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## IMPLEMENTATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM ON THE HISTORY OF RUSSIA AS A PREPARATION OF FOREIGN NATIONALS FOR A COMPREHENSIVE EXAM IN RUSSIAN LANGUAGE, HISTORY AND THE BASIS OF THE LEGISLATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

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### ABSTRACT

*The article deals with consideration of the exam module system and its constituent part of the module "History of Russia". The methodological bases of this module and its competence are revealed and its requirements to the knowledge level on the history of Russian, offered methodologies of preparation and practice of foreign citizens' testing in the area of history are substantiated.*

*Studying the history by migrants arriving in Russia is considered as a means of their adaptation to the general conditions of life in the country.*

**Keywords:** educational program, history of Russia, preparation of foreign nationals, comprehensive exam, migrants

## ATTUAZIONE E SVILUPPO DI UN PROGRAMMA EDUCATIVO SULLA STORIA DELLA RUSSIA DESTINATO A CITTADINI STRANIERI COME PREPARAZIONE PER UN ESAME MULTIDISCIPLINARE DI LINGUA RUSSA, STORIA E LE BASI DELLA LEGISLAZIONE DELLA FEDERAZIONE RUSSA

### SINTESI

*Il contributo tratta del sistema modulare di esami e una delle sue parti costitutive, il modulo della storia della Russia. L'autrice presenta le basi metodologiche di questo modulo e la sua competenza, legittimando il livello richiesto di conoscenza della storia della Russia, le metodologie di preparazione offerte e la prassi di esaminare cittadini stranieri in storia.*

*Lo studio della storia da parte dei migrati è visto come mezzo del loro adattamento alle condizioni generali della vita nel paese russo.*

**Parole chiave:** programma educativo, storia della Russia, preparazione di cittadini stranieri, esame multidisciplinare, migranti

## PROBLEM STATEMENT

The basis of social and cultural adaptation and integration of the foreign citizens in any country is the respect to its state language and culture, observance of the legislation norms and rules of residence in it. In this connection the modern migratory situation in Russia also dictates the necessity of the strategy and method development of execution of socio-cultural adaptation of the foreign citizens and their socialization in the society.

This direction in the Conception of migratory policy of modern Russia has the important meaning, as the presence of big quantity of foreigners in the society, which have not possibility to adapt completely to the cultural and social conditions of the country of staying, provokes tension in the society and creates potential threat to the international consent (Conception of the state migratory policy of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2025, 2014). In its turn, it can cause the effect on the state of national security of Russia as the country of staying.

In the world practice the migratory movement, the methods and strategies of adaption have already been formed, and international, state and public institutes were established, which realized them taking into account the national interests of their states (Vladimirova et al., 2010, 31). Among factors, effecting on the speed of adaptation process, the scientists along with territorial and natural-climatic name the legal, political and cultural ones (Shevtsov et al., 2014; Antropov, 2013, 50-52; Mlechko, 2013, 13-22).

In the Russian Federation in accordance with the federal law (2014) under No. 74 from April 20, 2014 one of such strategies is complex exam on the Russian language, history of Russia and bases of RF legislation that is introduced since January 1, 2015. Passing of this exam by foreign citizens and obtainment of the corresponding certificate that confirms the level of Russian language possession and knowledge on the history of Russia and bases of RF legislation gives them the right for permit obtainment for part-time residence, residence permit, labour permit or patent. In accordance with taken Conception the complex exam has module system and consists of three independent modules: "Russian language as a foreign one", "History of Russia", "Bases of RF legislation" (Conception of the exam on Russian language, history of Russia and bases of Russian Federation legislation for labour migrants – different categories of citizens of CIS, Baltic and non-CIS countries, 2014, 48-64). The additional modules to the Russian language on history and bases of RF legislation implemented in comprehensive exam, are oriented on the legal and socio-cultural adaptation of migrants, which arrive in the

country; formation of the intercultural communication skills, as well as xenophobia counteraction, national and racial intolerance, and social inclusiveness of the migrants. According to the just notice of the director of the Institute of Russian History at RAS Yu. A. Petrova, "Inoculation of the history" is "... the best instruments against violence"<sup>1</sup>.

Presently, the foreign and first of all European states (Great Britain, Holland, Germany, France, Spain) also expand the practice of application of similar integration procedures, adding the language test with regional geography constituent, focusing attention on the cultural values and principles of civil society<sup>2</sup> (Soto Lema et al., 2014, 58; Oers, 2013, 41). For example, in Great Britain in test tasks the peculiar attention is paid to the issues of history, beginning from the ancient period and arrival of Romans on the territory of the present Great Britain and finishing with the events of summer 2013, when in the capital the countries passed through juvenile XXX Olympic Games. Moreover, all those, who desire to become the nationals of British Kingdom will be "tested" on the knowledge of creativity of English composers, painters and writers (Life in the United Kingdom: A Guide for New Residents)

The regional geography tests, practiced by many states, which take the big quantity of migrants, are traditionally considered as a means of migratory process regulation and concretely integration of migrants in the accepting society (Strik, 2013; Goodman, 2010; New Life in the UK test goes live, 2013).

## Aim

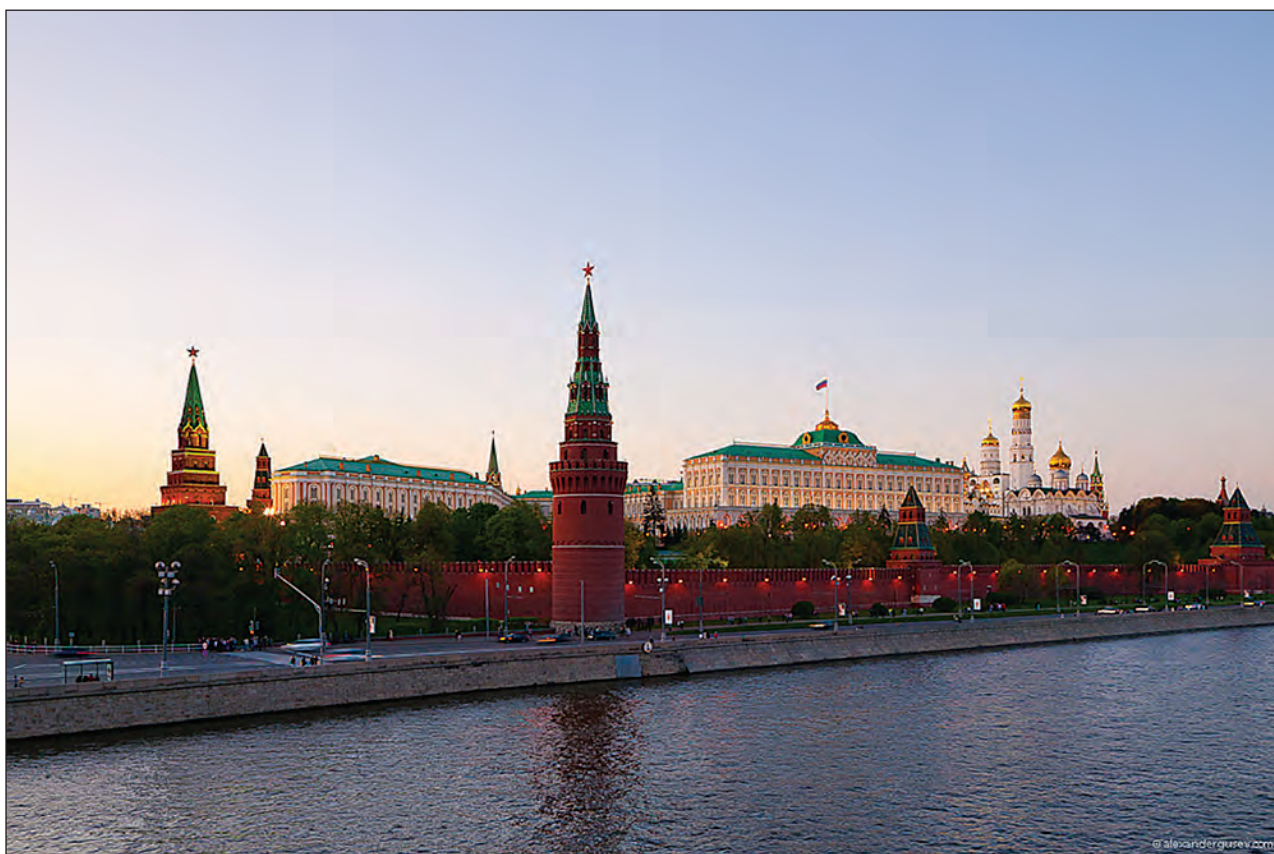
Aim of this article is the analysis of exam module system for foreign citizens, which is first introduced in Russia since January 1, 2015 and its constituent part of the module "History of Russia". In connection with it the task is set to detect the methodological base of this complex exam module, its competences, determination of the requirements to the knowledge level on the history of Russia, and analysis of the offered testing practices in the history of Russia in accordance with differential approach to the contingent of foreign citizens, who arrive in the Russian Federation.

## Problem statement

At the development of methodical bases of complex exam modules in the Russian Federation the task is set for provision of single (unified) independent, standardized control with aim of detection within the frameworks of three modules of the level of formation of communicative, socio-cultural and legal competence, necessary

1 Komsomolskaya Pravda (2014): July 4, (No. 73).

2 El Gobierno creará exámenes de idiomas y cultura para conseguir la nacionalidad española (2014): EUROPA PRESS. Madrid. Día. 22.04.2014.



**Fig. 1:** „ Moscow Kremlin “ by Original uploader was Alexandrergusev at en.wikipedia - Transferred from en.wikipedia. Licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0 via Wikimedia Commons - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moscow\\_Kremlin#/media/File:83AS5017.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moscow_Kremlin#/media/File:83AS5017.jpg)

to the foreign citizen and which can be applied by the labour migrants on the primary level in such language communication areas, as social-routine, official-business, professional, socio-cultural, and educational one, which earlier was optional, but presently also becomes necessary communication area.

The lexical minimum of this level makes 950 – 1000 units, which provide the communication within the thematic and intentional minimums of these requirements. The basic content of active vocabulary of this level serves both social-routine and official-business, professional and social-cultural communication area. The lexical units, which serve the module 2 “History of Russia” and module 3 “Bases of RF legislation” can include up to 500 units (at that the examinee can use the dictionary of special (historical and legal) terms (Dolzjikova, 2014, 76-77).

In application to the module “History of Russia” it concerns the socio-cultural competence, in accordance with which mastering of historical material in the offered volume will allow foreign citizens, who desire to employ in RF:

- to acquire knowledge, skills and abilities, necessary for adequate perception and correct inter-

pretation of political, economic and socio-cultural processes and events, which take place in the Russian Federation;

- to become acquainted with basic stages of the multinational Russian state development, peculiarities of the Russian national character;
- to form the respected relation to the cultural values, national traditions and laws, and to the state language of Russian Federation;
- to orient in the new socio-cultural environment, including at visiting the objects of culture and cultural buildings (churches, mosques, synagogues and etc.) (Moseikina, 2014, 156-162).

The exam module structure supposes teaching migrants to the Russian language, history and bases of RF legislation, informing about cultural traditions and norms of behaviour on the territory of Russia. For this the normative-methodical document was developed that received name “Requirements to complex exam”, in which the minimal obligatory requirements to the level of Russian language possession were represented, and to the volume of knowledge on the history of Russia and bases of Russian Federation legislation, claimed to foreign citizens

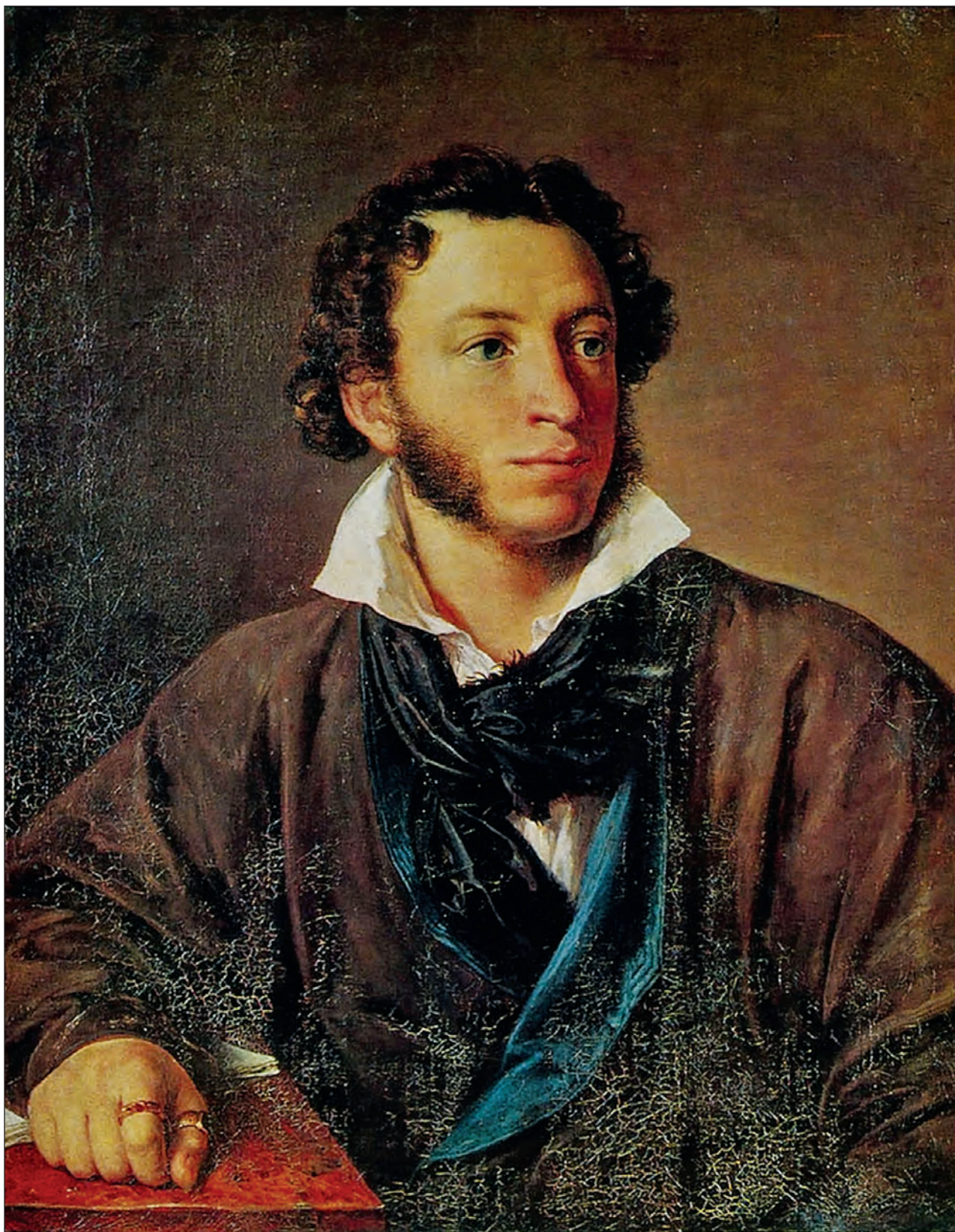


Fig. 2: "Alexander Pushkin" Portrait by Vasily Tropinin at [en.wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_Pushkin#/media/File:AleksandrPushkin.jpg) - Transferred from [en.wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_Pushkin#/media/File:AleksandrPushkin.jpg) (Public Domain). [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander\\_Pushkin#/media/File:AleksandrPushkin.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_Pushkin#/media/File:AleksandrPushkin.jpg)

(Kozmenko, 2014, 140-148). At that if the Requirements to the level of Russian language possession were already applied at testing foreign citizens on the Russian language as a foreign one (RLF) (similar testing takes place in Russia already more than twenty years), then the Requirements to the volume of knowledge on the history of Russia and base of Russian legislation for such category of citizens as labour migrants were first developed by the specialists from the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia at participation of the Russian test consortium (Russian test consortium, 2014). The development of the methods of complex exam preparation and conduction in the part of module "History of Russia" was executed taking into account the formed practices of testing of the Russian language as a foreign one (RLF) (Tsareva, 2006; Stepanenko et al., 2013; Balykhina et al., 2014), and also the unified state exam system (USE) (Yurkina, 2006; Ponomarev et al., 2013) and international experience of foreign citizens' testing in the countries of Europe and USA (Banulescu-Bogdan, 2012).

In the developed "Complex requirements to exam on the Russian language, history of Russia and bases of Russian Federation legislation" on the part concerning the historical module, the structure and content of the socio-cultural competence are represented, the basic themes are determined, the conceptual apparatus was developed, the list of historical personalities, festivals of modern Russia and chronology of the events, obligatory for remembering by foreign citizens were determined (Arslanov et al., 2014, 22-27).

The substantial part of the module on the history of Russia for complex exam is built in accordance with the Conception of new educational-methodical complex on the native history and its constituent part "Historical-cultural standard", taken in October 2013 (Conception of the new educational-methodical complex on the native history, 2014). In this connection the basic aim of introduced historical module is formation in migrants of the general views about the past of Russia, necessary for formation of the respectful relation to the history, culture and traditions of our state nation.

As a result of material mastering, determined by the requirements of module "History of Russia", a foreign citizen must know the basic facts and events of the Russian history and basic monuments of cultures connected with it; national-cultural and religious traditions of the Russian society; names of famous political and state figures, renowned figures of Russia, their contribution in the history of Russian society and world culture development.

Within the frameworks of the development of training methods and testing practices on the history of Russia the work on standardization of each test task was conducted first in the groups of approbation, then in certified tests and control variants of standard tests were created. At that the developers based themselves on that the testee in advance could look and before-

hand to learn the minimal quantity of right answers. For this purpose, complete list of issues on this module, list of historical dates and national festivals are open and accessible. Also the list of historical personalities (state and military figures, and men of science and culture), which promoted to the grandeur of Russia, is open. Alexander Nevskii, K. Minin and Dm. Pozharskii, Peter I, Ekaterina II, Alexander II, A. Suvorov, M. Kutuzov, M. Lomonosov, D. Mendeleev, Yu. Gagarin, A. Rublev, A. Pushkin, L. Tolstoi, A. Solzhenitsyn and etc. entered in this list (Kozmenko et al., 2014).

In this connection the realization of educational programme on the history of Russia direction is important step on the way of successful socio-cultural adaptation of migrants and their socialization. It is shown in it that Russia is the largest multinational and multi-religious country in the world, which primarily formed as a symbiosis of Slavic, Turkic and Finno-Ugric components. It is stated on what united different people, who inhabited Russia, namely: cultural contacts, interaction in economic and trade areas, interference in daily life, religious tolerance, absence of the feelings of racial and national superiority, peculiar to some western Europeans and those ones, who appeared, for example, in the process of creation of the English and French colonial empires. At the same time, based upon historical facts the idea is substantiated, according to which presence of different people in the content of Russian state, and then USSR on the whole has positive value for them. First of all, the security from external enemies was provides, in the range of regions the slavery was liquidated and internal disorders stopped, and the conditions were created for economic and cultural development, distribution of the enlightenment, education and technologies and etc.

Taking into account the multi-religious character of Russian state, the examples of cooperation of Orthodox believers, Muslims and representatives of other confessions in the deed of Russia defense from the enemies, creation of the monuments of culture, and science and education development were stated. The significant fact that up to third Russian gentry had Turkic roots must cause interest in foreign citizens (Petrov, 2007).

As a result, the leitmotif of history teaching for foreign citizens was the idea that Russia was created by the representatives of different peoples and confessions, and formed tradition of cooperation, having received the new impulse of the development, can become one of the decisive factors, for example, Eurasian integration. As a consequence of history study in foreign citizen, on the one part, the sensation of its demand in the Russian society must be formed, and on the other part – responsibility for future of relations between people.

#### EMPIRICAL PART

Testing of experimental examination tasks for the new modules – was conducted of the entry into force of the

law on compulsory exam for foreign nationals (February – May 2014). Approbation on the history of Russia and the basis of the legislation of the Russian Federation was conducted in 50 testing centers in Russian Federation and in 10 centers abroad (in particularly in France, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, China, Moldova and others). On its results, the additional work was carried out to adapt the materials of new modules to the lexical minimum baseline for migrant workers. It allowed increasing the efficiency of pre-exam preparation. The 74th Federal Law on compulsory surrender comprehensive exam by foreign nationals came into force on January 1st. After that, at the beginning of March 2015, a number of migrants, who had passed the exam, were 301,415 people. Among them a category of so-called foreign workers (being granted with a patent) consisted of 220,295 people; a category of foreign citizens, who had received a temporary residence permit, included 54,208 people; and a number of people, who wanted to obtain a residence permit was 18,879. The percentage of people who did not fall into these categories is as follows: 2, 3 and 5 percent, respectively. Those who have passed the exam receive a “certificate of proficiency of Russian as a foreign language, knowledge of the history of Russia and the legal framework of the Russian Federation”. As shown by the first results, the greatest difficulty in taking the exam is not the history or fundamentals of legislation but the module “Russian language” which consists of five subjects. Questions (and answers at the same time) on the last two modules are in open access in internet. The list of the dates required to memorize, and the list of Russian holidays and historical personalities are placed there. All this significantly simplifies the process of preparation for the exam, and contributes to the success of his surrender, at least in part modules “History of Russia” and “Fundamentals of the Legislation” (Portal testing).

#### CONCLUSION

Thus, implementation of the complex exam on the territory of RF for foreign citizens is conditioned by the presence of big flows of migrants, many of which are not ready to quick adaptation to the conditions of Russia culture, society and labour market and can create prob-

lems for the social stability and international consent. In its turn, the determination of the requirements to the basic content and level of knowledge on the Russian language, history of Russia and bases of RF legislation for migrants promote to formation of one of the elements of educational instrument of modern migratory policy in Russia, enhancement of the education level of the very migrants, improvement of the knowledge about life in Russia, that finally facilitates adaptation to new socio-cultural environment.

It is evident that migrants and citizens of Russia must obtain mutual benefits from the joint process of adaptation, which provides preservation of the cultural diversity and strengthening of social consent. However, it is possible to attain this only by means of tolerant mutual recognition and mutual respect, and first of all through education.

In this connection owing to inclusion of the module “History of Russia” in the content of complex exam, the possibility appears for foreign citizens not only to consider the past of Russia, comprehend true content of the relation of its historical center and national outskirts, but to form valuable orientations, tolerant perception of the representatives of other nations and confessions, without which it is impossible for foreign citizens, who arrive in our country, to take part both in labour activity, and intercultural interaction on the territory of RF. In other words, the knowledge of the history of Russia and peculiarities of the national mentality will allow a foreign citizen developing the behavioural line in correspondence with cultural traditions and customs of the Russian society. Moreover, the study of history will also allow resisting some negative consequences of the globalization process, for example, leading to oblivion of the range of cultural and national traditions, devaluation of the values of family, disinterested friendship and mutual assistance, to grow of the immorality and domination of mass culture.

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## IZVAJANJE IN RAZVIJANJE IZOBRAŽEVALNEGA PROGRAMA O ZGODOVINI RUSIJE KOT PRIPRAVE TUJIH DRŽAVLJANOV NA MULTIDISCIPLINARNI IZPIT IZ RUSKEGA JEZIKA, ZGODOVINE IN OSNOV ZAKONODAJE RUSKE FEDERACIJE

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### POVZETEK

*Navezujoč se na Zasnovo kompleksnega izpita za tuje državljane iz ruščine kot tujega jezika, zgodovine Rusije in osnov zakonodaje Ruske federacije, ki se izvaja v Ruski federaciji, članek obravnava sistem modularnih izpitov in enega njegovih sestavnih delov – zgodovino Rusije. Avtorica v prispevku razkrije metodološke osnove tega modela in njegove kompetence ter utemljuje zahtevano raven znanja iz zgodovine Rusije, ponujene metodologije priprav na izpit in prakso testiranja tujih državljanov na področju zgodovine.*

*Učenje o zgodovini se za migrante, ki pridejo v Rusijo, smatra kot sredstvo prilagajanja splošnim življenjskim pogojem v državi. Upoštevajoč, da trenutno večji del migrantov, ki pridejo v Rusijo, izhaja iz Skupnosti neodvisnih držav, avtorica poudarja, da jim poznavanje zgodovine v tem primeru omogoča ne le obvladovanje osnov kulturnih in izročilnih vrednot Rusije, temveč hkrati postaja tudi eden od duhovnih dejavnikov strpnosti in integracij, ki se v posovjetskem prostoru vse bolj krepijo.*

**Ključne besede:** izobraževalni program, zgodovina Rusije, priprava za tuje državljane, multidisciplinarni izpit, migranti

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