

Launch activities in Russia

The St. Petersburg Humanities and Political Studies Center “Strategy” held a press conference at the *Rosbalt* press agency in St. Petersburg to present the results of the Open Budget Initiative on October 19, 2006. Speakers included experts from “Strategy” and the head of the *Rosbalt* press agency. The event was very well attended, and covered extensively in print, radio, and electronic media.

“Strategy” experts included Tatiana Vinogradova, Programs Director, Natalia Holstinina, Expert and former employee of the Finance Committee of the St.Petersburg administration, and Angelina Kusnetsova, Press Secretary. Galina Uzdina, head of the *Rosbalt* press-conferences department, also participated.

Radio, print, and electronic mass media journalists attended the presentation. They represented Radio Russia and Radio Svoboda, newspapers including *Delovoj Peterburg*, *Kommersant*, *Nevsky Kraj*, and magazines such as the *Territory of Business*, and electronic mass media outlets including *Rosbalt*, the *Baltic informational agency*, and *Fontanka.ru*. All journalists were given an informational package including the Press Release, Methodology, Country Summary, Researcher Contact List, Summary Report, Key Findings, IBP backgrounder, and the FAQ.

The press conference was covered extensively. It was discussed on different radio stations, including Radio Russia, Echo of Moscow, and Radio SVOBODA. The event was covered in the print media, most notably in *Kommersant*, and in the electronic mass media, for example by *Rosbalt*, the *Baltic Informational Agency*, *Kommersant* and *Utro.ru*.

The “Strategy” Center plans to publish a detailed presentation of the research.