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Article

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FEATURES OF INTERETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS RELATIONS IN THE SOUTHERN FEDERAL DISTRICT TO REDUCE THE MIGRATION OF THE RUSSIAN POPULATION

Abstract: *in the article the authors explore such a concept as migration. The situation in 2022 is described, the number of migrants, birth rates and deaths in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation and the Southern Federal District are analyzed. The problems, as well as the advantages and disadvantages that arise during population migration, are considered. The article reveals the specifics of migration, which plays a special role in the socio-economic life of society and is a process that, on the one hand, is very sensitive to changes in the life of society, and on the other hand is an important factor that has a significant impact on the formation of dynamic and structural parameters of these changes. The article provides a statistical assessment of the migration processes of the Southern Federal District and provides a forecast of these processes in the context of subjects. It is noted that the Southern Federal District plays a prominent role in the migration field of the country, being both a center of attraction for migrants from outside the country and from other parts of it, and one of the main regions of outflow of migrants. The identified trends and forecast estimates made it possible to see that migration contrasts and powerful counter flows of migrants are clearly expressed here. The place of the socio-cultural space of the Southern Federal District of the Russian Federation is determined, which inherited the historically established features of the transit territory - the "Gateway of Nations" between the Southern Urals and the Caspian Sea, through which numerous waves of ancient tribes and peoples swept to the west along the "steppe corridor", partially settling on its territory. It is shown that a special civilizational space has emerged here, the multi-ethnic and multi-confessional population of which is characterized by a mentality formed on the basic values of tolerance and tolerance - the most important resource for the socio-cultural modernization of Russia.*

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Key words: migration, migrants, globalization, fertility, mortality, labor resources, migration, regional development, population growth and decline, forecast, Southern Federal District, sociocultural space, "steppe corridor", Russian Federation, multiethnicity, multiconfessionalism.

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Introduction

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The Southern Federal District (SFD) of the Russian Federation in its current composition includes the Republic of Adygea, the Republic of Kalmykia, the Krasnodar Territory, the Astrakhan, Volgograd and Rostov regions. This composition was established on January 19, 2010, and in 2016 the composition of the Southern Federal District was expanded to include the cities of Sevastopol and Crimea.

The area of the Southern Federal District is 420.9 thousand square meters. km. In the west, the district has land and water borders with Ukraine, in the east - with Kazakhstan. In the south it borders with Abkhazia. In the east, the Southern Federal District is limited by the Caspian Sea, in the west by the Azov and Black Seas. The ethnic composition of the population of the Southern Federal District is given in Table 1.

Table 1. Ethnic composition of the population of the Southern Federal District according to census data

		2002		2010	2020
Whole population		13854.3 thousand		13973.3 thousand	13252.2 thousand
	V %		100%	100%	100%
Russians		11602452	83.7	84.9	85.2
Cossacks		53947	0.4	0.9	--
Armenians		442505	3.2	3.1	1.9
Ukrainians		212674	1.5	2.4	3.6
Kazakhs		205364	1.5	1.4	1.4
Kalmyks		172242	1.2	1.2	1.2
Tatars		127455	0.9	1.0	1.0
Adyghe people		121391	0.9	0.9	0.9
Azerbaijanis		52871	0.4	0.4	0.3
Turks		51367	0.4	0.4	0.0
gypsies		46067	0.3	0.3	0.2
Belarusians		44723	0.3	0.5	0.7
Chechens		34593	0.2	0.3	0.3
Georgians		31018	0.2	0.3	0.2
Germans		29312	0.2	0.3	0.6
Koreans		27640	0.2	0.2	0.1
Greeks		27313	0.2	0.2	0.3
Dargins		24815	0.2	0.2	0.2
Uzbeks		16361	0.1	0.1	0.1
Avars		16061	0.1	0.1	0.1
Moldovans		15888	0.1	0.1	0.2
Lezgins		15241	0.1	0.1	0.1
Chuvash		12329	0.1	0.1	0.2
Kurds		12056	0.1	0.1	0.0
other groups		174012	1.3	0.4	1.4
counted in the census without nationality	nationality	338550	2.4	0.2	0.0

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The geographical location is one of the competitive advantages of the district, along with favorable natural and climatic conditions, developed transport infrastructure, powerful industrial and production potential (mechanical engineering, coal mining, textile industries), tourism and recreational resources, a significant size of the domestic market and relatively low labor costs.

The Southern Federal District plays a vital role in ensuring food security in Russia, since almost a sixth of the country's total sown areas are concentrated on its territory, on which about a quarter of the all-Russian gross grain crop harvest, half of the total sunflower seed harvest, and almost a fifth of the vegetable harvest are grown. The cost of agricultural products produced in 2022 is estimated at 488 billion rubles. The share of the Southern Federal District in the total volume of agricultural production of all agricultural producers in Russia (agricultural organizations, peasant / farm / households, individual entrepreneurs, population) in the first half of 2023 amounted to 15.2%.

Taking into account the advantages of the Southern Federal District, the strategic goal of the federal center is to transform the Southern Federal District "into one of the Russian leaders of innovative development, into a stronghold of stability and constructive Russian influence in the Caucasus macro-region, the Black Sea and Caspian basins." At the same time, the federal government recognizes the presence of geopolitical risks in achieving this goal, which is primarily related to the proximity of potential conflict zones in the Caucasus, increased threats of terrorist activity, and the spread of Islamic extremism.

Currently, the Southern Federal District is noticeably inferior to most other federal districts in the main components of current competitiveness. Here, such indicators as the level of labor productivity, the average per capita volume of private investment in fixed capital, the total average per capita volume of own budget revenues of the regions of the Southern Federal District, and the value of exports per capita are significantly lower. It is characterized by a higher share of shadow employment, illegal migration, significant size of the shadow economy and corruption.

Taken together, these factors cause almost all regions of the Southern Federal District (except for the Krasnodar Territory) to lag behind the average Russian indicators of socio-economic development, level and quality of life. The value of the composite index of the socio-economic situation of the Southern Federal District in 2022, determined by the Ministry of Regional Development of the Russian Federation, is 96.2, which is lower than the Russian average (99.8). At the same time, in the Krasnodar Territory the composite index is 103.0.

The average monthly accrued salary in 2022 in the Southern Federal District amounted to 18,641.7

rubles. (in Russia as a whole – 23,693 rubles per month). Average monthly cash income per capita in 2022 was distributed as follows: Krasnodar Territory - 20,201.5 rubles; Rostov region – 17858.9 rubles; Astrakhan region - 17520.1 rubles; Republic of Adygea – 17,497.6 rubles; Volgograd region – 16101.2 rubles; Republic of Kalmykia – 9854.7 rubles. (average for the district - 16,505.7 rubles). In the first half of 2023 they amounted to 18,336.9 rubles. per month (in Russia as a whole – 23,076.2 rubles per month).

The number of economically active population in 2022 reached 6993.5 thousand people, and the employment rate of the population was 61.6%, the unemployment rate was 6.2% - exceeding the all-Russian figure (5.5%), while in the Republic of Adygea it is 8.1%, in the Republic of Kalmykia - 13.1%, in the Krasnodar Territory - 5.6%, in the Astrakhan Region - 7.9%, in the Volgograd Region - 6.0%, in the Rostov Region - 6.0 %.

All the above data indicate that the most important problem of the Southern Federal District is the clearly expressed unevenness (and even polarization: Kalmykia - Krasnodar Territory) of the socio-economic development of its regions and internal territories, which should be taken into account by the public administration system.

This conclusion is confirmed by a study of the quality of life in the regions of the Russian Federation, conducted by Volgograd scientists in 2022. The assessment of the quality of life was carried out by experts based on various official statistics; they used 64 indicators, combined into 11 groups, characterizing the main aspects of the quality of life in the region: income level ; living conditions; provision of social infrastructure facilities; environmental and climatic conditions; safety of residence; population satisfaction; demographic situation; health and education; development of the territory and development of transport infrastructure; level of economic development; development of entrepreneurial initiative. Among the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, the Krasnodar Territory took 5th place; Rostov region – 12th; Volgograd region – 30th; Republic of Adygea – 35th; Astrakhan region - 57th; The Republic of Kalmykia ranks 80th in terms of quality of life, which is perceived by the population of lagging regions as social injustice. The Southern Federal District is in third place in the Russian Federation in terms of population density (33.1 people per 1 sq. km, the average for Russia is 8.4). According to Rosstat, at the beginning of 2023, 13,910,179 people lived in the Southern Federal District, which is 9.7% of the Russian population, while in the last two years there has been a slight increase (about 60 thousand people) due to an increase in the birth rate, reducing mortality and positive migration balance.

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Birth rates in 2020 and 2021 amounted to 11.8 each; in 2022 it increased to 12.6 births per 1000 people. population. There was a downward trend in mortality: 14.1 (2020), 13.7 (2021), 13.4 (2022) deaths per 1000 people. Natural population decline is decreasing: -2.3 (2020), -1.9 (2021), -0.8 (2022). This change in the demographic structure (an increase in the number of children and pensioners) leads to a constant increase in the demographic burden on a declining working-age population, whose resources are replenished through migration.

All regions of the Southern Federal District (except Kalmykia) are characterized by a steady migration increase in population, in 2022 per 1000 people. of the permanent population this figure was 2.7 people. (arrivals – 25.8; departures – 23.1). For comparison: in the neighboring North Caucasus District the outflow is 4.1 per 1000 people. permanent population. In the Southern Federal District, the migration increase in 2022 (37.6 thousand people in total) was equally provided by Russian citizens from other regions and citizens from the CIS countries (16.7 thousand people each), the migration increase from non-CIS countries was over 4.1 thousand people In addition to migration growth, there is a change in the ethnic composition of the population. In 2022, 321.7 thousand people dropped out. from the permanent population, and 359.2 thousand arrived. If we remember the presence of illegal migrants, as well as temporarily arriving labor and transit migrants, then their share in the population structure will be significantly larger.

Direct comparison of 2010 and 2020 census data. shows the change in the number of ethnic groups: Russians - 11878 thousand people. / 11602.5 thousand people; Ukrainians – 330.8 thousand people. / 212.7 thousand people; Belarusians – 69.7 thousand people. / 44.7 thousand people But it must be borne in mind that during the 2010 census, 340 thousand people were enumerated without indicating their nationality, of which, if we take into account the share among the entire population, Russians make up at least 250 thousand people. Taking into account such amendments, the reduction in the number of Russians in the Southern Federal District is either very insignificant, or there was no reduction at all during the period between the last censuses. Direct comparisons of census data show changes in the number of Tatars - 146.7 thousand people. / 127.5 thousand people; Adyge - 123.9 thousand people. / 121.5 thousand people, Greeks – 52.3 thousand people. / 27.3 thousand people; Germans - 46.6 thousand people. / 29.3 thousand people; Chechens – 44.9 thousand people. / 34.6 thousand people (0.24%); Roma – 39.4 thousand people. / 46.1 thousand people and Georgians 35.8 thousand people. / 31.4 thousand people There is an increase in the number of Armenians - 433.0 thousand people. / 442.5 thousand people; Kazakhs 195.9 thousand people. / 205.4

thousand people; Kalmyks – 164.7 thousand people. / 172.2 thousand people; Turks – 50.0 thousand people. / 55.6 thousand people; Azerbaijanis – 31.3 thousand people. / 52.9 thousand people.

The migration outflow of the old-timer population from the Southern Federal District means the region's loss of highly qualified labor resources, who irrevocably leave for more economically prosperous areas of the country and abroad. At the same time, the influx of low-skilled labor, primarily from the countries of the South Caucasus and Central Asia, affects changes in the sociocultural, linguistic, and religious structure of the population.

The combination of property stratification with ethnic differences, the privatization of land, markets and other property, the use of foreign-ethnic labor migrants in areas characterized by increased unemployment among the local population, the formation of corruption clans - all this gives rise to social instability and inter-ethnic tension.

The ethnic dimension of economic, demographic and other social processes associated with migration is manifested in local everyday conflicts and political actions (“Russian marches”, “Russian jogging”, rallies against “ethnic crime”, corresponding statements by Cossack leaders, the creation of patriotic associations), the number of which in the Southern Federal District has been steadily growing in recent years and has already become a serious threat to public safety. Local interethnic conflicts that received public attention took place in Rostov (Remontnoye village, Salsk, Veshenskaya village), Volgograd (Kletskaya village, Novaya Panika village, Gorny Balykley village), Astrakhan (Astrakhan, Znamensk, Yandyki village) regions, Krasnodar Territory (Sochi, Yeisk, Anapa, Chereshnya village, Dzhubga village), the Republic of Adygea (Tlyustenkhabl village, Dondukovskaya station, Yablonovsky village). These conflicts unfold according to one scenario: growing tension between the old-timer population and the “newcomers” against the backdrop of unsolvable social problems; open clash of groups; putting forward demands for the eviction of migrants and the resignation of local leaders; accusing the latter of corruption and lack of counteraction to “ethnocrime”; the use of power and administrative resources by regional authorities in order to end open confrontation; harsh statements and assessments when discussing the situation in the media and the Internet.

Most of the participants in interethnic clashes and protests are young people aged 14 to 29 years. The population at this age is about 3.5 million people, or 25% of the district's population. The most significant socio-economic problems of young people are unemployment, low income, lack of affordable housing, declining quality of education, lack of socio-cultural infrastructure, competition for social status positions. The consequence of this is the spread of

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drug addiction and alcoholism, legal nihilism, high crime rates, the decline in the role of moral regulators, and the spread of aggressive ideologies.

At the same time, in general, the situation in the Southern Federal District in the field of interethnic relations remains relatively stable, primarily due to the resources of the adult multiethnic population, the old-timers of which have a common historical memory, traditions of good neighborliness, are characterized by a high percentage of interethnic marriages, experience of joint study and work and military service, uniform cultural codes. The adult old-timer population of the Southern Federal District is the guarantor of the preservation of interethnic peace in the district.

The main vector of efforts of authorities at all levels - from municipal to regional - today is focused on improving the well-being of the population of the Southern Federal District, which is reflected in the "Strategy for the socio-economic development of the Southern Federal District for the period until 2035", approved by order of the Government of Russia, and in the Action Plan for its implementation approved by order of the Government of the Russian Federation. The documents show an orientation towards increasing the "sustainability of the settlement core" of the region, ensuring the priority of the local population in the labor market, preserving the southern Russian cultural identity and educating young people as bearers of regional and Russian identity. In particular, they include the following points, namely:

- carrying out an effective migration policy through the use of modern organizational and economic solutions, creating incentives and opportunities for the influx and outflow of the population;

- promoting internal and interregional mobility of labor, attracting it from other regions of the Russian Federation;

- suppression of illegal migration; development of a forecast of the balance of labor resources based on an analysis of the situation on the labor market in the regions of the Southern Federal District;

- implementation of programs of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation that are part of the Southern Federal District to promote employment of the population;

- development and implementation of measures to replace jobs for which it is planned to attract foreign workers with Russian citizens;

- development and implementation of a set of measures to increase territorial mobility of labor in the Southern Federal District;

- ensuring the preservation of cultural heritage sites, supporting investment projects of municipalities in the field of ensuring the preservation of cultural heritage sites;

- formation of a system of historical and cultural reserves and places of interest;

- development and optimization of a system of specially protected natural areas of regional importance in the Southern Federal District;

- creation of a unified cultural space of the Southern Federal District by ensuring equal access to cultural values of the population of different territories and different ethnic groups;

- creating conditions for supporting national cultures, forming a network of folk art houses as methodological and information centers for the development of ethnocultural traditions;

- preservation of traditional national holidays as a means of recognizing the cultural identity of each people living in the district;

- development and approval of a set of measures to involve young people in social practice and support the activities of youth public associations in the Southern Federal District;

- implementation of projects and programs aimed at developing the patriotic education of youth in the Southern Federal District;

- development and implementation of regional programs to support talented youth in the regions of the Southern Federal District;

- support for the development of children's creativity, organization of targeted support for professional art and literature, folk art and national cultures, folk arts and crafts in the Southern Federal District;

- preservation and development of the traditions of the Russian Cossacks;

- creating conditions for increasing the efficiency of the activities of Cossack cadet corps in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation that are part of the Southern Federal District;

- development and approval of regional programs to support Cossack societies.

The implementation of these program points should, by 2025, significantly reduce the objective grounds for interethnic conflicts. In the meantime, the unpreparedness of individual municipal and regional government structures to respond to "ethnic" challenges, the policy of hushing up acute problems and avoiding their timely resolution, and in extreme cases, reliance on forceful methods, are not only factors in the growth of interethnic tensions, the rise of nationalist and xenophobic sentiments, but also one of the reasons for the crisis of confidence in local authorities. Therefore, it is quite logical that the clause of the "Strategy of State Ethnic Policy until 2035", approved by the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation, which provides for "establishing the responsibility of officials of state and municipal bodies for the state of interethnic relations in the relevant territories, as well as incentive measures for these persons", found its implementation in the Federal Law adopted on October 22, 2018, where the powers of state authorities of the constituent entities

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of the Russian Federation include the following powers in the field of interethnic relations, namely:

strengthening interethnic and interfaith harmony;

preventing discrimination based on nationality, language or religion;

social and cultural adaptation of migrants.

The federal law also establishes similar in content, but within its own competence, powers in the field of interethnic relations of municipalities at all levels. In addition, the list of grounds for the resignation of heads of municipalities has been expanded. In addition to conflicts of an “economic” and “migration” nature, there are many internal problems in the district that affect the ethnopolitical situation and require constant attention from authorities at all levels. These problems can be ranked as follows:

common to all regions of the district (for example, preventing terrorist threats, countering the spread of radical Islam and ethnic extremism, combating ethnic criminal groups);

common to a group of regions of the Southern Federal District (a set of issues caused by the development of the Cossack movement, expansion of the social base of Russian nationalism);

characteristic of several subjects of the Federation in the Southern Federal District and North Caucasian Federal District (for example, the so-called “Circassian question”);

problems caused by the border status of regions (for example, problems associated with the Russian-Ukrainian and Russian-Kazakh border);

problems that attract international attention (for example, the Olympic project, the situation with the Shapsugs, Meskhetian Turks and Kurds, etc.).

Positive and negative practices for solving them at the regional and municipal levels will be discussed in subsequent sections. But since many of them are of a district nature, the institution of the plenipotentiary representative of the President of the Russian Federation in the Southern Federal District, as well as the district structures of federal authorities, should play a decisive role in coordinating their decisions.

One of the consequences of the reorganization of the Southern Federal District in 2010 was the “dropout” of the ethnopolitical bloc from the public administration system at the district level and a weakening of attention to institutional resources for managing ethnopolitical processes. The Council of Elders, the Advisory Council, the Coordination Council for Cossack Affairs, the Interfaith Council, and the Coordination Council for Countering Terrorism in the Southern Federal District, which were created at different stages of the functioning of the office of the Plenipotentiary Representative of the President of the Russian Federation in the Southern Federal District, the functions of which included

facilitating the solution of various problems in the field of interethnic relations, ceased to exist.

Currently, the Southern Federal District is the only district in which, under the plenipotentiary representative of the President of the Russian Federation, there are no channels of interaction with civil society in the implementation of the “Russian National Policy Strategy until 2035.”

For comparison: in the Central Federal District, such a channel is the Public Chamber of the Central Federal District, whose tasks include promoting the development of civil society institutions and civil initiatives in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation that are part of the district, in order to maintain social peace, civil, interethnic and interreligious harmony in society, countering extremism.

In the Northwestern Federal District, this function is performed by the Public Council of the Northwestern Federal District and the District Advisory Council on Indigenous Issues.

The Presidential Plenipotentiary Representative in the Far Eastern Federal District has in its reserve the Public Chamber, which is responsible for the development of interaction between public, religious associations and government bodies of all levels located within the federal district, the Council for Cossack Affairs in the Far Eastern Federal District, the Interdepartmental Commission on Public and Religious Associations of the Far Eastern Federal District. Participation in the harmonization of interethnic and interfaith relationships in society is one of the most important tasks of the Expert Advisory Council for the Development of Civil Society in the Siberian Federal District and the Siberian Civil Forum, formed under the plenipotentiary representative of the President of the Russian Federation in the Siberian Federal District. The Expert Advisory Council on the Affairs of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation also functions here. Under the auspices of the Plenipotentiary Representative of the President of Russia, the Ural Federal District Civil Forum operates in the Ural Federal District, the tasks of which include: supporting projects and programs of public, non-governmental, non-profit organizations, regional and municipal public chambers (civil forums) aimed at strengthening the cultural identity of Russia and national spiritual values; unification of civil institutions of the Ural Federal District to monitor the progress of elections to government bodies at all levels, as well as to counter extremist manifestations and attempts to use public organizations in the interests of destructive political forces and foreign centers of influence. In addition, there are: the District Commission of the Urals Federal District of the Council under the President of the Russian Federation for Cossack Affairs, the Council for the Implementation of State Policy in the Field of

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Freedom of Conscience and Religious Associations, the Council for Issues of Indigenous Peoples of the North.

On the initiative of the Plenipotentiary Representative of the President of Russia in the Volga Federal District, the following were created:

*Public Council of the Volga Federal District for the development of civil society institutions, designed to facilitate the processes of interaction between public organizations and authorities in the field of interfaith and interethnic dialogue;

*District Commission of the Volga Federal District for Cossack Affairs, ensuring interaction between federal government bodies, government bodies of constituent entities of the Russian Federation and local governments with Cossack societies and public associations of Cossacks.

Finally, under the plenipotentiary representative of the North Caucasus Federal District, which separated from the “greater Southern Federal District”, the Public Council of the North Caucasus Federal District was formed, which has the following tasks, namely:

achieving civil, interethnic and interreligious harmony, tolerance;

development of dialogue between representatives of different cultures and nationalities;

restoring safe life for Russian citizens in the district, combating corruption, extremism and terrorism;

preservation of ethnic and cultural diversity, traditions and language of the peoples living in the North Caucasus Federal District.

Under the plenipotentiary representative of the President of the Russian Federation in the Southern Federal District, except for the Council created by Decree of the President of Russia and including the heads of the regions included in the district and the heads of individual territorial bodies of federal executive authorities (12 people in total), there are no other collegial structures whose attention and activities would be focused on the problems of ensuring interethnic harmony. While, in accordance with the “Regulations on the Plenipotentiary Representative of the President of the Russian Federation in the Federal District,” the functions of the Plenipotentiary Representative include organizing interaction between federal executive bodies and public and religious associations, in the Southern Federal District there is no systematic interaction between the Plenipotentiary Representative of the President of the Russian Federation and civil society institutions. scientific and expert communities purposefully working in the field of ethnic politics.

Structures such as the Council for Local Self-Government and the Council for Promoting the Development of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises under the Plenipotentiary Representative of the President of the Russian Federation in the Southern

Federal District may deal with problems that also have an ethnic aspect, but initially do not have such tasks. The Commission of the Southern Federal District, as part of the Council under the President of the Russian Federation for Cossack Affairs, is an advisory and advisory body created by the President of Russia, and not his plenipotentiary representative in the Southern Federal District, and primarily considers the implementation of the Strategy for the Development of State Policy of the Russian Federation in relation to the Russian Cossacks. Perhaps the existing gap can be filled by the Interregional Directorate of the Ministry of Regional Development of the Russian Federation for the Southern Federal District (IRU for the Southern Federal District), which was created in accordance with the Order of the Ministry of Regional Development of the Russian Federation. The functions of the new district structure include participation, namely:

in analyzing the effectiveness of the use of state support funds by constituent entities of the Russian Federation and municipalities, including the effectiveness of implementation and the impact of federal target programs on the socio-economic and ethnocultural development of regions of the Russian Federation;

in monitoring the implementation of socio-economic development strategies of the Southern Federal District;

in monitoring and analysis of the implementation of state national policy, state policy towards the Cossacks, as well as in the implementation of the ethnocultural needs of citizens belonging to various ethnic communities of the Russian Federation;

in the development and implementation of activities in the field of state national policy.

The implementation of these functions involves systematic contacts with civilian and expert structures, but in what forms it will be carried out, time will tell.

Currently, we can give the following example of interaction between territorial divisions of federal executive authorities and public structures. In accordance with the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation “On public councils of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation and its territorial bodies”, by order of the Main Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia for the Southern Federal District, a Public Council was created under the Main Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia for the Southern Federal District. At the Council meeting, which took place on July 24, 2018, the fight against ethnic crime was highlighted as one of the priority areas of activity of the Main Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia for the Southern Federal District. At the district level of management of ethno-political processes, there are not only territorial representations of federal authorities, but also interregional

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associations created on the initiative of the constituent entities of the federation: the South Russian Parliamentary Association (URPA) and the Association for Economic Cooperation "South". URPA was created in 2001, its structure changed along with the reorganization of the Southern Federal District: since December 2010, the members of URPA are: State Council-Khase of the Republic of Adygea; People's Khural (Parliament) of the Republic of Kalmykia; Duma of the Astrakhan region; Volgograd Regional Duma; Legislative Assembly of the Rostov Region; Legislative Assembly of the Krasnodar Territory and Crimea, Sevastopol.

The most important activity of URPA is the development and implementation of cooperation programs between the constituent entities of the Russian Federation that are part of the Southern Federal District and other constituent entities of the Russian Federation. At the XIII Conference of the URPA, its composition included as associate members: the People's Assembly of the Republic of Abkhazia; People's Assembly of the Republic of Ingushetia; People's Assembly (Parliament) of the Karachay-Cherkess Republic; Parliament of the Republic of North Ossetia-Alania. At the XVI Conference of the URPA, committees were formed to exercise the powers of the URPA, including the Committee on Interethnic Relations and Inter-Parliamentary Relations, which includes a subcommittee on youth policy issues. Shortly after the adoption of the National Policy Strategy of the Russian Federation, a meeting of the Committee of the South Russian Parliamentary Association on Interethnic Relations and Inter-Parliamentary Relations and the XVIII Conference took place, but at none of these events the issues of implementing the National Policy Strategy of the Russian Federation in the district and the role of URPA in this process were considered. We can only hope that both URPA itself and its relevant committee will in the near future be able to use all their resources and capabilities to fulfill the tasks set in the document. If URPA unites representatives of the legislative bodies of the regions of the Southern Federal District, then another organization at the district level - the Association for Economic Cooperation "South" - was established by the executive authorities of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation of the Southern Federal District. Since March 2018, it has been the successor to the North Caucasus Association. In addition to the Russian regions, it includes the Lugansk region of Ukraine. The highest body of the Association "South" is the Association Council, which includes the first heads of the executive and legislative authorities of the southern Russian regions. The Association's decisions are sent for further consideration to the Government of the Russian Federation and the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian

Federation, for example, on giving federal status to the annual "Peace to the Caucasus" festival.

In accordance with the Charter, the subject of the Association's activities is to create conditions for interregional integration and socio-economic development of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation that are members of the Association. The Executive Committee of the Association created and regularly publishes the magazine "South Russian Bulletin". The association includes 15 coordination councils in the main areas of socio-economic development of the Southern Federal District; more than 3,000 employees of executive and legislative administrations, scientists and public figures from the regions of the Southern Federal District take part in the work of the coordination councils. There is no independent council, committee or commission on interethnic relations in the structure of the Association; ethnic issues are dealt with by the Council on Youth Policy, the Council on Culture and Art, and the Council on Science and Education. The most important documents prepared by the Association after the reorganization of the Southern Federal District together with the office of the plenipotentiary representative of the President of the Russian Federation in the Southern Federal District and regional administrations are the "Strategy for the socio-economic development of the Southern Federal District for the period until 2035" and the "Concept of cross-border cooperation of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation of the Southern Federal District with the regions of the countries of the Middle Abroad." The "Strategy for the socio-economic development of the Southern Federal District for the period up to 2035" is based on the approach according to which "solving the strategic development problems of the Southern Federal District involves the development of human potential through the harmonization of interethnic and interfaith relations." The Strategy identifies priority areas of state national policy in the Southern Federal District, namely:

- “strengthening the all-Russian civic identity and harmonizing interethnic relations in order to reduce the risks of ethnopolitical conflicts;

- carrying out an effective information policy, the most effective use of modern socially-oriented communication technologies aimed at ensuring holistic and systematic work with public opinion and all target audiences in the field of interethnic relations and tolerant attitudes;

- preventing the outflow of the Russian population from the Southern Federal District and facilitating its return to the district;

- development of activities aimed at effectively countering ethnopolitical and religious-political extremism, strengthening interethnic and interfaith cooperation;

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assistance to civil society institutions in strengthening interethnic and interreligious harmony, preventing ethnopolitical and religious extremism.”

These directions are fully consistent with the “Strategy of the National Policy of Russia until 2035” and the Action Plan for its implementation. For example, the item “Development and implementation of regional comprehensive action plans for the harmonization of interethnic relations, strengthening the all-Russian civic identity and ethnocultural development of the peoples of the Russian Federation” correlates with the item of the federal Plan “Development of a model regional target program for the harmonization of interethnic relations and strengthening the unity of the Russian nation.” In pursuance of these points, the “Comprehensive (consolidated) action plan for the harmonization of interethnic relations in the Republic of Kalmykia until 2035” was approved in the Republic of Kalmykia; in the Rostov region, the “Comprehensive action plan to ensure interethnic harmony in the Rostov region until 2035” was approved, in the preamble which recommended the heads of city districts and municipal districts of the Rostov region to develop and approve similar plans. The Volgograd Region has adopted the Departmental Target Program “Implementation of the state policy of the Russian Federation in the field of interethnic relations in the Volgograd Region until 2035.”

In other regions, previously adopted documents apply. In the Krasnodar Territory, the “Long-term regional target program “Harmonization of interethnic relations and development of national cultures in the Krasnodar Territory” until 2035” was approved and so far no changes have been made to it. In the Astrakhan region, since 2018, the regional Concept of state national policy and the Plan for its implementation have been in force, which was adopted in a new edition and changes were made to the “Long-term target program of the Republic of Adygea “Ethnocultural development and prevention of extremism” until 2035” in terms of reducing it budget, the draft state program of the Republic of Adygea “Strengthening interethnic relations and patriotic education” until 2035 is at the stage of public discussion. The very existence of documents regulating the sphere of management of regional ethnopolitical and ethnocultural processes, as well as the departments responsible for their implementation in regional authorities, is the most important factor in achieving the goals stated in the Strategy of National Policy of Russia, but does not provide an automatic solution to the assigned tasks.

A condition for the implementation of the Federal Strategy, the Strategy of the Southern Federal District, regional and municipal comprehensive plans and programs must be their availability and broad information support. Currently, official websites and portals provide fragmentary, sometimes outdated

information, and in some cases, fundamental documents are simply missing (for example, the text of the Long-term Target Program of the Republic of Adygea “Ethnocultural Development and Prevention of Extremism” until 2035) is missing. On the website of the Association “South” there is no text “Concept of cross-border cooperation of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation of the Southern Federal District with regions of neighboring countries.” The lack of information about the activities of government bodies at all levels in the field of national politics results in their impartial assessment in the media and the Internet. Here are a few not-so-sharp titles of newspaper articles: “Russia and the Caucasus: they shoot at us, and we pay them”, “The state has surrendered: diasporas will deal with interethnic conflicts”, ““Wild Don”: Cossack villages against guests from the Caucasus. But there is no power”, “Putin is traveling around the country... Allah Akbar over the Quiet Don”, “Knife fight with an accent. The increase in ethnic crime in the Rostov region may strengthen separatist sentiments among the Cossacks.”

It is important that the socio-economic development strategies of all districts and comprehensive plans of all constituent entities of the Russian Federation, as well as the names of the structures responsible for their implementation, are posted on the website of the Ministry of Regional Development of the Russian Federation; so that the websites of authorized representatives of the President of the Russian Federation in the districts and on the official portals of the constituent entities contain not only similar information, but also regularly updated information on the implementation of the planned items of the Plan (names of adopted regulations, agendas and decisions of meetings, monitoring reports, annotations of publications, information on the allocation of budgetary funds to NGOs, NCAs and religious associations, on the results of investigations into high-profile cases related to ethnic crime, examples of constructive solutions to interethnic problems at the municipal level); so that the information flow is not limited to formal reports or journalistic notes about the next festival or round table, but contains an assessment of their effectiveness. In the future, the state of interethnic relations in the Southern Federal District will be influenced by, namely:

- the nature of geopolitical risks; indicators of socio-economic development;
- uneven quality of life indicators in the regions of the Southern Federal District;
- the volume of the shadow economy and the level of corruption;
- the relationship between situational and systemic approaches in the activities of government bodies in solving ethnopolitical problems;

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coordination of actions of municipal, regional, district and federal structures in the field of ethnic policy;

the level of interaction between government bodies and civil society institutions;

information openness of the process of implementing the National Policy Strategy until 2035 in the district and its regions.

Main part

The Adygea (Circassian) Autonomous Region on the territory of the Maikop and Ekaterinodar departments of the Kuban-Black Sea region was

formed on July 27, 1922. Adygea was transformed into the Soviet Socialist Republic as part of the RSFSR on July 3, 1991, and since March 24, 1992 it has the status of the Republic of Adygea and surrounded by the territory of the Krasnodar Territory, within which it was located for a long time. The interdependence of economic and ethno-political processes in these subjects of the federation was expressed in the creation of a representative office of the Republic of Adygea under the head of the administration of the Krasnodar Territory. The ethnic composition of the population of Adygea is shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Ethnic composition of the population of Adygea according to population census data

	2002		2010	2020
the entire population	439996 people		447109 people	432046 people
		100%	100%	100%
Russians	270714	63.64	64.74	67.96
Cossacks	374	0.09	0.11	--
Adyghe people	107048	25.16	24.28	22.09
Armenians	15561	3.66	3.43	2.42
Ukrainians	5856	1.38	2.04	3.18
Kurds	4528	1.06	0.82	0.06
Circassians	2651	0.62	0.14	0.06
Tatars	2571	0.60	0.65	0.62
gypsies	2364	0.56	0.41	0.26
Azerbaijanis	1758	0.41	0.31	0.24
Greeks	1385	0.33	0.39	0.36
Belarusians	1253	0.29	0.43	0.63
Germans	818	0.19	0.27	0.42
Georgians	803	0.19	0.21	0.15
Koreans	766	0.18	0.18	0.15
Chechens	610	0.14	0.25	0.04
Kabardians	519	0.12	0.07	0.06
Ossetians	450	0.11	0.09	0.06
Lezgins	391	0.09	0.07	0.06
Uzbeks	323	0.08	0.04	0.03
Tajiks	298	0.07	0.03	0.02
Moldovans	277	0.07	0.07	0.10
other	19052	4.33	0.97	1.03

The area of the territory of the Republic of Adygea is 7792 square meters. km, the capital is the city of Maykop. The republic includes 2 cities of Maykop and Adygheisk, 7 municipal districts, 5 urban-type settlements, 225 rural settlements. According to the results of the 2020 census, the population of the Republic of Adygea was 439,996 people, which is an increase of 7,113 people. (1.6%) less compared to the results of the 2010 census, when the number of people living in the republic was recorded at 447,109 people.

During the intercensus period (2010–2020), the natural population decline amounted to 11,455 people, and even the migration increase (6,785 people over the same 8 years) did not cover this decline. The working age population at the end of 2021 was 58.5%, the average annual number of people employed in the economy was 151.9 thousand people. The birth rate in 2022 was 13.0, mortality – 13.4 per 1000 people. According to Rosstat, the population of the republic as of January 1, 2023 was 444,403 people,

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the population density was 57.03 people/sq. km, which is almost three times higher than the corresponding figure for Russia as a whole. Urban population - 46.97%, rural - 53.03%. In 2022, 8886 people left the republic, 11062 people arrived, due to migration growth (2176 people), the total population growth was 1952 people, natural decline - 224 people. In subsequent years, due to an increase in the birth rate, a decrease in mortality and a migration influx, according to the forecast of Rosstat, the population is expected to grow to 459.3 thousand people. (by 3.6%) in 2035.

The growth in absolute population size during this period will be accompanied by a change in the structure of the ethnic composition of the population. Characteristic is a decrease in the share of the Slavic population and an increase in the share of the population of the Adyghe-Circassian language group. In 1926, the population of this group indicated the nationalities "Circassians" and "Kabardians"; starting in 1939, the self-name "Adyghe" appeared. In the process of preparing and conducting the 2020 Census, a specific problem for Adyghe was the desire to consolidate the ethnic consolidation of representatives of this linguistic group. A number of NGOs in the republic initiated the project "One Nation - One Future," which consisted of promoting the unity of the Circassians (Circassians) by recording themselves in Russian as "Circassians" and in their native language as "Adyghe" on census forms. In practice, the overwhelming majority retained the self-name "Adyghe". Among the "new" ethnic groups for the republic, special attention is drawn to the Kurds, who appeared in the region immediately after the Spitak earthquake, which destroyed 15 small Kurdish villages, and the conflict around Nagorno-Karabakh, which also affected their places of residence - the Lachin region, connecting the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Okrug with Armenia (in 1923–29 - special Kurdistan district, or Red Kurdistan). Later, Kurds from other regions of Armenia, Kazakhstan and other regions joined them. According to the 2002 census, there were only 262 people in the Adyghe Autonomous Okrug, but in 2010 their number was already 3631 people, and in 2020 – 4528 people. Despite the fact that Kurds make up only 1.1% of the population of the Republic of Adyghe, experts are usually impressed by the growth rate of their numbers, which for the period 2010–2020. increased by 25%. Some experts note that if the current rate of migration and natural growth of the Kurdish population continues, the problem of their administrative-territorial isolation may emerge in the coming decades. Currently, the Kurds are compactly settled in the villages of the Krasnogvardeisky district, mainly in three - Beloe, Elenovskoe, Sadovoe, as well as in Preobrazhensky, Krasnogvardeisky and the village of Bzhedughabl.

The wariness of the authorities and public opinion towards the Kurds is due to the fact that the Kurds, unlike other migrant groups, still retain much of their traditional political structure: division into tribal groups (ashirats), the institution of hereditary leadership (sheikhs), elements of customary law. Thus, many Kurds recognize not the leaders of their public associations, but the sheikhs, as the most authoritative leaders. To Abdulmanaf-sheikh from the village. Elenovka is addressed not only on issues of religion and family and marriage law, but also in order to resolve internal conflicts that occur, without resorting to the services of the police and without informing the relevant authorities.

A typical example of the manifestation of migrant-phobia towards the Kurds of the Republic of Adyghe is a meeting of residents of the village. Tlyustenkhabl, Teuchezhsky district, regarding the conflict with labor migrants from Dagestan that took place. It is noteworthy that the residents of the village who spoke (Adygs, Russians, Azerbaijanis, etc.) almost did not talk about the fight with the Dagestanis, since, in their opinion, the Dagestanis are a temporary phenomenon, "the problem with the Kurds is much more serious. For some reason there were a lot of them in the village."

During a coordination meeting on ensuring law and order in Adyghe, the head of the republic noted that "the migration situation in Adyghe, as well as in the south of Russia as a whole, has become significantly more complicated on the eve of the Sochi Olympics. Moreover, our republic, for a number of reasons, remains a particularly attractive place to live for migrants. The influx of migrants makes the problem of employment of the population especially acute, affects the increase in unemployment, competition in the regional labor market, and leads to contradictions between migrants and the local population."

At the same meeting, attention was drawn to the problem of the purposeful formation of mono-ethnic formations in the region, whose residents are distinguished by aggression and express clear antipathy towards the local population with its established way of life: "We keep the situation under control, but in the future it cannot be allowed in the region no enclaves. An isolated way of life and a reluctance to respect local traditions give rise to intolerance in relations between immigrants and the local population. In this case, conflict situations on domestic grounds are inevitable." The Republic has adopted the Concept of Demographic Policy, which is a system of tasks, principles and priority directions of the policy of the Republic of Adyghe in the field of regulating demographic development for the period until 2035. It was developed on the basis of the Concept of Demographic Policy of the Russian Federation for the period until 2035 and is aimed at resolving issues, concerning the growth of the birth

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rate, providing support to the family, preserving and strengthening the health of the population, increasing life expectancy of the population, as well as migration problems. Regarding migration compensation for the population, it says that “solving the problem of attracting migrants in accordance with the needs of demographic and socio-economic development includes, namely:

promoting the voluntary resettlement of compatriots living abroad, as well as encouraging the return of emigrants to the Russian Federation;

creating conditions for the integration of immigrants into Russian society and the formation of a tolerant attitude towards them.”

One of the main principles for implementing the Concept is taking into account republican characteristics and a differentiated approach to the development and implementation of republican programs in the field of demographic development.

There is no concept of migration policy in the republic; the migration sphere is managed by the Department of the Federal Migration Service for the Republic of Adygea. It should be noted that the “Report on the results and main activities for 2023 and the planning period 2024–2025”, containing the main statistical indicators of the migration movement of the population, is not available on the Department’s website. The main feature of the migration policy of the Republic of Adygea is its focus on the repatriation of Adyghe compatriots, which is reflected in the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia: “The Republic of Adygea recognizes the right of return to their historical homeland of compatriots living outside the Russian Federation: the Adyghe diaspora, natives and their descendants, immigrants, regardless of their nationality” (Article 10). Officially, the repatriation of compatriots - descendants of the North Caucasian Muhajirs - to the Republic of Adygea began on August 1, 1998, in 2007 a new settlement was registered - the village of Mafekhahl (“Happy”), where 165 migrants from the former Yugoslavia, mainly from Kosovo, 3 hectares of land were allocated. Since that time, Repatriate Day has been celebrated in Adygea.

In government agencies, the Committee of the Republic of Adygea for National Affairs, Relations with Compatriots and the Media deals with the issue of the return of compatriots. In particular, its actions are aimed at solving a set of issues related to preparing potential repatriates for resettlement, namely:

dissemination of information about Russian language courses in Russian cultural centers at Russian embassies in countries where the Adyghe diaspora lives;

providing financial support for activities to train young specialists from among representatives of the foreign Adyghe diaspora (Turkey, Syria, Jordan) in universities and colleges of the republic;

strengthening ties between the Circassian diaspora and their historical homeland using such

channels as sending youth tourist groups to the North Caucasus, immersing children from among their compatriots in the language environment, holding folk festivals, concerts of artistic Circassian groups, sports events, publishing educational and artistic works together with representatives of the diaspora literature for children of compatriots.

The tragically unfolding situation in Syria forced many descendants of the Circassian Muhajirs living there to appeal to the President of the Russian Federation, as well as the authorities and public of the Republic of Adygea with a call for help in repatriation. At the end of December 2021, a meeting of the State Council of Adygea was held, which supported the return of Syrian Circassians to Russia. He appealed to the President of the Russian Federation, the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, as well as the leadership of Karachay-Cherkessia and Kabardino-Balkaria with a request to help the Syrian Circassians. Public associations took an active, and in some cases radical, position on this issue, demanding the speedy evacuation of the Circassians from Syria.

According to data, since the beginning of hostilities in Syria, over 700 Circassians have returned to their historical homeland. Most of the families are settled in empty houses in rural areas - in the Shovgenovsky, Takhtamukaysky districts and in the city of Adygeisk, the realization of the right to self-determination of the Adyghe people and the historically established community of people living on its territory,” on the other hand, that it “protects the interests of the entire multinational population Republic” (Article 51). The same principle is stipulated in Art. 3 (clause 3): “Mutual respect, voluntary and equal cooperation of all segments of the population, citizens of all nationalities constitute the social basis of the Republic of Adygea.”

The Maykop Municipal Television channel regularly airs programs devoted to the problem of extremism: “Frankly Speaking”, “The Heart of the Matter”, during which viewers, on the basis of traditional spiritual and universal values, are introduced to the origins of the national cultures and ethnic identity of the peoples of Adygea. Such programs as “Conversations about the Eternal”, “Behind the Lines of the Koran”, “On the Way to the Temple”, “Orthodox Calendar”, “Now”, “Repentance” are vivid examples of close and fruitful cooperation between the municipal television of Maykop and representatives traditional confessions of the republic (Islam and Orthodoxy).

In general, the ethno-confessional situation of religious relations, minimizing the risks of the spread of radical Islam. The Spiritual Administration of Muslims of the Republic of Adygea and the Krasnodar Territory considers the unity of Muslims, the implementation of measures to counter destructive

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forces in Islam and society, and religious education to be its main and strategic task. In the republic, the practice of systematic interfaith interaction, as well as cooperation of religious organizations with authorities, should be continued and extended to the level of municipalities.

Demographic and migration processes in the Republic of Kalmykia. The Republic of Kalmykia is part of the Southern Federal District of the Russian Federation. The area of the territory is 74.7 thousand square meters. km (0.4% of the territory of the Russian Federation). The number of administrative-territorial units: 13 districts, 3 cities, 111 rural administrations. The capital of the republic is Elista (104,238 people).

Kalmykia borders on the Republic of Dagestan in the south, on the Stavropol Territory in the

southwest, on the Rostov Region on the west, on the Volgograd Region on the northwest, and on the Astrakhan Region on the east.

Among the peoples of the South of Russia, the Kalmyks, descendants of the nomads and medieval Oirats of Dzungaria, differ in a certain way. These are the only representatives of Buddhist culture in the south of Russia and on the European continent as a whole. At the beginning of the 17th century. Kalmyks, having made a transcontinental (later becoming transcultural) transition from Asia to Europe, voluntarily became part of the Russian state. The ethnic composition of the population of Kalmykia is presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Ethnic composition of the population of Kalmykia according to population censuses

	2002	2006	2010	2020
the entire population	289481 people		292410 people	322579 people
		100%	100%	100%
Kalmyks	162740	57.37	53.33	45.36
Russians	85712	30.21	33.56	37.68
Dargins	7590	2.68	2.50	3.99
Kazakhs	4948	1.74	1.71	1.95
Meskhetian Turks	3675	1.30	0.00	--
Chechens	3343	1.18	2.04	2.58
Avars	2396	0.84	0.79	1.20
Ukrainians	1531	0.54	0.86	1.26

The Kalmyk Khanate was formed within the borders of which a special Mongol-speaking people formed on an Oirat ethnic basis. The “phenomenality” of the ethnocultural and confessional positioning of the Kalmyks, a classical oriental (in anthropology, mentality, language, religion, culture) people, lies in their “place of development” on the border between the greater Christian world on the one hand, and the Muslim world on the other.

The permanent population at the beginning of 2023 is 284,140 people, including 127.1 thousand (44.7%) urban, 1567.0 thousand people. (55.3%) – rural. The population density of the republic is 3.8 people. per 1 sq. km, which is 2.1 times less than the Russian average. As of 01/01/2023, the number of economically active population, according to the territorial body of the Federal State Statistics Service of the Republic of Kalmykia, amounted to 141.2 thousand people, or 65.8% of the total population of the republic, the employment rate was 57.5%. The birth rate is one of the highest in the district - 14.6; the mortality rate is the lowest in the district - 10.1; the average age of the population is 35.2 years, i.e., the main demographic indicators indicate a favorable demographic situation, but due to migration outflow

in the intercensus period (2010–2020), the population decreased by 2929 people, and in subsequent years even more for 5341 people. In 2022, negative population growth was recorded, namely -2549 people. According to official data from the territorial body of the Federal State Statistics Service for the Republic of Kalmykia, since the 90s. last century there was a stable negative balance of external migration. From 2017 to 2021 migration growth rate per 1000 people. population amounted by year: -9.3 (2017), -10.2 (2018), -7.0 (2020), -7.0 (2021), -7.1 (2022). The negative balance of migration was maintained due to the outflow of the population to other regions; compared to 2020, the migration decline in the population increased by 69.3%. In 2022, 7,578 people left the republic. Active migration exchange has developed with Moscow and the Moscow region - 22.4% (in the volume of external migration), with the Stavropol Territory - 20.8%, Rostov Region - 11.6%, Krasnodar Territory - 11.2%, St. Petersburg and Leningrad region - 10.5%, Astrakhan region - 7.8%, Volgograd region - 7.2%, other regions - 8.5%.

Migration of able-bodied and qualified labor outside Kalmykia is the loss of highly educated and qualified specialists, which will lead to the loss of

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prospects for the development of Kalmykia's economy. Mostly educated, highly qualified workers of working age migrate, dissatisfied with low wages, working conditions and living standards.

The level of migration intentions of young people is high; the vast majority of graduates of vocational educational institutions in Kalmykia plan to leave the republic in search of work or further education. Temporary migration (mostly migration to Moscow, St. Petersburg) of the permanent population of Kalmykia to some extent reduces social tension and mitigates the problem of unemployment, and this is its positive consequences, but in strategic terms it has negative consequences on the situation in the region: young people are leaving, citizens of working age, family ties are severed, ethnic identity is lost. Migration processes not only reduce the total population, but also reduce labor potential, since most of those leaving are people of working age. The republic lacks labor resources, the number of people employed in the economy has been steadily declining since 2001 (118.1 thousand people), in 2021 it amounted to 113.6 thousand people. The Government of the Russian Federation classifies the Republic of Kalmykia as a territory with a tense situation in the labor market. In connection with the allocation of additional funds from the federal budget aimed at reducing tension in the labor market of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, in 2022 the "Program for the implementation of measures to support the labor market of the Republic of Kalmykia until 2025" was developed and approved. A similar Program was approved until 2035, since the qualitative state of the labor market in the republic has not changed. The main problems in the development of employment and the labor market in this region include:

- labor redundancy due to insufficient development of economic potential, lack of own investment resources to introduce new jobs;

- low level of employment of the rural population (over 70% of registered unemployed citizens are represented today by rural residents);

- the continuing trend of reduction in the number of people engaged in economic activities;

- imbalance of labor supply and demand;

- high levels of general and registered unemployment, exceeding the Russian average by more than 1.5 times.

There are no special documents regulating the migration sphere in the republic. Even in two fundamental documents - "Strategy for the socio-economic development of the Republic of Kalmykia until 2035" and "The concept of socio-economic development of the Republic of Kalmykia until 2035" - there are no sections devoted to migration policy, and the system of measures to prevent the outflow of the population is not considered, but you can glean information about the criteria for effective

management of migration processes in Kalmykia, namely:

- organization of regulated migration on the territory of the republic;

- creating conditions to increase the migration attractiveness of the region, combating illegal migration;

- stabilization of the total population;

- promoting sustainable socio-economic development of the country and the republic.

Kalmykia is one of the regions of the Russian Federation where natural growth is combined with migration outflow of the population, which is why the total population of the republic is declining. In an unfavorable economic situation, the process of reducing the permanent working-age population continues. Stabilizing the permanent population of the republic is one of the main tasks facing the authorities of the Republic of Kalmykia in the field of demographic and migration policy. Therefore, it is necessary to develop and adopt a concept for migration policy in the Republic of Kalmykia, as well as a plan for its implementation.

The basic institution of multicultural education is an eleven-year school with three levels: primary (grades 1–4), basic general (grades 5–9) and secondary (complete) general (grades 10–11) education. State education standards are set in Russian, the common state language of the Russian Federation and the main language of interethnic communication. The leading role of the Russian language in the Russian educational space, in the socio-political, economic and spiritual life of the federal state determines its paramount importance as a language of teaching and learning. The native language is the most important tool of socialization, the main means of developing imaginative thinking, the main channel for transmitting national culture and introducing a person to world civilizational processes.

The fundamental principle of the functioning of the multicultural education system is the use of the native language as the language of teaching and learning. Functional bilingualism, i.e. teaching some subjects in the native language (not Russian), and some in Russian, is complemented by a different ratio of languages at the initial stage of education. At the senior, specialized level of school, English can also be used as a language of instruction, along with Russian and native (non-Russian) languages.

In Kalmykia, the implementation of ethno-confessional policy is not systematic: there is no conceptual document, specialized units of government bodies, or an accessible centralized source of information on the activities of government bodies in this area. The fragmented efforts of such structures as the administration of the head of the Republic of Kalmykia, the republican Ministry of Internal Affairs, the FSB, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, the Federal Migration Service of the Russian

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Federation, the Ministry of Justice and other government bodies reduce the effectiveness of their activities.

A regional national policy concept should be developed and adopted. It is also necessary to create a permanent unit in the structure of the republican authorities, capable of accumulating the experience available in the republic in ensuring ethno-confessional stability.

Ethnodemographic and migration processes in the Krasnodar Territory. The ethnic composition of the population of the Krasnodar Territory is shown in Table 4. The Krasnodar Territory was formed on September 13, 1937, and is part of the Southern Federal District. It borders on the Rostov region, the Stavropol region, and before the October Revolution of 1917, most of the territory of the modern Krasnodar region was occupied by the Kuban region, formed in 1860 from the Black Sea Cossack army.

Table 4. Ethnic composition of the population of the Krasnodar Territory according to population census data

	2020		2010	2002
the entire population	5226647 people		5125221 people	4620876 people
		100%	100%	100%
Russians	4522962	88.25	86.78	86.71
Cossacks	5261	0.10	0.34	--
Armenians	281680	5.50	5.37	3.72
Ukrainians	83746	1.63	2.58	3.94
Tatars	24840	0.48	0.50	0.31
Greeks	22595	0.44	0.52	0.61
Georgians	17826	0.35	0.40	0.26
Belarusians	16890	0.33	0.51	0.75
Adyghe people	13834	0.27	0.31	0.45
gypsies	12920	0.25	0.21	0.18
Germans	12171	0.24	0.36	0.65
Azerbaijanis	10165	0.20	0.23	0.22
Turks	8527	0.17	0.26	0.05
Kurds	5899	0.12	0.10	0.05
Circassians	5258	0.10	0.09	0.08
Moldovans	5170	0.10	0.13	0.16
Yazidis	5023	0.10	0.09	
Ossetians	4537	0.09	0.08	0.05
Lezgins	4106	0.08	0.07	0.06
Koreans	3952	0.08	0.06	0.03
Shapsugi	3839	0.07	0.06	
Uzbeks	3469	0.07	0.04	0.05
Assyrians	3440	0.07	0.07	0.04
other	153798	1.01	1.18	1.63

The Krasnodra region borders Karachay-Cherkessia, Adyghea and the partially recognized Republic of Abkhazia. It borders by sea with Ukraine. The administrative center is the city of Krasnodar. The area of the region is 75,485 square meters. km. In 1900, the population of the Kuban region numbered about 2 million people.

Currently, the Krasnodar Territory ranks third in terms of population among the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, while having a high population density of 70.64 people/sq. km. The population of the region as of January 1, 2023 is

5,330,181 people, the urban population is 53.5%, the rural population is 46.5%, the economically active population is 2,575 thousand people (2021). The birth rate is 12.2, the death rate is 13.5 per 1000 people. population. In 2022, 176,884 people arrived in the region, of which 117,006 were from outside the region. 70,668 people left the region. The migration increase amounted to 46,338 people, of which 10,327 people. – from CIS countries. According to the 2020 census, the population of the Krasnodar Territory increased by 2% compared to the results of the 2010 census (5,125,221 people). The increase in numbers

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was ensured by the excess of migration growth over natural decline. In 2020, the Long-Term Regional Target Program “On Improving the Demographic Situation in the Krasnodar Territory” for 2025–2035 was adopted, the goal of which is to stabilize the population and create socio-economic prerequisites for subsequent demographic development; there is no mention of migration as a demographic factor. resource of the region. However, according to Rosstat forecasts, it is migration growth that will ensure further growth in the population of the Krasnodar Territory in subsequent years. As in other regions of the Southern Federal District, in the Krasnodar Territory, migration growth is ensured by ethnic migrants, which is reflected in changes in the ethnic composition of the population.

The majority of residents of the region are Russians - 4,522,962 people. (in 2022 -4,436,272 people), their share in the structure of the population who indicated their nationality increased slightly from 86.78% to 88.25%.

Long-term regional target program “On improving the demographic situation in the Krasnodar Territory” for 2025–2035. approved The resolution of the head of administration (governor) of the Krasnodar region is characterized by a common history (both are descendants of the Russian- and Ukrainian-speaking Cossacks and peasantry) Ukrainians (83,746 people) retained 3rd place, but their numbers decreased significantly (in 2022 there were 131,774 people), and the share fell to 1.63% (it was 2.58%), which was caused primarily by assimilation processes. Thus, the census of the 1920s. recorded not a Russian, but also a Ukrainian majority in the region. This was followed by the provocative policy of “Ukrainization” in the early 1930s. (translation of the entire educational system and official documentation into Ukrainian), and then vice versa - Stalinist repressions, which knocked Ukrainian self-consciousness into the marginal sphere.

During the 2020 census, only 5,261 people were counted as Cossacks, while in 2002 – 17,542 people. (this differs significantly from all kinds of expert estimates, which bring the number of descendants of the Kuban Cossacks to 1 million people). The official number of the Kuban Cossack Army (2020 - 42,320 people) is eight times higher than this figure, which indicates that this organization is perceived by the bulk of its members as having no ethnic nature.

The numbers of some ethnic minorities have increased. This applies to Armenians, whose number is 281,680 people. – actually increased compared to the previous census (in 2002 – 274,566 people), but the share increased by only 0.13%. The Armenians of the region, consisting mainly of refugees, migrants and their descendants who moved in the 19th century. from Turkey, and in the 20th century. – from Georgia (including Abkhazia) and Azerbaijan (including Karabakh), for a century now they have represented

the second largest group after the Russian-Ukrainian majority (the former Great and Little Russians). The number of Roma during the intercensus period increased from 10,873 people. up to 12920 people The 2010 census also recorded a slight increase in the number of Kurds and Yazidis: the number of Kurds increased from 5022 people. up to 5899 people, Yazidis from 4441 people. up to 5023 people For the first time, in the results of the 2010 Census, the “Kurmanch” group was identified, to which 35 people were assigned. Its constitution took place already in the 2000s. during the struggle against discrimination against Batumi Kurds living in the Krasnodar region, whose leaders, in order to protect their civil rights, chose a strategy of ethnic mobilization as an independent small people and the development of a unique identity. The successes of their initiative were recorded in the census results. For most other minorities, negative population dynamics were recorded. According to the 2010 Census, the number of Turks in the region decreased from 13,496 people. up to 8527 people The reason for the decline in representatives of this community was resettlement in the mid-2000s. a large part of the Meskhetian Turks in the United States as refugees under a program specially developed for them by the American government.

The 2010 census reflected a growing trend in labor migration, in particular from Central Asia - 3,469 Uzbeks (in 2002 there were 2,210 people) and 1,853 Tajiks (in 2002 there were 1,179 people). But their flow was growing at a very fast pace: in 2022, the Federal Migration Service in the Krasnodar Territory issued 64,203 work permits to foreign citizens and stateless persons (in 2022 - 56,832) and 69,460 patents (in 2021 - 34,682).

In general, according to expert estimates, the total number of labor migrants from among foreign citizens is now about 200 thousand people, the vast majority of whom are localized in Krasnodar, Sochi and other cities on the Black Sea coast (Anapa, Gelendzhik, Tuapse). This is due to the fact that migrant workers are employed mainly in the construction sector, which is rapidly developing in the Olympic capital, at resorts and in the dynamically under construction regional center. There was even a concern that 25–30% of them expected to remain in the Krasnodar Territory for permanent residence. According to the Office of the Ministry of Justice of Russia for the Krasnodar Territory, as of December 25, 2022, 140 national and cultural public associations are registered and operating in the region. Armenians, Adygeis (“Adyghe-Khase” of the Krasnodar Territory), Ukrainians, Germans, Jews, Poles, Greeks, Assyrians, Kurds and Yazidis, Tatars, have their own national-cultural autonomies (NCAs) and national-cultural public associations (NCPOs). Azerbaijanis, Georgians, Abkhazians, Udins, Ossetians, peoples of Dagestan and separately Lezgins, Afghans, Serbs,

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Koreans, Gypsies, Tajiks and Uzbeks. Most of them belong to one of the four centers of national cultures, operating in the cities of Krasnodar, Sochi, Armavir, Novorossiysk. The overwhelming majority of non-profit organizations in the region are small organizations that monopolize the corresponding ethnic community at their territorial level. A somewhat different situation is typical for the Armenian community of the region, which is largely due to its large size compared to other ethnic groups. The Regional Branch of the Union of Armenians of Russia (UAR) in the Krasnodar Territory positions itself as an organization consolidating the Armenians of the region. There are also a number of other Armenian NCOOs operating in the region, some of which established the regional Armenian Coordination Council (ACC) in February 2022. The main goal of the created structure is stated to be the coordination of national socio-political activities of Armenian organizations and individuals in the Krasnodar region in light of the past date - the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide in Turkey.

The main area of activity of the NCOO is: organizing cultural events, learning their languages, education and presentation of culture. Only a few of them also take active steps to promote the implementation of civil rights of representatives of their ethnic groups and implement practical initiatives to integrate them into the regional community. At the same time, the leaders of NCOOs are certainly included in the public councils of all law enforcement agencies in the region, and are involved by the regional and municipal administrations in the work of various interdepartmental commissions. Problems related to migration are dealt with by the Office of the Federal Migration Service of the FMS for the Krasnodar Territory, which is designed to ensure the effective implementation of state migration policy, namely:

- development of differentiated mechanisms for attracting, selecting and using foreign labor in demand by the Russian economy;

- combating illegal migration and strengthening immigration control over compliance with the regime of stay (residence) and labor activities of foreign citizens and stateless persons on the territory of the Russian Federation;

- ensuring the inevitability of punishment for those guilty of committing offenses in the field of migration;

- promoting the adaptation and integration of migrants, the formation of constructive interaction between migrants and the host community;

- preventing and countering manifestations of interethnic tension, religious intolerance, and national hatred.

To solve these problems, Management:

- interacts with national and cultural autonomies, including the implementation of programs for the legal, social, cultural adaptation of migrants;

- carries out work to create conditions for adaptation and integration of migrants, including teaching them the Russian language, legal education, information about cultural traditions and norms of behavior;

- takes part in improving the mechanisms of interaction between regional government bodies and local self-government with public associations that promote the adaptation and integration of migrants;

- takes measures to counter the social exclusion of migrants, spatial segregation and the formation of ethnic enclaves;

- participates in the implementation of a set of measures aimed at improving interdepartmental activities in the field of preventing interethnic conflicts, creating effective mechanisms for their resolution, conducting systematic monitoring of the state of interethnic relations, as well as intensifying work to prevent manifestations of national and religious extremism and suppress the activities of organized criminal groups formed according to ethnicity.

Current issues in the field of migration are considered at meetings of the Public Advisory Council under the Department, which includes representatives of human rights organizations, public associations and national diasporas, educational institutions and specialists in the field of migration, demography and economics. The meetings discuss issues of interaction with public associations and national diasporas of the Krasnodar Territory, measures to combat illegal migration, issues of refugees and migrants staying in the region. In 2018, a regular meeting of the Public Advisory Council at the Federal Migration Service was held, at which the draft Agreement between the Federal Migration Service of Russia for the Krasnodar Territory, the Main Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia for the Krasnodar Territory and the Krasnodar Regional Center of National Cultures was discussed. The body in charge of ethno-migration problems is the Department for Work with Political Parties, Public Associations and Interethnic Relations of the Department of Internal Policy. Among the tasks of the Department are the following, namely:

- implementation of interaction between the regional administration and national communities in order to preserve civil peace and interethnic harmony, affirm the principle of equality of citizens of different nationalities and religions living in the region, strengthening mutual respect and understanding between them;

- carrying out an analysis and forecast of the migration situation in the region, developing proposals and recommendations in the field of migration and nationality policy;

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analysis of the state of state-church relations and development of proposals for the implementation of state policy in this area in the region, organization of interaction between the regional administration and religious organizations, involving them in the process of stabilizing the socio-political situation in the region.

The Krasnodar region has always been at the center of various migration flows. The ancestors of most of the current population of the region colonized the territory of the North-West Caucasus after its annexation to the Russian Empire at the end of the 18th century. At the end of the Caucasian War (1864), the bulk of the indigenous Adyghe-Abkhaz population moved to Turkey. The migrations of Great and Little Russians, Armenians, Germans, Greeks, etc. began. were then regulated in accordance with the special Regulations of 1866. In subsequent Soviet years, the rate of migration of these groups either fell or recovered, and, at least since the 1960s. the authorities tried to regulate them through registration, which stabilized the ethnic composition of the population.

In the 1990s. The region was the leader among the subjects of the federation in the number of migrants - 4–5% of the total Russian number of migrants per year, a significant share of which were refugees from the hot spots of the South Caucasus and Central Asia. During these years, migration growth compensated for the natural population decline, but since 1998, migration to the region from the CIS countries, mainly from Ukraine, the South Caucasus and Central Asia, has ceased to compensate for it. Since 2008, the migration flow has been increasing, but at the same time, its character is changing - the number of foreign citizens entering for work is steadily growing, a significant part of which are immigrants from Central Asian states, which strengthens the anti-migration sentiments of the old-timer population. In recent years, the vector of attitudes towards ethnic migration has been gradually changing: from total migrant-phobia and often unconstitutional attempts to resist uncontrolled migration - to the targeted use of migrant workers, primarily in large construction projects, including in the Olympic village. It is obvious that it is necessary to develop and adopt a regional concept of migration policy, linking its provisions with the concept of demographic policy, to determine the role of natural and migration population growth (due to various migration flows) in solving the problems of demographic and socio-economic development of the Krasnodar Territory. In his answers, the governor spoke more about the development of the traditional culture of the Shapsugs, which will be provided with full support, and also expressed solidarity with the need to study the Adyghe language in schools. He also recognized beyond doubt the status of the Adygs as an indigenous people, whose culture was adopted by the Russians who settled in this territory in the last two

centuries: "... the Adygs are an indigenous people, these are the people who lived here even before the Russian Empire, its formation, hundreds and hundreds of years. In many ways, the Kuban Cossacks absorbed this culture, these traditions, and customs. And those people who already developed this land in the 18th and 19th centuries - the Russian people, the Kuban people - of course, they were enriched by the Adyghe culture." At the same time, the Kuban Cossack did not promise to speed up its legislative implementation:

"The governor proposed to voice these topics at one of the meetings of the Legislative Assembly of the region, which will be formed in October. Indicate your position and proposals to the deputies - in any case, this is where you need to start." The governor did not express any ready-made decisions on the land issue, the preservation of the traditional habitat and habitual forms of management of the Shapsugs, noting that they are tied to federal legislation. The political elite of the Krasnodar region continues to cultivate Cossack identity, finally establishing itself in the presentation of the Kuban Cossacks as an ethnic community and the indigenous people of the region. At the same time, the registered Kuban Cossack army is considered as such, and is provided with full support.

The policy of organizational support for the Cossacks should be carried out taking into account the fact that,

firstly, the Slavic majority of the population of the Krasnodar region does not consider themselves Cossacks;

secondly, that self-determination and self-organization of the Cossacks in accordance with the Constitution and laws of the Russian Federation can be carried out in various forms (as an ethnic group, as a special type of public service, as a public organization, as national-cultural autonomy).

Taking this into account, a new edition of the Concept of State Policy of the Krasnodar Territory regarding the Kuban Cossacks should be adopted. To finalize the existing regulatory framework, in particular, to adopt a law regulating regional ethnic policy, especially in terms of recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities. A targeted regional program should be adopted, aimed at solving the problems of the ethnocultural development of the Shapsugs.

The ethnodemographic characteristics of the Astrakhan region are shown in Table 5. The Astrakhan region is part of the Southern Federal District and is a border region: by land the territory borders on the Republic of Kazakhstan, by sea on the Republic of Azerbaijan. There are 5 cities in the Astrakhan region: Akhtubinsk, Kamyzyak, Znamensk, Kharabali and Narimanov.

The population of the Astrakhan region, which amounted to 1010,073 people in 2020, increased by 4796 people compared to the Islamic Republic.

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Table 5. Ethnic composition of the population of the Astrakhan region according to population census data

	2010		2002	1989
the entire population	1010073 people		1005276 people	991521 people
		100%	100%	100%
Russians	618204	67.57	69.89	71.97
Kazakhs	149415	16.33	14.23	12.76
Tatars	60523	6.62	7.04	7.23
Ukrainians	8132	0.89	1.26	1.89
Azerbaijanis	7828	0.86	0.82	0.46
Nogais	7589	0.83	0.46	0.40
Chechens	7229	0.79	1.00	0.80
Kalmyks	6624	0.72	0.71	0.83
Armenians	5824	0.64	0.63	0.28
gypsies	5214	0.57	0.43	0.25
Avars	4719	0.52	0.42	0.19
Lezgins	4246	0.46	0.36	0.18
Dargins	4241	0.46	0.35	0.27
Koreans	2939	0.32	0.21	0.06
Uzbeks	2658	0.29	0.10	0.13
Turkmens	2286	0.25	0.21	0.23
Belarusians	1623	0.18	0.26	0.41
Kumyks	1558	0.17	0.14	0.10
Turks	1429	0.16	0.11	0.00
Tabasarans	1082	0.12	0.08	0.04
Georgians	946	0.10	0.12	0.10
Tajiks	932	0.10	0.06	0.05
Germans	916	0.10	0.14	0.17
other	103916	0.95	0.94	1.22

The neighbors of the Astrakhan region are the Volgograd region and Kalmykia. The area of the region is 49.0 thousand square meters. km, population density – 20.7 people. per sq. km. The region includes 11 rural districts, 442 villages and settlements of Krolichna: in cities the number decreased by 6,704 people, and in villages increased by 11,501 people. This happened because during the intercensal period, due to administrative and territorial transformations, the number of urban-type settlements decreased from nine to seven. As of January 1, 2013, the permanent population was 1013.9 thousand people, of which 676.1 thousand people. (66.7%) – urban and 337.8 thousand people. (33.3%) – rural population. In 2022, 12,750 people died in the region, which is 3.0% lower than in 2021. The mortality rate was 12.6% per 1,000 people. population (in 2021 – 13%). The number of births was 1.2 times higher than the number of deaths. The decrease in population mortality, which was first observed in the region in 2016, continued in 2022. The mortality rate decreased and amounted to 12.5% per 1000 people. population (in 2021 – 13.1%). Over the past decade, there has been a trend of increasing birth

rates in the region. High birth rates continued in 2022. At the same time, the birth rate for this period was 15.1 per 1000 people. population (in 2011 – 14.2%).

According to Astrakhanstatcom, life expectancy in 2022 was 69.3 years, which is higher than in 2021 (69 years). This indicator differs significantly between men and women. Life expectancy for women in 2022 was 75.1 years, which is 11.6 years higher than for men (63.5 years). In 2021, this indicator for women was 74.8 years, and for men – 63.3 years.

At the same time, in 2022, a negative population growth was recorded in the region due to migration outflow - -1132 people. According to Rosstat's forecast, until 2021 the population of the region will grow, and in the next 10 years, due to another demographic failure, it will decline.

By decree of the Government of the Astrakhan Region in 2005, a permanent Interdepartmental Commission on Socio-Demographic Issues was created, which is a coordinating body that ensures coordinated actions of interested executive bodies of state power in solving the problems of population development in the Astrakhan Region. At the meeting

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held on June 27, 2023, it was noted that, despite the positive results achieved in the region as a whole, a negative demographic situation is observed in the Akhtubinsky and Chernoyarsky districts, where there is a natural population decline. Birth rates have decreased in the Ikryaninsky, Limansky, Kharabalinsky districts and Znamensk. With an increase in the birth rate, there is an increase in mortality in the Narimanovsky and Volga regions. A decision was made: municipalities should conduct an in-depth, comprehensive analysis of the causes of the tense socio-demographic situation in the districts and discuss the results of the identified causes at the next meeting of the interdepartmental commission on socio-demographic issues. The legal basis for demographic policy is the Order of the Government of the Astrakhan Region “On the action plan for implementation in the Astrakhan Region in 2025–2035. demographic policy of the Russian Federation for the period until 2035.” Just like in other regions of the Southern Federal District, in the Astrakhan region there is a noticeable change in the ethnic composition of the population.

According to the 2020 All-Russian Population Census, representatives of 216 ethnic groups live in the Astrakhan region. The largest number is made up of about thirty nationalities, of which the largest groups are Russians, Kazakhs and Tatars. The decrease in the number of Russians and Tatars is due to long-term (since 1959) trends in decreasing rates of population growth with a transition to depopulation (by 2022) against the backdrop of relatively low reproductive rates. During 2002 – 2020, even during periods of increase in the absolute number of these groups, their share in the structure of the population of the Astrakhan region was steadily declining: Russians - from 77.5% (in 1959) to 69.7% (in 2022).); Tatars - from 8.2% to 7.0%, respectively. This was due to higher (faster) growth rates of other ethnic groups. The increase in the size of the Kazakh ethnic group (with a simultaneous increase in the group’s share in the overall population structure) is associated with the traditionally high rates of natural growth of the group against the backdrop of intensive reproductive strategies. The number of Russians decreased in absolute terms from 700.6 to 618.2 thousand people. (i.e. by 82.4 thousand people, or by 13.3% of the group size in 2022). And this despite the “surge” in the birth rate in 2007–2010. This reduction appears to be greater than that seen between 1989 and 2002. (then the number of the group decreased from 713.6 to 700.6 thousand people). But upon closer examination, it turns out that most of the natural decline of the group was compensated by the migration increase of Russians (more than 20 thousand people). That is, the reduction in the number of Russians in the region in the period 1989–2002. amounted to about 34 thousand people.

Persons who did not indicate their nationality, including persons for whom information was obtained from administrative sources - 95,217 people. – 9.4% of residents of the Astrakhan region (in 2020, only 2953 people were listed in the “did not indicate nationality” column - i.e. 32 times less than in the 2010 census). In this regard, the results of the 2010 census cannot be considered satisfactory.

For the Astrakhan region, the issue of language policy and proficiency in the state language is significant. 90.9% of citizens about whom it was possible to obtain information at the time of the 2020 Census speak Russian, including among the urban population - 87.6%, among the rural population - 97.4%. The Kazakh language, which is native to 16% of the region's population, is taught in secondary schools and higher education institutions. Currently, in 47 educational institutions, about 6 thousand students study the languages of the peoples of the region. In the form of a subject, languages are now being studied in the Kamyzyak, Krasnoyarsk, Kharabalinsky, and Volga regions of the region, including Tatar (46 classes), Kazakh (50 classes), Nogai (7 classes). In other areas of the region, such classes are optional. In the Astrakhan region, the main demographic indicators (fertility, mortality, life expectancy) have consistently positive dynamics. At the same time, in some areas there is a natural population decline.

Among all the regions of the Russian Federation, the Astrakhan region has the lowest percentage of Russian (and generally Slavic) population, the share of which has been steadily declining since 1970. A concept or long-term program of demographic policy for the Astrakhan region should be developed and adopted. Consider the issue of participation of the Astrakhan region in the State program to assist the voluntary resettlement of compatriots as a host region. It is worth noting the very important initiative of the head of the administration of the Astrakhan region, who on the website of the Ethnoconfessional Council, on behalf of the leadership of the Astrakhan region, addressed citizens and their regional associations, heads of government bodies and heads of municipalities of the Astrakhan region with a request to familiarize themselves with the draft Action Plan for the implementation of the “State National Strategy” policy of the Russian Federation for 2025–2035” on the territory of the Astrakhan region and send your comments and suggestions to the governor, which will be taken into account when drawing up the final version of the Plan.

In 2021, the local branch of the International Institute for Humanitarian and Political Studies, with the support of the governor’s administration, conducted another sociological study of the dynamics of the ethno-confessional situation in the Astrakhan region. It showed that against the backdrop of interethnic conflicts and civil wars abroad, as well as

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criminal events in Russia, Astrakhan and the region in 2021–2022, primarily a number of daring extremist crimes, the level of concern among residents of the region about the interethnic issue has increased sharply. But it is possible to maintain the situation in the Astrakhan region, first of all, due to the traditions of peaceful coexistence of ethnic and religious communities of predominantly Muslim Kazakhs, Tatars, Nogais and Orthodox Russians. Mixed marriages are also a stabilizing factor (about a third in the region, sometimes in several generations). Based on the analysis of monitoring data, the situation in the field of interethnic and interfaith relations is assessed as relatively stable, with a tendency to worsen in the medium term (2–4 years). Thus, in the Astrakhan region, one of the most effective management systems for ethno-political and ethno-confessional relations in the Southern Federal District has been built, including a fairly developed regulatory framework, structural units at the level of regional and municipal authorities, and civil society institutions. The condition for interethnic harmony in the Astrakhan region is a close link between the processes of ensuring social stability and the full socialization of youth, including through the active involvement of youth in the activities of legitimate ethnocultural associations. In the Long-term target program “Youth of the Astrakhan Region” for 2025–2035, the direction related to the formation of Russian identity and the prevention of ethnic and religious-political extremism should be strengthened.

Combine the institutional and material resources of this program with the resources for implementing the Strategy of the State National Policy of the Russian Federation for 2025–2035, on the territory of the Astrakhan region. The availability of information about the activities of government bodies in the ethnic sphere and the presence of feedback channels is a positive example worthy of dissemination in other constituent entities of the Russian Federation.

The ethnodemographic characteristics of the population in the Volgograd region are given in Table 6. The Volgograd region as a subject of the Russian Federation with a total area of 112.9 thousand square meters. km, 29 urban settlements, 408 rural settlements, located in the south-east of the European part of Russia, in the interfluvium of the Volga and Don, in the lower reaches on both sides, and borders in the north, upstream the Volga, with the Saratov region, in the east with regions of the Republic of Kazakhstan, in the south-east along the lower Volga with the Astrakhan region, in the south with the Republic of Kalmykia, in the south-west and west - with the Rostov region, in the north - west - with the Voronezh region. In general, the total length of the region’s borders is 2221.9 km. 78% of the land in the Volgograd region is agricultural land. The population of the Volgograd region was 2610.2 thousand people. The urban population is 1983.3 thousand people, the rural population is 626.8 thousand people.

Table 6. Ethnic composition of the population of the Volgograd region according to population census data

	2020		2010	2002
the entire population	2610161 people		2699223 people	2592910 people
		100%	100%	100%
Russians	2309253	90.01	89.18	89.07
Cossacks	18452	0.72	0.77	--
Kazakhs	46223	1.80	1.68	1.60
Ukrainians	35607	1.39	2.09	3.04
Armenians	27846	1.09	1.00	0.26
Tatars	24557	0.96	1.06	1.00
Azerbaijanis	14398	0.56	0.53	0.30
Germans	10102	0.39	0.63	1.08
Chechens	9649	0.38	0.46	0.43
gypsies	8216	0.32	0.27	0.19
Belarusians	7868	0.31	0.45	0.62
Koreans	7044	0.27	0.23	0.06
Uzbeks	6947	0.27	0.11	0.11
Chuvash	5851	0.23	0.31	0.42
Turks	5252	0.20	0.15	0.00
Tajiks	4674	0.18	0.08	0.04
other	68222	0.92	0.99	1.77

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On the territory of the region there are 1,464 settlements located within 475 municipalities (6 urban districts, 32 municipal). In 2002, the population of the region decreased by 89.1 thousand people, including in urban areas by 46.5 thousand people, in rural areas - by 42.6 thousand people. Population density - 22.9 people per 1 sq. km (41st place in the Russian Federation). In 2021–2022, there is a decrease in employment in the economy from 1258.8 thousand people to 1226.1 thousand people. As a result of the aging of the population and the reduction in the number of people of working age, the demographic burden on the working-age population is increasing. As of January 1, 2023, the permanent population amounted to 2583.0 thousand people, including urban - 1970.5 thousand people (76.29%), rural - 612.5 thousand people (23.71%). The numerical predominance of women is steadily maintained in the region (53.7%) over men (46.3%). The natural population decline in 2012 was 4,793 people, and the migration outflow was 7,030 people. According to Rosstat, the population decline in the Volgograd region will continue by 2035, the population may reach 2,298,0 thousand people, i.e. will decrease by another 285.0 thousand people. The Law of the Volgograd Region “On the Strategy for the Social and Economic Development of the Volgograd Region until 2035” designated the solution to the demographic problem (improving the demographic situation, overcoming the trend of population depopulation, increasing the birth rate and reducing the mortality rate) as the prerogative of a long-term strategy for the socio-economic development of the region.

In June 2020, the Regional Interdepartmental Commission on Socio-Demographic Policy in the Volgograd Region approved an action plan for implementation in 2025–2035. In the Volgograd region, the Concept of demographic policy of the Russian Federation until 2025. In contrast to the approach adopted in the federal Concept and the Concept of demographic policy of the Rostov region, this document does not say anything about the possibilities of attracting migrants to replace the natural population decline. At the same time, it provides an assessment of the prospects for the migration movement of the population in the Volgograd region (according to the most realistic version of the migration forecast, compiled on the basis of relatively higher rates of economic activity in the Volgograd region compared to the rates in the regions of the “exit” of migrants). This assessment is based on all possible migration flows, including forced and illegal, which has the following consequences for the region, namely:

- increasing to an unacceptable level of load on the labor and housing markets, as well as on the social and living sphere of the region;
- rising housing costs;

- increase in crime;
- destruction of the existing way of local life;
- aggressive behavior towards the local population;
- rising prices for food and essential goods;
- decreased availability of social services;
- demonstrating a higher standard of living;
- decline in the quality of education in schools.

The negative attitude towards the potential of migration explains the priorities determined by the regional interdepartmental commission on socio-demographic policy in the Volgograd region in 2023. They are as follows:

- developing an attitude towards maintaining a healthy lifestyle among the population of the Volgograd region;

- development of medical prevention through the creation of conditions for the implementation of targeted preventive programs for residents of the Volgograd region;

- development and implementation of measures to create conditions for physical education and sports through the opening of neighborhood clubs and children's and teenage clubs in every rural settlement.

It is obvious that these priorities need additions related to preventing the migration outflow of the population and attracting demographic resources from outside the region, taking into account the needs of its socio-economic and ethnocultural development, in particular, under the Program of Voluntary Resettlement of Compatriots from Abroad.

As noted in the report “Socio-economic situation in the Volgograd region in 2022”, the largest influx of growth in the period until 2025 of migrants during this period is observed from Armenia (+678 people), Uzbekistan (+448) and Ukraine (+392). In total, 37,065 people arrived in the Volgograd region in 2022, including 3,150 people from the CIS countries, and 16,572 people from other regions of Russia. 44,095 people left in 2022, of which 43,578 migrated within Russia.

According to the State program to assist the voluntary resettlement of compatriots living abroad to the Russian Federation, only 437 people resettled in the Volgograd region (the only subject of the Southern Federal District of the Russian Federation taking part in the Program) in 2022. At the same time, the regional leadership sees great potential in this channel for replenishing the population. By decree of the regional Government, the Volgograd Region Program for the resettlement of compatriots living abroad for the period 2025–2035 was approved. It provides that by the time its implementation is completed, up to 5,400 compatriots along with members of their families will move to the Volgograd region.

According to the official results of the 2020 All-Russian Population Census, the most numerous people in the Volgograd region are Russians, but over 8 years their number has decreased by 90 thousand

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people. (by 3.8%). For 20.7 thousand people. the number of Ukrainians decreased by 4.3 thousand people. Belarusians. But in the intercensus period (from 2020), the number of Kazakhs (by 2%), Armenians (by 3%), Gypsies (by 12.3%), and Koreans (by 14.8%) increased. Representatives of the most numerous non-Slavic nationalities live compactly in the territories of individual municipal districts:

Kazakhs - in Pallasovsky, Staropoltavsky, Nikolaevsky, Bykovsky, Leninsky districts;

Ukrainians - in Staropoltavsky, Elansky, Zhirnovsky, Kotelnikovsky, Kamyshinsky, Leninsky, Nikolaevsky districts;

Armenians - in Gorodishchensky, Dubovsky, Zhirnovsky, Kamyshinsky, Kotovsky, Mikhailovsky, Olkhovsky, Frolovsky districts;

Tatars - in Leninsky, Staropoltavsky, Svetloyarsky, Pallasovsky districts;

Azerbaijanis - in Zhirnovsky, Mikhailovsky, Pallasovsky, Svetloyarsky, Frolovsky districts;

Germans - in Kamyshinsky, Staropoltavsky, Zhirnovsky, Nikolaevsky districts;

Chechens - in Pallasovsky, Kotelnikovsky, Oktyabrsky, Leninsky, Nikolaevsky, Staropoltavsky municipal districts.

The main demographic trends in the Volgograd region are similar to those in the Rostov region: a decrease in the absolute population size, low fertility, high mortality, a decrease in the number of labor resources, replacement of the old-timer population with ethnic migrants, which is accompanied by the formation of ethnic enclaves.

It is necessary to finalize the regulatory framework for the demographic and migration policy of the Volgograd region (possibly using the experience of the Rostov region). It is also necessary to expand the participation of the Volgograd region in the implementation of the State program to assist the voluntary resettlement of compatriots living abroad to the Russian Federation. Relations between faiths are generally stable; Serious contradictions and conflict situations rarely arise. Certain intra-confessional contradictions are evident in Islam. In 2021, the dominance of the Central Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Russia was challenged by the creation in the city of Volzhsky of the Union of Muslims of the Volgograd Region, independent of centralized hierarchical structures.

From time to time, the region becomes the target of activities of radical Islamist groups. If in the 1990s. their supporters tried to express themselves openly, even trying to take control of some mosques, then in the 2000s. their activities are clandestine. The most high-profile actions committed by Islamic extremists were the explosions at the buildings of the traffic police and the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in April 2011, as well as the explosion of a bus in October 2013. The peculiarity of the public consciousness of a significant number of residents of

the Volgograd region is that the Volgograd (Stalingrad) land is an object of historical memory, national pride, a symbol of victory in the Great Patriotic War. This directly affects ethno-national and inter-religious relations.

In the Volgograd region, public associations involved in the sphere of ethnic and religious politics are represented by the following groups: organizations of registered Cossacks, attracted by the regional and municipal authorities to perform certain functions; Cossack societies focused on solving ethnic problems of the Cossacks; national-cultural autonomies; ethnic public associations, charitable foundations, cultural centers, legal support centers and fraternities, designed to express the interests and provide legal support for representatives of certain ethnic groups; parishes, communities and other types of religious organizations of followers of different faiths; religious educational institutions, monasteries; radical nationalist and religious associations.

Ensuring the functioning of the bulk of ethnic and religious associations in the legal field, as well as the inclusion of a regional patriotic component in their activities can be considered examples of positive experience in the implementation of national and religious policies that require dissemination in other multi-ethnic regions of Russia.

Taking into account the specifics of the region, it is advisable to adopt a set of regional laws and regulations that encourage the activities of ethnic and religious associations, develop programs to counter extremism, patriotic education, and adaptation of migrants. It is necessary to create a permanent platform for discussing problems and creating mechanisms for ethno-confessional harmony in the region.

The ethnodemographic and migration situation of the population is shown in Table 7. The Rostov region is located in the southern part of the East European Plain, occupying a vast territory with an area of 101.0 thousand square meters. km in the Lower Don river basin, which was historically considered the territory of the Don Army Region. The date of formation of the Rostov region is September 13, 1937. The region includes 43 districts and 23 cities. The administrative center is Rostov-on-Don with a population of more than 1.0 million people. is the largest city in the south of Russia. The Rostov region ranks sixth among the constituent entities of the Russian Federation in terms of permanent population after the city of Moscow and the Moscow region, including 73.3% in cities and 26.7% in rural areas.

In 2022, 49,935 people were born in the Rostov region, which is 3,416 more children than in the previous year (birth rate growth - 7.3%). The number of deaths was 59,598 people, their number in the region as a whole decreased by 2.0% compared to 2021, but in general, at the end of 2022, the birth rate in the Rostov region was significantly lower than the

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all-Russian one (in the region - 11.7 ppm, in Russia – 13.3). The mortality rate is higher (in the region - 14.0 ppm, in Russia - 13.3). The rate of natural population

decline is higher (for the region - 2.3 ppm, for Russia - 0.02).

Table 7. Ethnodemographic population of the Rostov region

As of the year	population, thousand people	including:	
		urban	rural
2006	4332.4	2891.6	1440.8
2007	4314.6	2882.5	1432.1
2008	4297.6	2872.7	1424.9
2009	4292.5	2874.5	1418.0
2010	4284.8	2873.1	1411.7
2011	4275.2	2875.4	1399.8
2012	4260.6	2874.2	1386.4
as of January 1, 2013	4254.6	2878.3	1376.3

As of January 1, 2023, the population of the Rostov region was 4,254,613 people, including: urban population 2,878,328 people; rural population – 1376285 people. The population density is 42.14 people. per 1 sq. km. The most populated cities are Rostov-on-Don, Taganrog and Gukovo, Aksaisky and Myasnikovsky districts.

The gender and age structure of the region's population has had relatively stable characteristics in recent years. The share of women in the total population is 53.6% (the average for Russia is 53.7%), the share of men is 46.4% (the average for Russia is 46.3%). The working population of the region makes up 53% of the population. Data on the population dynamics of the Rostov region for the period 2022–early 2023 show a trend of a steady decline in the number of residents of the region, as well as a change in the ratio of urban and rural populations in favor of the former.

Based on this trend, Rosstat presented the following forecast of the estimated population of the Rostov region. Concerns about negative trends are reflected in the Concept of the region’s demographic policy, which states that “an analysis of the current demographic situation and its development trends indicates that in the Rostov region there is a decrease in the absolute population size. In the future, this will lead to a decrease in the working-age population. The concept involves the development of a system of socio-economic measures aimed at reducing the

negative consequences of a reduction in labor resources, significant demographic, economic and social losses.” Also in the region, a “Set of priority measures for 2025 – 2035 to solve the problems of demographic policy and population conservation in the Rostov region” was approved.

In particular, one of the directions for improving the demographic situation in these documents is the migration replacement of natural population decline. It is fundamentally important that this replacement should be based on the principles, namely:

- facilitating the voluntary resettlement of compatriots living abroad for permanent residence.

But at present, data on the migration balance in recent years do not provide grounds for optimistic forecasts. Thus, the negative balance of external migration has a steady trend: in 2020 it amounted to 991 people, in 2021 – 2049 people, in 2022 – 1331 people.

Consideration of the structure of migration flows based on official data (Table 8) shows that migration external to the region leads to the replacement of the old-timer population of the Rostov region, which travels mainly to the Krasnodar region, the Moscow region and Moscow, with migrants from the CIS countries and the north. - Caucasian republics. The severity of the situation is aggravated by illegal migration. According to experts, depending on the time of year, the amount.

Table 8. Population migration in the Rostov region based on the results of 2021.

	Number of arrivals	Number of dropouts	Migration increase, decrease (-)
Migration – total	74 261	74 520	-259
within Russia:	69,756	73 772	-4016
intraregional	41 190	41 190	-
interregional	28,566	32,582	-4016

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international migration:	4505	748	3757
with CIS countries	3836	426	3410
with other foreign countries	669	322	347
External (for the region) migration	33 071	33 330	-259

migrants to the Rostov region in order to provide the socio-economic complex of the region with personnel in the necessary professions range from 12 to 15 thousand people;

combating illegal migration and legalization of illegal foreign labor;

integration of migrants into society, formation of a tolerant attitude towards representatives of different nationalities.

Migrants - citizens of the states of the South Caucasus - are engaged in illegal labor activities, mainly in the food markets of the region. Their one-time number in the region can be approximately estimated at 5-7 thousand people, about 6 thousand people are citizens of Central Asian states. There are also approximately 1,500 Chinese, approximately 500 Afghans and 230-250 Vietnamese citizens living illegally in the region.

In the post-Soviet decades, the decrease in the share of the old-timer population and the increase in the share of newcomers is especially noticeable in some rural areas, which include: Azovsky, Aksaysky, Bagaevsky, Veselovsky, Volgodonsky, Dubovsky, Egorlyksky, Zavetinsky, Zimovnikovsky,

Kagalnitsky, Martynovsky, Oktyabrsky (c), Orlovsky, Peschanokopsky, Proletarsky, Remontnensky, Salsky, Semikarakorsky, Tselinsky districts.

When characterizing the ethnic and religious composition of the population of the region, the following information is of historical interest. According to the data of the Don economist and public figure of the second half of the 19th century. S. F. Nomikosova, at the end of the 18th century, the population of the Don Army Region was over 300 thousand people, in 1822 it reached 355,343 people, of which 28,659 people (in the Kalmyk uluses); Jews – 134 people; Mohammedans (Muslims) – 158 people.

S. F. Nomikosov concludes that “in the total population, people of the Orthodox confession together with fellow believers make up over 90%, schismatics and sectarians – over 7%, people of other Christian confessions – about 0.5%, Jews – less than 0.01%, Mohammedans – over 0.01% and pagans – over 2%. The religious, and therefore, to a certain extent, ethnic composition of the population is shown in Table 9.

Table 9. Ethnic composition of the population of the Rostov region according to population census data

	2020		2010	2002
the entire population	4277976 people		4404013 people	4292291 people
		100%	100%	100%
Russians	3795607	90.34	89.50	89.57
Armenians	110727	2.64	2.50	1.46
Ukrainians	77802	1.85	2.70	4.17
Turks	35902	0.85	0.64	0.00
Cossacks	29682	0.71	1.99	
Azerbaijanis	17961	0.43	0.38	0.24
gypsies	16657	0.40	0.34	0.26
Belarusians	16493	0.39	0.61	0.89
Tatars	13948	0.33	0.41	0.40
Koreans	11597	0.28	0.27	0.17
Chechens	11449	0.27	0.35	0.40
Dargins	8304	0.20	0.15	0.14
Georgians	8296	0.20	0.24	0.15
Moldovans	6664	0.16	0.17	0.24
Avars	4595	0.11	0.09	0.09
other	112292	1.55	1.65	1.83

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As of January 1, 1882, 1,424,779 people already lived on the Don, while the population of the region was distributed according to religion as follows: Orthodox Christians - 1,283,867; fellow believers – 4408; schismatics and sectarians – 100,676; Christians of other confessions – 6877 people; The composition of the Don population remained almost the same in percentage terms at the beginning of the 20th century.

At the end of the 19th century. The population of the Don Army Region exceeded 2.5 million people. Only in the period from 1867 to 1900 it grew 2.5 times, and over a century - more than 5 times. Population growth on the Don remained high in both the first and second decades of the 20th century. If in 1904 the population of all classes was 2,779,705 people. (57.4% of the non-military population), then since 1916 - 3,530,498 people. (57.7% of the non-military population).

The population growth of the Don Army Region was ensured by both the high birth rate, which was more than two times higher than the death rate, and the entry into the territory of the Don Army of settlers from the central Russian provinces.

The character of the modern multi-ethnic composition of the region began to take shape at the end of the 18th century, when colonies of Armenians arose on the Don and moved to the lands allocated to them by Catherine II from the Crimea. Their descendants make up the bulk of the Armenians (110.7 thousand people) living compactly in the region. Throughout the twentieth century. The share of the Slavic population (Russians, Ukrainians and Belarusians) of the region remained at the level of 94–96%; groups of Armenians, Germans, Jews and Tatars were traditionally prominent.

In the 70–90s. In a number of eastern regions of the region, as a result of intensive labor migration, compact groups of Chechens, Avars, Dargins, Lezgins and other people from the North Caucasus republics formed. In the 90s There was a flow of forced migrants from the republics of Central Asia (Meskhetian Turks, Kurds, etc.), as well as forced migrants from zones of armed and interethnic conflicts - Russians, Armenians and Ukrainians. In the 2000s. The greatest contribution to the migration flow received by the Rostov region was made by legal and illegal labor migrants from Armenia and Azerbaijan, as well as the states of Central Asia.

As a result of the steady natural decline of the permanent population due to a decrease in the birth rate and an increase in mortality, as well as intensive migration processes, a noticeable change occurred in the ethnic composition of the region's population. Currently, representatives of 158 nationalities live in the region. The ethnic structure of the population is as follows: the share of Slavic peoples has noticeably decreased (92.4%), the share of the Armenian population has increased to 2.6%, quite large

diasporas of Meskhetian Turks, Azerbaijanis, Gypsies, Chechens, Koreans, Georgians, Dargins have appeared and Moldovans, the number of Germans and Jews sharply decreased.

It should be said that official data does not record the presence of a large number of foreign-ethnic labor migrants who have been in the region for quite a long time and, of course, influence the general background of interethnic relations. For example, according to the 2020 Population Census, 1,648 Kyrgyz are registered in the Rostov region, while the chairman of the Kyrgyz national-cultural autonomy “Kyrgyzstan-Don” reports more than 8 thousand Kyrgyz living in the region. It can be assumed that a similar situation is typical for representatives of other Central Asian states.

In general, the ethnodemographic and migration situation in the Rostov region is characterized by the following features:

the absolute population has been declining since 2016; according to Rosstat's forecast, the estimated population of the region by 2035 will be less than 4 million people;

the share of the rural population of the region is decreasing, it is aging, in rural areas of the region the working population has decreased to 26.7%;

in the region, the birth rate is lower, and the mortality rate and the rate of natural population decline are higher than all-Russian indicators;

since 2018, the region has had a negative migration balance, while there is an active process of replacing the old-timer (mainly Slavic) population with migrants from the North Caucasus republics and post-Soviet states of the South Caucasus and Central Asia;

the change in the ethnic structure of the population is carried out not only through the resettlement of citizens for permanent residence in the Rostov region, but also through the long stay on its territory of legal and illegal labor migrants from other regions of the Russian Federation and post-Soviet states.

Thus, as part of the implementation of the “Concept of demographic policy of the Rostov region for the period until 2035,” it is important to conduct a study of the causes and factors of the migration outflow of the old-timer population and develop a priority system of measures to reduce it. It is necessary to develop a forecast of changes in the ethnic structure of the population of the region, taking into account, namely:

a) characteristics of the reproductive behavior of various ethnic groups;

b) all types of migration flows;

c) settlement patterns and main areas of employment of ethnic groups.

The Rostov region should also be included in the number of subjects of the Russian Federation - participants in the State program to assist the

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voluntary resettlement of compatriots living abroad to the Russian Federation.

The contradictory trends in the revival of the Don Cossacks are largely due to the inconsistency of federal legislation. Throughout the entire period of the revival of the Cossacks, the federal government was concerned with the formation of the legal basis for this process and kept in view the phenomenon of the Cossacks and its role (functions) in the socio-political life of Russia, but the attitude of the authorities towards the Cossacks was conceptually changing. Initially, in normative acts, the Cossacks were recognized as one of the repressed peoples, a cultural and ethnic community of people, which was recognized with the right to revive and preserve their cultural heritage by restoring national-state formations within the borders established before their abolition, reviving traditional forms of land ownership and land use, carrying out military services. In practice, the Cossacks in the places of their traditional residence were recognized with the right to control migration processes, and at the international level to intervene in political processes in the former Soviet republics.

Subsequently, the federal government made repeated attempts to reduce the level of politicization and ethnicization of the Cossack movement through the definition of the Cossacks as citizens participating in organized structures (registered Cossack societies and non-registered public organizations). But at the regional level, the authorities could not avoid the problems of the status of the Cossacks, which was reflected in the "Concept for the implementation of state policy regarding the Cossacks in the Rostov region." If the problem of the politicization of the Cossacks, which was acute in the early and mid-90s, has been largely resolved, then the complex of issues related to the ethnic identity of the Cossacks has not been resolved.

It is obvious that at the federal level it is necessary to assess the conceptual changes in the attitude of the authorities towards the Cossacks and eliminate mutually contradictory legislative acts. It is also necessary to draw up a list of problems of the Cossacks, the solution of which should be based on coordinated approaches of the federal and regional authorities, and the general public should be involved in the discussion of these problems.

Conclusion

The causes of interethnic tension in the Southern Federal District are numerous factors of a socio-economic, political, legal, cultural and historical nature. The factor of quality of governance in regions with a culturally complex population composition also plays an important role.

Changes in the demographic characteristics of the old-time local population, primarily demographic aging and migration outflow, have led to a decrease in

its size and share. At the same time, the active migration influx of immigrants in the post-Soviet years has visibly identified among the residents of the district the bearers of a distinctive culture, social organization, foreign language, beliefs, ways of managing, everyday traditions, moral values and behavioral models. A noticeable change in the ethnic composition of the population caused, among other things, a negative reaction among part of the old-timer population, including the business and managerial elite, as well as representatives of the scientific and educational community and the media, influencing the formation of mass perception. Due to historical and political circumstances, the South of Russia turned out to be not fully susceptible to the complication of the population composition and was not fully ready to ensure interethnic harmony - both at the level of social stereotypes and in terms of management practices.

A characteristic manifestation of interethnic tension in the regions of the Southern Federal District were domestic conflicts between the old-timer population and representatives of newcomer groups. Intergroup conflicts on ethnic grounds, at present, should be considered as the most important indicator of the state of interethnic relations in regions and municipalities.

Representatives of government authorities, as a rule, tend to classify clashes between visitors and local residents as private domestic conflicts, however, this approach does not ensure the adoption of systematic, proactive and effective management decisions.

Miscalculations regarding measures to ensure the ethnocultural needs of Russians, who represent the majority of the population in many regions, are especially visible. The inability of the authorities to see the severity of the situation causes discontent among a significant part of citizens, strengthens nationalist and anti-migration sentiments, to the point of putting forward demands for the eviction of representatives of certain ethnic groups from a particular territory, an increase in the number of protests and the criminalization of the situation in the regions.

To prevent intergroup conflicts on ethnic grounds, it is necessary to solve the following problems, namely:

- stabilization and desired growth of the old-timer population by improving demographic and social policies that stimulate the birth rate and reduce the mortality rate;

- reducing the volume of migration outflow of the permanent population;

- optimization of external migration flows in terms of quantitative and qualitative parameters (legal migration in volumes corresponding to the needs of specific regions; priority of migration policy for Russian compatriots);

- more effective policies for the integration of migrants and local populations;

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educational and explanatory work among the population to weaken nationalist and chauvinistic sentiments and their criminal manifestations; wherever necessary – legal measures to prevent xenophobia.

The most important factor in maintaining civil harmony and preventing conflicts is increasing the level of self-organization of society. In the regions of the Southern Federal District, social forces and organizations have formed at the non-state level that have a strong impact on the situation in the field of interethnic and religious problems. These are, first of all, the Cossacks and the Russian Orthodox Church, as well as ethnic public and ethnocultural associations. In each of the regions of the Southern Federal District, their relations with government authorities have a complicated history. Often, it was non-state actors who initiated the voicing of “inconvenient” problems in the interethnic and religious spheres, criticized the authorities for inaction, and sometimes resorted to illegal actions. But the main trend at present is cooperation between authorities, civil and religious organizations in order to ensure interethnic and interfaith stability.

State support programs for the Cossacks, adopted at the level of constituent entities, are focused on “the development of the Cossacks as an ethnic group, the preservation and reproduction of their culture”, “the formation of the Cossack image of the territories of traditional residence of the Cossacks.” The function of preserving the sociocultural specificity of the region and establishing a peacemaking climate is performed by the regional metropolises and dioceses of the Russian Orthodox Church. On the territory of the district, the number of registered parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church increases annually, old monasteries are renewed and new ones are opened, churches, chapels, and prayer rooms are built and restored. Church buildings, land plots and farmsteads of restored parishes and monasteries are transferred to religious organizations. In dioceses there are many worship (memorial) crosses - chapels (memorable signs, memorial plaques) dedicated to various historical events. Diocesan newspapers are published, official websites of dioceses are open on the Internet, heads of dioceses - local bishops, as well as other clergy speak in the media. Orthodox information and educational programs are broadcast on local television. There are a Theological Seminary, an Orthodox Institute, gymnasiums and schools, and kindergartens in the region. Almost every parish has a Sunday school for children and adults, Orthodox spiritual and educational centers, Orthodox libraries, medical and psychological assistance centers; Summer Orthodox children's holiday camps are organized. At the initiative of the Russian Orthodox Church, a special model of socio-religious relations is emerging in the South of Russia. It is distinguished by the fact that it

places a special place on religious tolerance, peaceful coexistence of traditional faiths, joint actions to prevent and prevent religious extremism, separatism, interethnic and interreligious hostility. This system includes the interaction of religious organizations with government and municipal authorities, the interaction of spiritual departments of traditional faiths (Interreligious Council); interaction between religious organizations and various civil society institutions. Not a single socially significant event is complete without the participation of the heads of metropolises, dioceses or representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church, as well as representatives of other traditional religions in the South of Russia (Islam, Buddhism, the Armenian Gregorian Apostolic Church, Judaism). Joint statements by leaders of religious faiths on the problems of conflict prevention, condemnation of terrorism and extremism are practiced.

The Russian Orthodox Church introduced the practice of concluding agreements with government and municipal authorities, as well as with Cossack organizations. Treaties and agreements on cooperation have been concluded between the Russian Orthodox Church and universities of the region, the command of the North Caucasian Military District, the leadership of the Central Internal Affairs Directorate, and the Main Directorate for Execution of Executions of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation. The Russian Orthodox Church actively promoted the introduction of a course on the fundamentals of Orthodox culture in secondary and higher educational institutions of the Southern Federal District, and is assisting in the formation of a Cossack education system.

Ethnic associations (national-cultural autonomies, public organizations, communities, etc.) also took on new functions, ceasing to be only cultural organizations. They have become institutions of civil society; one of their main functions is responsibility for the social adaptation of newly arrived compatriots. In the Southern Federal District there is no document regulating the implementation of the State National Policy Strategy. Certain issues are set out in the “Strategy for the socio-economic development of the Southern Federal District for the period until 2035.” Under the plenipotentiary representative of the President of the Russian Federation in the Southern Federal District, no advisory or consultative bodies have been created to ensure the interaction of the plenipotentiary with ethnic and religious associations; there is no specialized section on the plenipotentiary’s website containing information on the implementation of state ethnic policy in the district. At the same time, at the level of the constituent entities of the federation, regional documents devoted to national policy have been adopted and are in force, but they are dominated by cultural, educational and festive-symbolic events, rather than measures aimed at reducing everyday inter-ethnic tension. Important aspects of national

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policy are touched upon in regional concepts of demographic policy, educational policy, countering terrorism and extremism, youth policy and patriotic education, and state support for the Cossacks. Despite the importance of migration processes, migration policy concepts have not been adopted at the level of constituent entities; in some constituent entities, the Program for Assistance to the Voluntary Relocation of Compatriots is especially highlighted, but its effectiveness in the district is extremely low. There are also no concepts of state-religious relations at the regional level, which are considered mainly in the context of religious extremism.

On the websites of the administrations of individual subjects of the federation, information access to materials on the implementation of the Russian National Policy Strategy in the region is difficult. Not all senior regional officials have created ethnic or ethno-confessional public councils.

The creation of an infrastructure for national policy in the Southern Federal District has not yet been completed; the regions need to finalize the legal framework and institutional support for this policy and closely related areas (demography, migration, education, religion, etc.).

At the district level, there is no system for generalizing and exchanging positive experience, although each subject of the Russian Federation in the Southern Federal District has its own experience in the implementation of national policy. In the Rostov region, a system of Cossack cadet corps is developing, and positive experience in Orthodox religious education has been accumulated. In the Volgograd region, the potential of patriotic education is used, due to the status of the “hero city” of Volgograd. In the Astrakhan region, interaction has been established with the authorities of the North Caucasus regions (joint round tables, agreements), from which the bulk of migrants arrive in the region (Ingushetia, Dagestan). In the Krasnodar Territory, the emphasis is on the formation of the Kuban identity. The Republic of Adygea has a system of working with Russian compatriots, representatives of the Adyge diaspora. In the Republic of Kalmykia, the positive activity of the Interreligious Council as an independent institution for the prevention of conflicts on ethno-confessional grounds is noticeable.

In order to improve the management of cultural diversity in the Southern Federal District, it is important to ensure the completeness of regional legislation and institutional support for the implementation of the National Policy Strategy of the Russian Federation. One of the priority tasks should be considered the inclusion in regional plans for the implementation of state national policy of sections on the preservation of the socio-cultural environment and the prevention of intergroup and domestic conflicts on ethnic and religious grounds.

Under the plenipotentiary representative of the President of the Russian Federation in the Southern Federal District and under the heads of all regions of the Southern Federal District, it is necessary to create public councils of ethnocultural orientation. The federal legislation establishing the responsibility of state authorities of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, local self-government bodies and their officials in the field of interethnic relations should include a clause on the responsibility of the plenipotentiary representatives of the President of the Russian Federation in federal districts. Responsibility of relevant officials for public access to information on the implementation of regional national policy plans should also be introduced.

It would be extremely useful to organize and hold a district meeting to exchange experience in implementing the state national policy of the Russian Federation in the regions of the Southern Federal District. The district needs information and educational programs aimed at youth, in particular, the “Common Historical Memory” program, which provides for the interaction and cooperation of the youth of the hero city of Volgograd with the youth of the cities of military glory of the South (Rostov n/D, Tuapse, Kalach-on-Don, Anapa, Taganrog) and the North Caucasus Federal District (Vladikavkaz, Malgobek, Nalchik).

It is necessary to ensure the availability of statistical information about migration flows and the real demographic situation to the public and the media, thereby preventing the spread of myths and rumors that increase interethnic discord.

It is important to balance two components of the ethno-national policy of the Republic of Adygea: the policy of ensuring interethnic harmony of the population of the republic and the policy towards the Adyge diaspora abroad. The concept of migration policy in the Republic of Kalmykia should be adopted and the authorities responsible for its implementation should be identified. In Kalmykia, a regional concept of national policy is needed, as well as the creation of a permanent unit in the structure of republican authorities that accumulates experience in maintaining ethno-confessional stability.

In the Krasnodar Territory, it is necessary to adopt the regional concept of migration policy, linking its provisions with the concept of demographic policy, to determine the role of migration population growth in solving the problems of demographic and socio-economic development. It is necessary to continue to pursue a policy of supporting the Cossacks in the region, but taking into account the fact that the majority of the population of the Krasnodar region does not consider themselves Cossacks. It is also necessary to take into account that self-determination and self-organization of the Cossacks in accordance with Russian legislation can be carried out both in the

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public ethnocultural sphere and as a special type of public service.

It is necessary to finalize the regulatory framework of the Krasnodar Territory by adopting a law regulating regional national policy and in terms of recognizing the rights of indigenous peoples and adopting a program to support small-numbered Shapsugs.

In the Astrakhan region, it is also important to adopt the concept or long-term program of demographic policy and resolve the issue of participation of the Astrakhan region in the State program to assist the voluntary resettlement of compatriots as a receiving region. It is necessary to adopt the concept of migration policy in the Astrakhan region, to provide for an examination of all regional decisions in the field of attracting migrants to the labor market of the region. In order to counter religious extremism and radical nationalism, it is necessary to curb the migration outflow of the old-timer population, ensure employment of labor resources, develop an effective youth policy, and create a domestic model of Muslim education, which would allow us to seize the initiative from foreign centers in the field of both full-time and distance learning. It is necessary to finalize the regulatory framework for the demographic and migration policy of the Volgograd region. It is necessary to expand the participation of the Volgograd region in the implementation of the State program to assist the voluntary resettlement of compatriots living abroad to the Russian Federation. The region should adopt a new edition of the "Strategy for the socio-economic development of the Volgograd region until 2035", taking into account the political approaches to migration and ethnic policies recorded in the latest federal political documents and regulations. In addition, it is necessary to ensure the availability of the federal and regional legal framework in the field of ethnic politics, as well as the systematic provision of information on the participation of all government departments and

public associations in the target program "Implementation of the state ethnic policy of the Russian Federation in the field of interethnic relations on the territory of the Volgograd region." region for 2025–2035." Taking into account the specifics of the region, it is advisable to adopt a set of regional laws and regulations that encourage the activities of ethnic and religious associations, develop programs to counter extremism, patriotic education, and the adaptation of immigrants to the host society. It is necessary to create a permanent platform for discussing problems and creating mechanisms for ethno-confessional harmony in the region. In the Rostov region, as part of the implementation of the "Concept of demographic policy for the period until 2035," it is necessary to conduct a study of the causes and factors of the migration outflow of the old-timer population and develop a priority system of measures to contain it. The Rostov region should be included in the number of subjects of the Russian Federation - participants in the State program to assist the voluntary resettlement of compatriots living abroad to the Russian Federation. The regional action plan for the harmonization of interethnic relations needs to be supplemented, in particular, it should include a section on the prevention of intergroup and domestic conflicts on ethnic grounds. In the region, it is necessary to develop and adopt a regional concept of state-religious relations. In all regions of the Southern Federal District, it is necessary to organize a constructive dialogue between the authorities and public forces and associations speaking on behalf of the old-timer population against the arrival of migrants and for the preservation of local foundations, traditions and customs.

It is necessary to create conditions for systematic constructive interfaith dialogue. Legal Islamic organizations should be assisted in publicizing their activities in such areas as helping migrants, teaching the Russian language, countering extremism, charity events and socially oriented projects.

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