



Celebrating 21 years of *Stepping Stones*

1995-2016

Stepping Stones Stories from *Russia, Ukraine and Moldova.....*



ELENA VESELOVSKAYA

Organisation: Independent Consultant

Country: Russia, Ukraine, Moldova



When did you first come across Stepping Stones?

In 2006, my German colleague who saw this training in Tanzania recommended to use it in Russia.



How did you use it and where and when?

On the request of the German NGO "Bread for the World" (Social Agency of the Protestant Churches in Germany), the original *Stepping Stones* manual was translated into Russian and adapted to the Russian context by the Siberian NGO "Humanitarian Project (HP)" in 2009.



HP named it **Program "15"** according to the fifteen training sessions it includes, and tested it in pilot actions. After that, **Program "15"** was put into practice in the territory of the Russian Federation. From 2010, HP has trained teams from different regions of Russia, as well as from Ukraine and Moldova. In their turn, the Ukrainian trainers have translated **Program "15"** into Ukrainian in 2015 and are using it very widely in Ukraine now.

In Russia, **Program "15"** has been used mostly in the Siberian part of Russia (Republic of Mountain Altay, Novosibirsk region, Republic of Udmurtia, Omsk region, the Ural region, Republic of Buryatia). In 2016, HP realized the new ToT for teams from other Russian regions. In Ekaterinburg (the Ural region), the NGO "Novoye Vremya", another partner of "Bread for the World", has implemented **Program "15"** successfully in prison for work with young inmates.

Now this NGO has bought *Stepping Stones with Children* and is going to adapt it for their work with children living with HIV and their caregivers in Russia. Unfortunately, they do not have any financial support for this but are doing this work on a voluntary basis.





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In summer 2016, the German group of experts conducted evaluation of *Program "15"*. I accompanied this evaluation. The evaluation report is in progress now and we will send it after completion. The experts appreciated very much the results of work of *Program "15"*. They noted especially behaviour changes of former participants of *Program "15"*. As to me, I have been accompanying all these processes in Russia and Ukraine.

★ *Something that you liked about it:*

"After the completion of a training course of *Program "15"* in Republic of Mountain Altay former participants stay in contact with one another and sometimes also with their trainers. Their contact inspires activities."

- ★ *Oh sure, some participants have become our volunteers and staff of our organization.*
- ★ *After this program, these women went to the families of each other's homes, and it is very far (about 400km one way). And after the meeting they still communicate. And now, you can find these mothers in the complex centre of popular support (Social Resource Centre) among the organizers, to help others.*
- ★ *Program "15" is like an umbrella for people. It is not difficult to carry it with you. The program gives life skills to people, and in difficult circumstances, they remember them. Everybody should have the chance to change their life to the better. (One of Russian trainers)*



"Stepping Stones is an effective methodology that really changes people's behaviour!"

Thank you Elena!

To read more about *Program "15"* you can follow this link to a recent [UNESCO](#) report.
To watch a short film from 2012, of Elena talking about the programme, click [here](#).

www.salamandertrust.net
www.steppingstonesfeedback.org



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