

# Cultural Policy and National Culture in the Arctic Region of Russia (On the Example of the Activities of Cultural Institutions of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia))

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## ABSTRACT

The article analyzes and examines the current state of national culture on the example of the activities of cultural institutions in the Tompon, Oymyakon, Ust-May districts of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) based on the results of the research work “Assessment, main trends in the natural and socio-economic potential of the Eastern economic zone of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) ) ”As part of a comprehensive research program under state contract No. 5329 of 08/07/2017. As a result of the analysis, the authors concluded that the main areas of activity to preserve the national culture of indigenous peoples living in the areas can be considered the revival of the language and culture of indigenous representatives peoples of the republic - Sakha (Yakuts), Evens, Evenks and activities to transfer cultural heritage to the younger generation.

**Keywords:** *culture, national culture, sociocultural activity, cultural heritage, traditions*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The relevance of the study of national culture in the system of socio-economic development of the region is associated with the need to assess the level of influence of the national-ethical component of the consciousness of the inhabitants of the districts on solving vital problems. This is due to the fact that specific conclusions are necessary in the context of building successful and effective activities within the republic. National culture is considered as a specific organization and development of a specific people, presented in the products of material and spiritual labor, in the system of social norms and institutions, in spiritual values, in people's relations to nature, among themselves and to themselves. This choice of methods of interaction and transformation is determined by the characteristics of national consciousness, and national self-consciousness is a consequence of involvement in this transformation [1, P. 71].

## 2. METHODOLOGY

Functional, systemic and typological methods were used during the study of the national culture of the inhabitants of the Arctic region to consider and distinguish ethnic / national types of cultures, which are represented as a set of material and spiritual values of a nation that are formed in the process of transformation of the surrounding reality by the nation, as well as the main methods practiced by this nation interactions with nature and the social environment.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

In the post-Soviet period (after 1992), the legislative foundations of cultural activity were laid in the republic. The Law on the Museum Fund and Museums of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) was adopted in 1996 [2]. Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) No. 118 dated March 23, 1994 “On particularly valuable objects of the national cultural heritage of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia)” was adopted in 1999 [3]. The Law on Cinematography of the Republic of Sakha

(Yakutia) was adopted in 2005 [4]. In 2015, the Law “On the exercise of certain powers in the field of conservation, use, popularization and state protection of cultural heritage objects (historical and cultural monuments) of the peoples of the Russian Federation in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia)” was adopted [5]. The Law of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) “On the State Target Program for the Preservation, Study and Dissemination of the Yakut Heroic Epic Olonkho for 2007-2015” was adopted under No. 887-III on March 15, 2007 [6]. In 2013, the Law on Culture of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) was adopted [7]. In 2017, the “Concept of State Cultural Policy until 2030” was adopted [8].

Long-term state targeted programs are in place to implement the adopted legislative framework for the development of culture in the republic. In 1992, the Republic adopted the Targeted State Program for the Revival of Traditional Culture (1992 - 1994), which has long exhausted its goals and objectives. The main directions of this program were: organization and holding of the Yakut national holiday - Ysyakh; preservation, development and popularization of the Yakut khomus, khomus music; study, recreation of religious views; preservation, popularization of the Yakut heroic epos - olonkho. One of the existing programs is the republican target program "Preservation, study and dissemination of the Yakut heroic epos Olonkho" for 2009-2011 and its main directions until 2015, adopted by Decree of the President of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) under No. 1776 of December 26, 2009 [9]. Next, June 19, 2014, E.A. Borisov, the Acting Head of the Republic, signed Decree No. 2729 “On Announcing the Second Olonkho Decade in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia)” for 2016-2025. [10]. The government program of Olonkho continues to operate until 2025. The State Program of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) "Creating conditions for the spiritual and cultural development of the peoples of Yakutia for 2012-2016" was adopted by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) dated October 12, 2011 No. 956 [11].

The novelty of the topic is determined by a specific consideration of the current state of national culture on the example of the activities of cultural institutions in the Tompon, Oymyakon, Ust-May districts of the republic. These areas are multinational in composition. In the Tompon district, Russians (50.8%), Yakuts (29.8%), Evens (4.3%), Ukrainians (2.2%), Tatars (0.8%), Chukchi (0.5%) live), Evenks (0.5%) and other nationalities (12.1%). Diasporas of nationalities have been created and are active in the ulus. In the Oymyakon region, the main population is Russian (57%) and Yakuts (23%). This indicator is 80% of the total population of the ulus. Given the large number of people in the ulus, planned work is ongoing with national communities. So, 6 national communities were created in 2012 - Buryat, Bashkir-Tatar, Kazakh, Russian, Ingush, Korean - Chinese [12]. Communities are actively involved in the cultural activities of the ulus. Russians (64.2%), Yakuts (7.1%),

Evens (0.2%), Evenki (9.3%), and other nationalities (19.2%) live in the Ust-May district.

Today, there are 14 settlements, 9 municipalities, 2 urban and 7 rural settlements in the Tompon district. Yakuts live in 4 settlements of them (Bayagantaysky, Megino-Aldansky, Sasylsky, Ynginsky villages), Evens live in 1 settlement (Tomponsky national villages, village Topolinoe). In the field of culture, there are 10 houses of culture, 3 museums, and 3 children's art schools. There were 16 libraries in the ulus in 1996, and later a network mode was created in connection with the formation of a single system. In 2016, there was 1 centralized library with 11 branches, which are one of the centers for organizing cultural activities in the field [13]. The number of full-time cultural workers in the Tompon region remains almost stable. So, 52 people worked in 1995, 41 full-time employees work in 2016. Over the 20 years of work, the number of employees has been reduced by 11 posts. In 2017, the number of settlements in the Tompon district is 13 units, each of which has a cultural and leisure institution. The infrastructure of the cultural sector unites 20 cultural institutions in rural settlements in the region of cultural and leisure formations of various directions (vocal, choreographic, decorative and applied, etc.) with the number of participants more than 1000 people. As of January 1, 2016, the number of network units - cultural institutions operating in the district amounted to 20 units, including 12 cultural and leisure institutions, 1 library, Tompon inter-settlement central library with 12 branches. Children's art school-3 with branches, 3 museum .

7 municipalities are part of the Oymyakon ulus: two urban and five rural settlements. Settlements unite 9 settlements. Of these, 5 settlements are places of compact residence of the Yakuts (the rural settlement of Borogonsky 1st nasleg (village of Oymyakon, the village of Bereg-Yurdy, the village of Hara-Tumul), Borogonsky 2nd nasleg (village of Tomtor), Teryutsky nasleg (village of Teryut). There are 2 settlements with compact Evens living in the district - rural settlements: Sordonnokhsky nasleg (Orto-Balagan village) and Yuchegyei nasleg (Yuchyugey village), 7 cultural centers, 8 libraries, a cinema and video center, 2 local history museums operate in the region. 3 folk groups, 2 music schools, dozens of amateur groups [12].

In the Ust-Maysky district, together with the Department of Culture and Spiritual Development, the “Information and Methodological Center for Cultural Heritage and Social and Cultural Activities” functions. There are 8 Leisure Centers in the region (“Cultural Center for Folk Art and Communication” in Ust-Maya, Leisure and Communication Center in the village of Petropavlovsk, Leisure and Family Center in Troitsk, House of Creativity “Rainbow” in Eldikan, Cultural Center “Inspiration” in the village of Solnechny, the Cultural Center “Erel” in the village of Ust-Mil). In the ulus, there are 2 ethnocultural Evenk centers (“Gewan” in the city of Ezhanz, the ethnocultural center of folk art “Chechebil” in the village of Kyuptysy), 2 museums (Ust-May Museum of Local Lore, Ust-Maya, literary museum named after D.N.

Aprosimova in the village of Kyuptysy) and 2 Children's music schools with 2 branches. The Ust-May inter-settlement centralized library system with 10 branches and the Children's Department functions.

The search for new forms and methods of work on the example of the activity of public authorities is observed in the post-Soviet period in the regions. Thus, structural and personnel changes took place in the Tompon region. L.A. Stepanova was the head of the Department of Culture in 2008 - 2011. However, during this period another management structure is introduced in the district power structure - the Department of the Social and Cultural Sphere (head - OV Pavlova). The Department of Culture is liquidated in the region from 2011 to 2015, and all activities on ulus culture are assigned to the Department of Social and Cultural Sphere (head - O.V. Pavlova). Since 2015, the previous structure is restored - the Department of Culture; A.S. Scriabin works as the head of the Office to the present.

Despite the targeted activities of the Department of Culture of the uluses in training personnel, according to recent years, there are few specialists with higher education in the ulus. If 7 specialists (13.46%) of 52 had higher education in 1995 in the Tompon district, then only 2 people work in 2016. Basically, cadres of uluses are held by specialists with secondary specialized education (graduates of the College of Culture and Art, Yakut Music College named after MN Zhirkov). In Oymyakon district, a constant composition of local cultural workers is observed. So, Tatyana Vladimirovna Burtseva has been working as director of the Tomtor Rural House of Culture since 1998. She became the owner of the honorary title "The Best Cultural Worker of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia)" in 2015: she was awarded the title "Best Director of the Rural House of Culture of the Russian Federation" in 2016 [12].

The main directions of preserving the national culture of indigenous peoples living in the regions can be considered the revival of the language and culture of representatives of the indigenous peoples of the republic - Sakha (Yakuts), Evens, Evenks and activities to transfer cultural heritage to the younger generation [14].

7 ulus target programs were adopted in only 3 districts in the direction of reviving the language and culture of representatives of the indigenous peoples of the republic - Sakha (Yakuts), Evens, Evenks. So, 4 target programs were adopted in Tomponsky district. A comprehensive program for the revival of the Even language and culture (1992 - 1995) was implemented in the district, which aimed and laid the fundamental foundations for the revival of the language, traditional way of life and culture of Evens from the village of Topolinoye. The Target Program "Culture of the Tompon District (2002-2005)" was adopted. Since 1995, the ulus has been carrying out planned work to revive and preserve traditional culture. So, planned work is being carried out to organize and conduct national holidays: Yakut Ysyakh and Even Habydyeh. From 1992 to 1999, the ulus integrated program

for the preservation of family traditions worked. In 1999, the ulus comprehensive program "Children of Tompo" was adopted. Recently, 3 target programs have been adopted in Oymyakon ulus: ulus target program dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the ulus (2011), "Assistance in the development of culture in settlements (2011-2015)", "Development of culture and spirituality in Oymyakon ulus (2012-2016)". The Program "Development of the culture of the Ust-May ulus (district) for 2002-2005" was implemented in Ust-Yansky district.

Targeted work has been going on since the Soviet era to transfer cultural heritage to the younger generation in the regions. So, the youth Even folklore and dance ensemble "Maranga" under the direction of F.P. Filippova was created in Tomponsky ulus in 1983, which received the title of "People's" in 1995 and is still active. The ensemble was created at the initiative of V.M. Kladkin, director of the Tomponsky state farm, Hero of Socialist Labor with the goal of preserving, developing and promoting folklore and dance art of Evens. The ensemble became the Laureate of many International, All-Union, All-Russian and republican competitions [15, C. 201]. Since 1995, the Sakhaia Youth Fashion Theater has begun its activities in the village of Keskil (director: T. Borogushina). The ulus program of youth policy was adopted in 1999. The revitalization of the youth movement has been observed in recent years. For the first time in the history of the region, young performers of the traditional genres of Yakut folklore became laureates, nominees of the republican Ysyakh Olonkho in Vilyuisk and youth Ysyakh in Mirny. The tradition of organizing children's creativity in the ulus has been established since Soviet times. In 1983, the Yakut children's folklore ensemble "Elleeyik" was created from the Bayaginsky village, the leaders were E.A. Gorokhova, N.V. Kuzmina, then A.V. Lukinova. The ensemble subsequently became the People's Children's Ensemble and is still one of the leading children's ensembles in the republic. The Evensk children's folklore ensemble "Solinga" from the village of Topolinoye was created in 1985 under the direction of Tatyana Petrovna Dmitrieva, who became the laureate of international, all-Union, Russian folklore contests, festivals. The ensemble traveled all over the Soviet Union, took part in concerts abroad. The ensemble is still stable; IM IN. Sleptsova, one of the first graduates of the ensemble itself, has been working as a leader recently. Since 1987, the traditional contest "Tompo Stars" has been held. Children's art schools, circles of different directions are working stably. Since 2016, the Tomponsky district has been the founder of the municipal budgetary institution of culture "Tomponsky Inter-settlement Central Library" (hereinafter MBUK "Tomponsky MSB"), which includes the central library, a children's library, a children's library, 1 city branch in the municipal settlement "Dzhebariki-Khaya Village" and 11 rural branches opened in the settlements of the district. Coverage of library services as of 2017 is 46.8% of the reading population. The benchmarks of Tompon inter-settlement central library as

of December 1, 2016 are as follows: 6.306 people were covered by readers, book delivery amounted to 178.796 units. Reports for the entire analyzed period (1986 - 2016) were presented by M.A. Golikova, head of the library [12].

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Thus, an analysis of the activities of cultural institutions in the Tomponsky, Oymyakonsky and Ust-Maysky districts showed that enough attention is paid to the preservation, development and revival of the national culture of the indigenous peoples of the North. In this area of activity, great positive experience has been accumulated in the regions. There is a stable nature and focus on cultural activities to preserve, develop and promote the national culture of Sakha (Yakuts), Evens and Evenks. Folklore and dance groups "Maranga", "Solinga" in Tomponsky, "Chaechebil", "Ikehechik" in Ust-Maysky uluses work in 3 districts. Several generations passed through the ensemble form of familiarization with the national culture. Target programs for the preservation and development of culture have been adopted and are being implemented in all 3 regions, Grant support is practiced. The systematic personnel policy in cultural institutions is observed, they do not have a large turnover of personnel. Traditional forms and methods of work are being practiced, while a search is underway for new forms. Work in the Thompon area is carried out according to specific target programs. The center of spiritual and cultural life of the Yakuts in the Oymyakon ulus is the village of Tomtor, where the rural house of culture has the status of an ulus house of culture. An interesting type of activity to attract different sectors of the population is theatrical art in the countryside. There are 2 National Theaters in the district (Tomtor National Theater, National Theater of the Palace of Culture "Metallurg"). Purposeful work on the formation of image policy (International Festival "Pole of Cold") is carried out in the ulus. Since ancient times, cinematography was developed in the Ust-May district, later new forms of informatization were introduced (the Spectrum television studio). Great help in the cultural activities of the uluses was provided by the republican target programs: Targeted state program for the revival of traditional culture (1992 - 1994), "Creating conditions for the spiritual and cultural development of the peoples of Yakutia for 2012-2016".

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