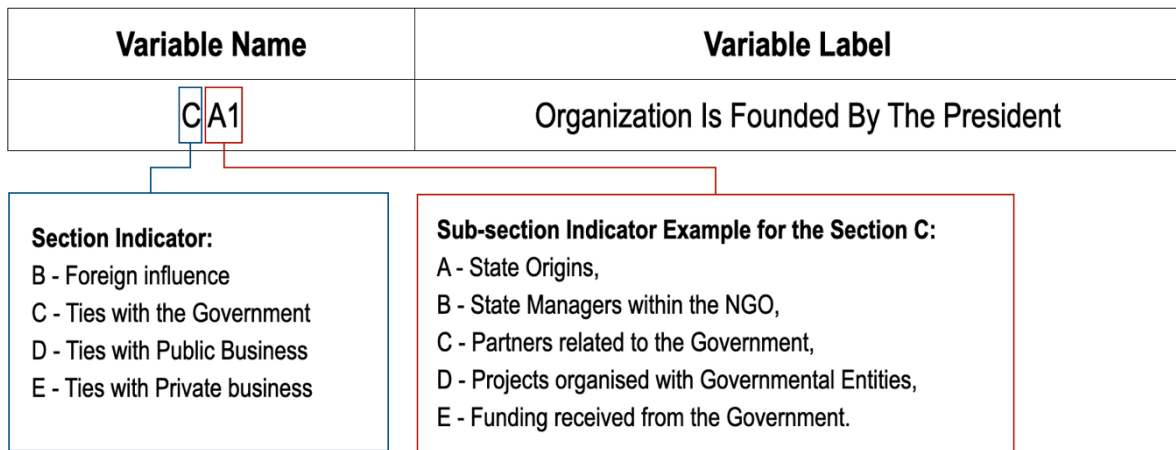
**Section W** provides general information about each NGO included in the dataset, including name, participation in public forums, year of observation, and other descriptive details. **Section A** addresses institutional constraints and aims to capture the impact of repressive legal frameworks on the operation of NGOs, with particular reference to the concept of the “shrinking space” for civil society. It specifically traces the effects of key legal instruments such as the Foreign Agent Law and the Law on Undesirable Organizations, which have significantly restricted NGO activity in Russia since the 2010s.

**Sections B through E** are designed to examine various cooptation strategies identified in the broader academic literature. These sections follow a unified coding logic, as illustrated in *Figure 1*. Each variable name begins with a letter corresponding to its section, followed by a second letter indicating the specific aspect under analysis. The subcategories used across sections are as follows:

- **A:** Organizational Origins
- **B:** Organizational Leadership

- C: Partnerships
- D: Projects
- E: Funding Sources

Figure 1 – Sections B-E Structure Example



This structure enables a systematic analysis of how environmental NGOs are embedded in different networks of influence and control, providing a nuanced view of their relationships with governmental and non-governmental stakeholders alike.

### Case selection

The primary aim of the case selection process was to identify and analyze the most publicly visible and influential environmental NGOs operating in Russia in 2023. To achieve this objective, the biggest public forums addressing political, economic, and environmental agendas in Russia were selected as the main sources for NGO sampling. These forums bring together the country's political and economic elite, serving as one of the few remaining platforms for public discourse in contemporary Russia. As such, they offer a unique opportunity to observe which civil society actors are permitted to participate in state-sanctioned discussions. Case selection was conducted in two stages to ensure the relevance and manageability of the sample for qualitative analysis.

**In the first stage,** NGOs were identified based on their participation in key discussions listed on the Roscongress website under the topics "Environment," "Sustainable Development," and "Climate Change." The Roscongress Foundation is a government-organized non-governmental organization (GONGO) established by presidential decree under President Vladimir Putin, responsible for organizing major state-led forums and events of strategic importance to the Russian government. To broaden the scope, the Russian Ecological Forum was also included in the sampling frame. This forum is organized by the Russian Environmental Operator, a public enterprise created by presidential decree in 2019 to implement reforms in municipal solid waste management. This initial search produced a list of 96 NGOs that participated in these forums in 2023. A detailed record of forum participation by organization and topic is provided in the accompanying document ***LORuNCD\_NGOsListPerForumPerTopic\_20240320.csv***.

Given the large number of organizations and the need for in-depth qualitative data collection, a **second stage** of case selection was applied to narrow the sample. The goal was to focus on the most influential and engaged environmental NGOs. The selection process followed a two-step filtering method, with each step guided by three criteria.

In the first step, NGOs were retained if they met the following conditions:

- Frequent participation in sessions related to ecology, sustainability, or climate issues;
- Representation of one of the largest or most recognized NGOs operating in Russia;
- Direct involvement in environmental or sustainable development activities.

This step reduced the sample to 63 organizations. In the second step, NGOs were excluded if they met any of the following disqualifying criteria:

- Lack of a clear focus on environmental or sustainability-related issues;
- Absence of formal legal registration or a verifiable digital presence;
- Duplication of entries due to name changes or rebranding.

Following this filtering process, 22 organizations were excluded, resulting in a final sample of 41 NGOs. These selected organizations represent not only the most active and prominent actors within Russia's environmental sector but also exemplify the types of civil society entities currently permitted to participate in state-sanctioned discourse on environmental governance. A full record of the sampling process is available in the file ***LORuNCD\_Sampling\_20240525.csv***.

## Data source and data collection methodology

Following the case selection, each NGO was analyzed based on a set of variables derived from the theoretical framework established in the literature review. This process was highly labor-intensive, as the selected variables cover a wide range of organizational characteristics and activities. To ensure the accuracy and depth of analysis, each NGO was carefully examined using publicly available sources, including official websites, annual reports, legal documents, and media coverage, with a specific focus on materials from the year 2023.

The dataset was compiled entirely from **open-source materials**. These sources primarily included information provided by the NGOs themselves via their websites. In the case of government-organized NGOs (GONGOs), supplementary information was gathered from external news media and other publicly accessible platforms. In total, the dataset draws from over 4,000 individual sources, including news articles, legal filings submitted to Russian tax authorities, annual reports, and various relevant documents.

### **Important Note:**

The data collection was conducted manually by a single researcher. While every effort was made to ensure accuracy and consistency, this method introduces the potential for human error—a key limitation of the study. Nevertheless, all source materials used in the construction of the dataset have been archived and are available for verification to support the validity of the data points entered.

**Treatment of Missing Values:**

Given the qualitative nature of this dataset, all numerical entries are intended to reflect observed levels of co-optation for each NGO across different dimensions. Importantly, the dataset was compiled under the constraints of an authoritarian context, in which full access to information is not always possible. As such, **a value of “0”** indicates that no publicly available data was found to support the assumption tied to the specific variable. Thus, “0” should be interpreted as an absence of observable evidence, not as a confirmed absence of the phenomenon.

When a variable contains a value other than 0 (e.g., 1, 2, etc.), it signifies that relevant supporting evidence was identified in open sources, validating the condition described by that variable.

Based on this coding approach, the dataset **does not include any formal missing values**. Each variable is recorded as either supported by available data or marked as lacking publicly verifiable evidence.

## Structure of the Codebook

General Information (W1-W6)	6
Institutional Constraints (AA1-AC2)	6
Foreign Influence (BA1 – BE3)	7
Ties with the Government (CA1-CE4)	8
Ties with Public Business (DA1-DE2)	9
Ties with Private Business (EA1-EE3)	10

## General Information (W1-W6)

Variable Name	Variable Label	Data Type	Unit Of Measure
W1	Organisation Name	String	
W2	Organisation Name (Russian)	String	
W3	Year Of Observation	Time	
W4	Forum In Which Participated	String	
W5	Number Of Forums Where Participated	Numeric	Continious Number
W6	Topics	String	

## Institutional Constraints (AA1-AC2)

Variable Name	Variable Label	Data Type	Unit Of Measure
AA1	Organization Claimed As Foreign Agent	Numeric	Binary (1-Yes\0-No)
AA2	Organization Claimed As Non-Desired	Numeric	Binary (1-Yes\0-No)
AA3	Organization's Partner Claimed As Foreign Agent	Numeric	Continious Number Of Partners
AA4	Organization's Partner Claimed As Non-Desired	Numeric	Continious Number Of Partners
AB1	Organization Leaders Moved From Russia	Numeric	Binary (1-Yes\0-No)
AB2	Organization Was Closed Because Of Claimed Status	Numeric	Binary (1-Yes\0-No)
AC1	Organisation Receives Funding From Foreign Agent	Numeric	Binary (1-Yes\0-No)
AC2	Organisation Receives Funding From Non-Desired Organisation	Numeric	Binary (1-Yes\0-No)

## Foreign Influence (BA1 – BE3)

Variable Name	Variable Label	Data Type	Unit Of Measure
BA1	Organization Is A Russian Branch Of Foreign Entity	Numeric	Binary (1-Yes\0-No)
BA2	Organization Is Co-Founded By The Foreign Entity	Numeric	Binary (1-Yes\0-No)
BB1	Representative Of The Foreign Entity Is The Leader Of Organization	Numeric	Binary (1-Yes\0-No)
BB2	Representative Of The Foreign Entity Is In Executive Board Of The Organization	Numeric	Continious Number Of Managers
BB3	Representative Of The Foreign Entity Is In The Board Of Guardians	Numeric	Continious Number Of Managers
BB4	Representative Of The Foreign Entity Is In The Consultative Council	Numeric	Continious Number Of Managers
BC1	Foreign Partners Mentioned On The Website	Numeric	Continious Number Of Partners
BC2	Foreign Partners Come From Non-Friendly Country To Russia	Numeric	Continious Number Of Partners
BC3	Foreign Partners Come From Friendly Country To Russia	Numeric	Continious Number Of Partners
BC4	Transnational Companies In Partners Section	Numeric	Continious Number Of Partners
BD1	Projects Organized With Foreign Partners	Numeric	Continious Number Of Projects
BD2	Projects Organized With Foreign Partners From Friendly Countries	Numeric	Continious Number Of Projects
BD3	Projects Organized With Foreign Partners From Non-Friendly Countries	Numeric	Continious Number Of Projects
BD4	Organization Participates In International Programs	Numeric	Continious Number Of Programs
BD5	Projects Organized With Transnational Companies	Numeric	Continious Number Of Projects
BE1	Foreign Donors Mentioned On The Website	Numeric	Continious Number Of Donors
BE2	Local Branches Projects Sponsored By Foreign Donors	Numeric	Continious Number Of Projects
BE3	Organisation Is Sponsored By Transnational Companies Offices In Russia	Numeric	Continious Number Of Companies

## Ties with the Government (CA1-CE4)

Variable Name	Variable Label	Data Type	Unit Of Measure
CA1	Organization Is Founded By The President	Numeric	Binary (1-Yes\0-No)
CA2	Organization Is Founded By The Government Body	Numeric	Binary (1-Yes\0-No)
CA3	Government Body Is A Co-Founder Of The Organization	Numeric	Binary (1-Yes\0-No)
CA4	GONGO Is A Founder Of Organisation	Numeric	Binary (1-Yes\0-No)
CB1	Government Official Is The Leader Of Organization	Numeric	Binary (1-Yes\0-No)
CB2	V. Putin Is An Initiator Of The Organisation	Numeric	Binary (1-Yes\0-No)
CB3	The President Is The Head Of The Supervisory Board/Board Of Guardians	Numeric	Binary (1-Yes\0-No)
CB4	Government Official Is In Executive Board Of The Organization	Numeric	Continious Number Of Managers
CB5	Government Official Is In The Board Of Guardians	Numeric	Continious Number Of Managers
CB6	Government Official Is In The Consultative Council	Numeric	Continious Number Of Managers
CB7	GONGO Manager Is In One Of The Boards	Numeric	Continious Number Of Managers
CC1	Federal Authorities Mentioned In The Partners Section On The Website	Numeric	Continious Number Of Partners
CC2	Local Authorities Mentioned In The Partners Section On The Website	Numeric	Continious Number Of Partners
CC3	GONGO Is Mentioned In The Partners Section On The Website	Numeric	Continious Number Of Partners
CD1	Projects Organized With Federal Authority	Numeric	Continious Number Of Projects
CD2	Projects Organized With Local Authority	Numeric	Continious Number Of Projects
CD3	Projects Organized With GONGO	Numeric	Continious Number Of Projects
CE1	Organization Is A Recipient Of Presidential Or Another Authorities-Affiliated Grant	Numeric	Continious Number Of Grants
CE2	Organization' Local Branch Is A Recipient Of Presidential Or Another Authorities-Affiliated Grant	Numeric	Continious Number Of Grants
CE3	Organisation Is Sponsored By The Federal Budget	Numeric	Binary (1-Yes\0-No)
CE4	Organisation Is Sponsored By The Local Budget	Numeric	Continious Number Of Projects

## Ties with Public Business (DA1-DE2)

Variable Name	Variable Label	Data Type	Unit Of Measure
DA1	Organization Is Founded By The Public Company	Numeric	Binary (1-Yes\0-No)
DA2	Public Company Is A Co-Founder Of The Organization	Numeric	Binary (1-Yes\0-No)
DB1	Public Company High-Level Manager Is The Leader Of Organization	Numeric	Binary (1-Yes\0-No)
DB2	Public Company High-Level Manager Is In Executive Board Of The Organization	Numeric	Continious Number Of Managers
DB3	Public Company High-Level Manager Is In The Board Of Guardians	Numeric	Continious Number Of Managers
DB4	Public Company High-Level Manager Is In The Consultative Council	Numeric	Continious Number Of Managers
DC1	Public Company Mentioned In The Partners Section On The Website	Numeric	Continious Number Of Partners
DD1	Projects Organized With Public Company	Numeric	Continious Number Of Projects
DE1	Organization Is Sponsored By A Public Company	Numeric	Continious Number Of Projects
DE2	Organization' Local Branch (Division) Is Sponsored By A Public Company	Numeric	Continious Number Of Projects

## Ties with Private Business (EA1-EE3)

Variable Name	Variable Label	Data Type	Unit Of Measure
EA1	Organization Is Owned By A Private Company	Numeric	Binary (1-Yes\0-No)
EA2	Organization Is Co-Founded By A Private Company	Numeric	Binary (1-Yes\0-No)
EB1	Private Company High-Level Manager Is The Leader Of Organization	Numeric	Binary (1-Yes\0-No)
EB2	Private Company High-Level Manager Is In Executive Board Of The Organization	Numeric	Continious Number Of Managers
EB3	Private Company High-Level Manager Is In The Board Of Guardians	Numeric	Continious Number Of Managers
EB4	Private Company High-Level Manager Is In The Consultative Council	Numeric	Continious Number Of Managers
EC1	Private Company Mentioned In The Partners Section On The Website	Numeric	Continious Number Of Partners
ED1	Projects Organized With Private Company	Numeric	Continious Number Of Projects
ED2	Organization Offers For-Profit Services	Numeric	Continious Number Of Services
EE1	Organization Is Sponsored By A Private Company	Numeric	Continious Number Of Donors
EE2	Organization' Local Branch Is Sponsored By A Private Company	Numeric	Continious Number Of Donors
EE3	Organisation Is Sponsored By Crowdfunding	Numeric	Binary (1-Yes\0-No)

## References

Reza Hasmath, Timothy Hildebrandt, and Jennifer Y J Hsu. 2019. "Conceptualizing Government-Organized Non-Governmental Organizations." *Journal of Civil Society* 15(3): 267–84. doi:10.1080/17448689.2019.1632549.