

Social and humanitarian potential of the youth cooperation in the Eurasian transboundary space

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Abstract. The article discusses one of the many aspects of the multilateral interaction of the border regions of Russia and Asia, in particular, youth cooperation in the framework of cultural and educational space. A general analysis of the activities of higher education institutions to ensure the educational and cultural integration in the Eurasian space is presented. More than that, the authors analyze cultural exchanges among young people representing the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. The positive role of creative activities that ensure the mutual penetration of cultures, strengthening mutual understanding and respect among nations, is also discussed by the authors in the context of enhancing cross-border cooperation.

Keywords: cooperation, youth cooperation, humanitarian cooperation, integration, development

1. Introduction

The transboundary sustainability of the Eurasian region is made up of a number of factors, which include humanitarian cooperation. This kind of cooperation helps to form a positive image of the country beyond its borders, and it can be used as an effective tool of “soft power.” In this regard, youth cooperation is of particular importance, which can be distributed through the following channels: education, science, cultural exchanges. Involving young people in discussion and participation in joint projects become an important condition for the stability of cross-border regions. Youth interactions always work for the future, their potential is connected with the participants of the future economic, political, social, and cultural process. One should take into account the factor that the number of foreign students of the Eurasian continent is increasing in Russian universities. In 2015-2016, their number increased to 200 thousand, and 7 it amounted to almost 230 thousand people in 2016-201 [1]. In 2015, the Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) D. F. Mezentsev noted the importance of this form of communication. He pointed out that the development of youth interactions is one of the priority areas of cooperation within the framework of the SCO [2].

2. Materials and Methods

An analysis of theoretical, statistical materials allows us to draw conclusions about the need, importance and prospects of humanitarian youth cooperation. In order to study the directions, forms, specifics of events, the potential of youth cooperation, the authors monitored the official websites of universities of the SCO member states. Researchers of the problem of humanitarian cooperation pay attention to the need for an integrated approach in the development of joint youth activities. The

principles of historicism and the use of a systematic approach make it possible to holistically consider the process of humanitarian youth cooperation in the context of historical phenomena.

3. Results and Discussion

The experts proposed the following initiatives for the development of youth cooperation: further popularization of the ideas of Eurasian integration among young people; involvement of youth in active scientific research work on the study of socio-economic, political, humanitarian and other processes in the Eurasian space [3], [4], [5], [6]. A number of researchers agree that a comprehensive and continuous work is needed to involve young people into the cultural and humanitarian cooperation in the Eurasian space. A number of already conducted activities will contribute to the development of integration processes of higher education in the Eurasian region and the intensification of interaction between students. These include the International Educational Forums (ASU, Barnaul), the latter was held in 2018 “Altai Asia – 2018: Eurasian educational space: New challenges and best practices»; Asian Student Forum “Kyrgyzstan-Asia 2015”. The purpose of such events is to form a positive image of Eurasian integration among the youth.

Another interesting direction was the growing popularity of the international youth movement “The UN Model.” In the Altai State University, the participants of the Eurasian Model of the UN and the Eurasian Legal Forum came primarily from Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan. These communication platforms help in discussing the problems of young people in Eurasian countries. Humanitarian cooperation involves an ongoing cultural dialogue. On the one hand, the presence of foreign students from Eurasia in the Russian universities and the Russian students in a number of universities from Eurasia promotes the acquaintance of young people with the national characteristics of cultures, the specifics of political, economic and social structure. This process of mutual influence enhances the intellectual, cultural life of the cross-border educational space. Many activities are initiated by students.

For example, at the Kemerovo State University, with the active assistance of student A. Shabalina, the Center for Intercultural Communications was established. The activists of the center include holding a festival “Kuzbass Multinational.” The ASU and KemSU websites contained information about the start of the Nowruz celebration. This is the holiday of the arrival of spring, which is celebrated by the Turkic peoples of Central Asia. The Altai State University has become a permanent venue for the Student Congress of the Peoples of Central Asia. Researchers, experts, participants of these events mark their integration, creative, communicative potential.

4. Conclusion

Summing up, it should be noted that the strengthening of humanitarian youth cooperation in educational and cultural fields will contribute to the search for joint solutions to the future political and economic elite of the cross-border space. E. G. Ponomareva, a prominent political scientist, believes that it is necessary to expand the educational base for the citizens of CIS countries, open branches of leading Russian universities in the CIS countries, increase quotas and grants for training foreign citizens [7, p. 339-340]. Informal connections established during the period of study, while working at forums, conferences, festivals will help in creating a positive image of the Eurasian integration among the young people. As a result, in the long term, this will ensure a constructive dialogue, strengthening of national interests, development of diplomatic, cultural, economic and political ties.

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