



MINISTRY OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION



THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE RUSSIAN
FEDERATION OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE'S
COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS



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«Experience of the Russian Federation in the field of support and protection of national minorities»

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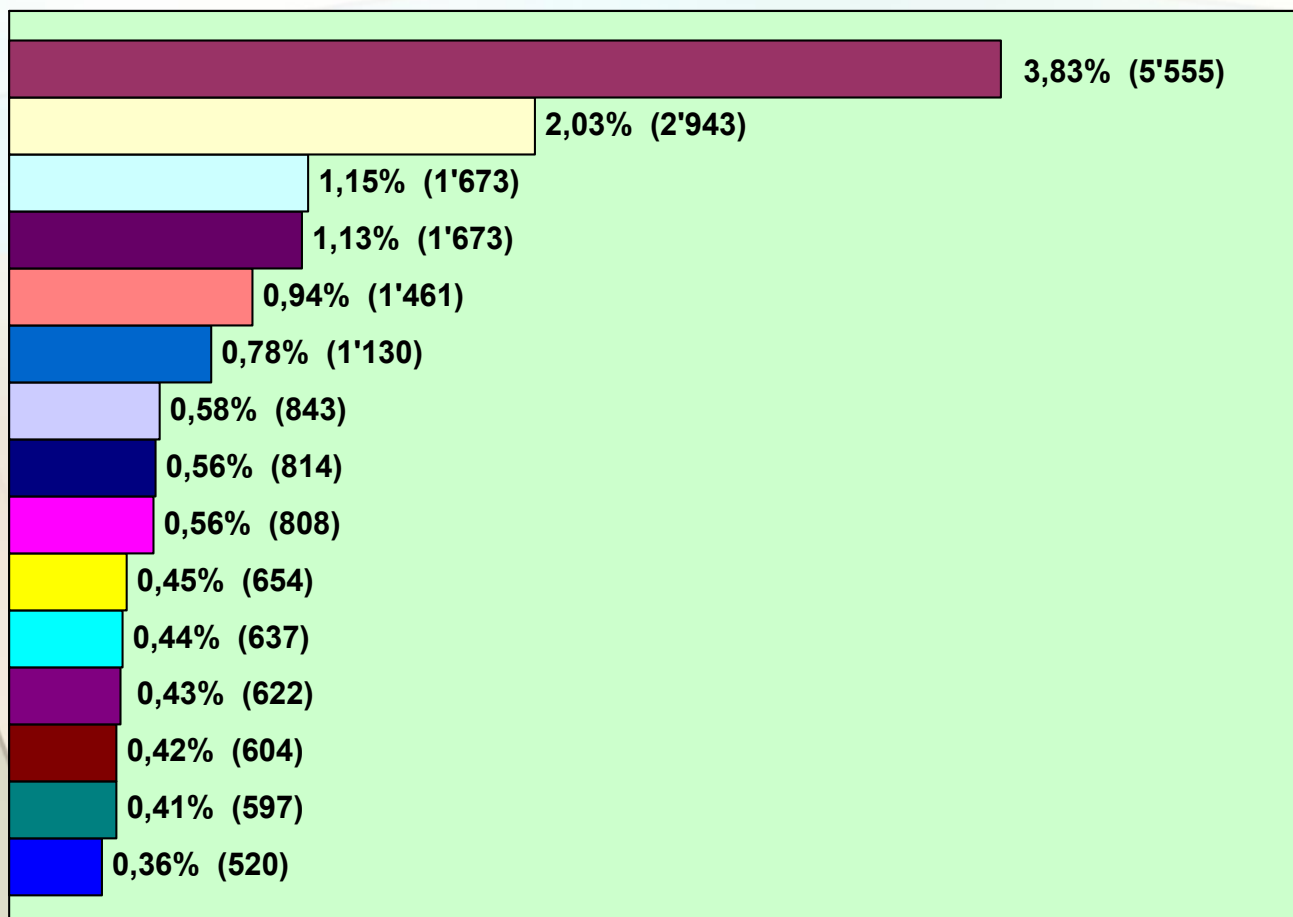
Strasbourg 2006

The Russian Federation is a unique state which contains the most considerable ethnic and cultural population diversity in Europe.

The majority of the population is Russians: 115 889 107 people (79,8%)

National minorities in Russia, thousands of people

(according to All-Russia Population Census 2002)



- Tatars
- Ukrainians
- Bashkirs
- Chuvash
- Chechens
- Armenians
- Mordivians
- Avars
- Belorussians
- Kazakhs
- Udmurts
- Azerbajdzhanians
- Marijs
- Germans
- Kabardians



Legislative instruments for the protection of national minorities



International and European law

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights [1948]
- International Covenant on Civil and Political rights
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms
- Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities
- UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity ...



Legislative instruments for the protection of national minorities

Russian national legislation

- The Constitution of the Russian Federation
- Federal law on the Languages of the Peoples of the Russian Federation
- Federal law “Fundamentals of the legislation of the Russian Federation on culture”
- Federal law on the National-Cultural Autonomy
- Federal law on the Rights of Small Indigenous Peoples of the Russian Federation
- Federal law on General Principles of Organization of Communities of Small Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and Far East of the Russian Federation
- Federal law on the Lands of Small Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and Far East



Legislative instruments for the protection of national minorities

Drafts

- **Corrections to the Concept of the State Ethnic Policy**
- **Draft Federal law on making amendments to Federal law “On the national-cultural autonomy”**
- **Draft Federal law on Fundamentals of Ethnocultural development in the Russian Federation**
- **Draft Federal law on the Defense of original environment and traditional nature management of indigenous peoples of Russian Federation**
- **Draft Concept of Sustainable development of indigenous peoples**

Cooperation with national public organizations



Advisory council for Federal national-cultural autonomies (FNCA) affairs at Ministry of regional development



Members: 16 FNCA (Azerbaijans, Armenians, Assyrians, Belorussians, Jews, Karachi, Koreans, Kurds, Lezghins, Lithuanians, Germans, Poles, Tatars, Ukrainians, Gypsies, Chuvashs)



**Advisory council
for Federal national-cultural
autonomies**

**Commission for legal
initiatives and relations
with law-enforcement
authorities**

**Commission for culture,
education and mass media**

**Commission for national-
cultural development
programs and
cooperation with regional
authorities**

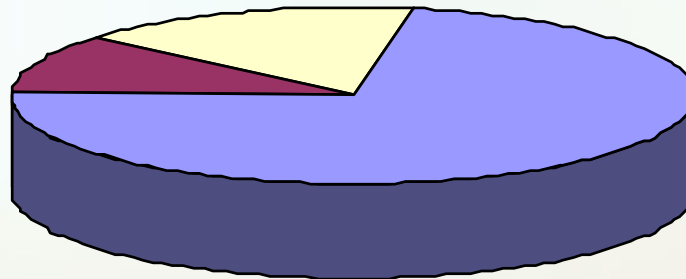


Ethnocultural component in education

Secondary schools

ab. 6'500 schools
(10,45%)

ab. 10'500
schools
(16,40%)

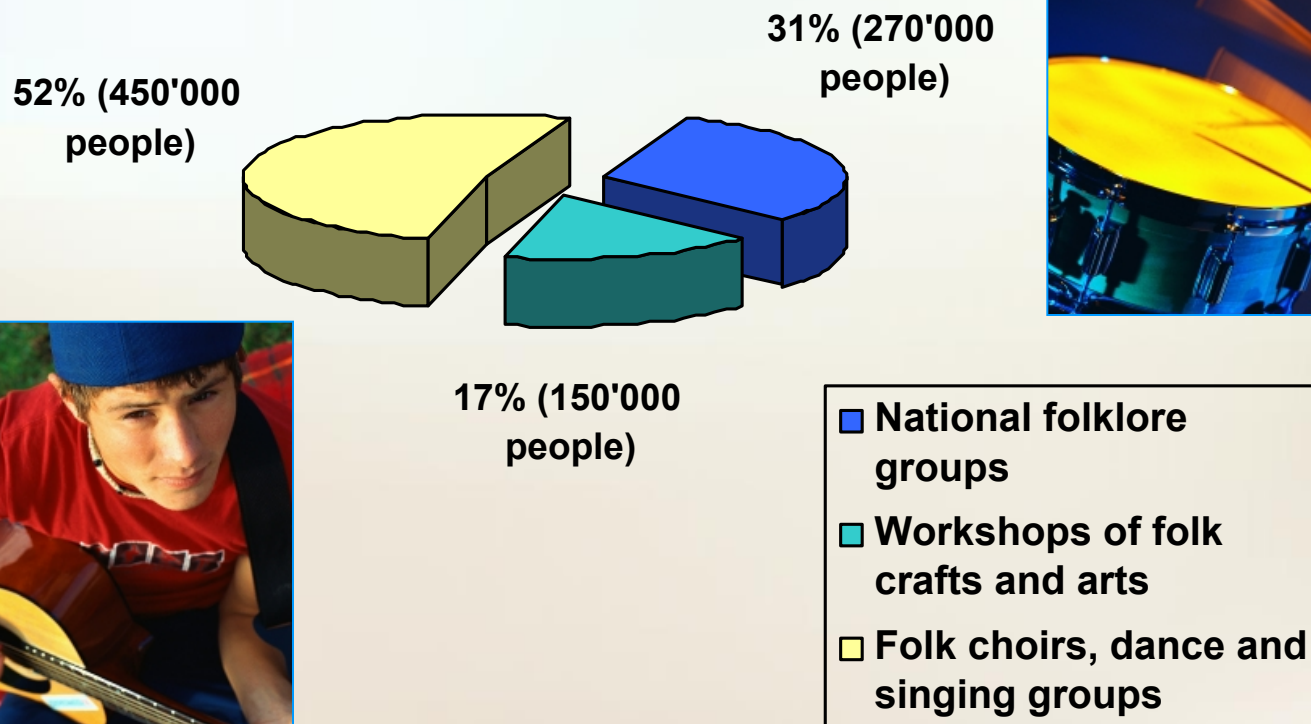


- With studying in native language (non Russian)
- With teaching native language (non Russian) as a subject

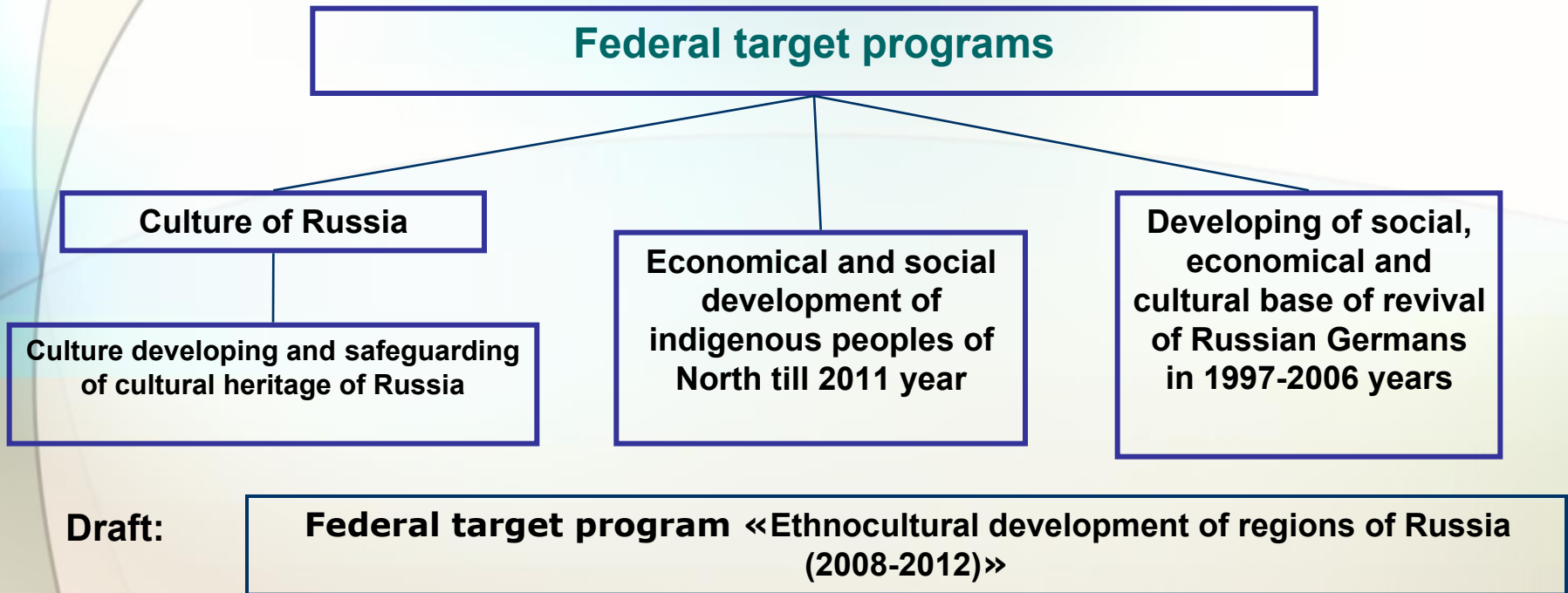
Developing of culture of ethnic groups

Developing of ethnic groups cultures is indispensable condition of preservation of their ethnical identity. That's why Russia appreciate multiculturalism and supports ethnical cultures

Institutions of traditional culture of national minorities



Financial support of national minorities



Regional authorities also make a significant contribution to the support of national minorities through various cultural and social projects. One third of RF subjects work out and fulfill regional ethnocultural programs.

Proposals to the Summary of the Seminar

- note that under the Russian Chairmanship in the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe a number of important international events have taken place, giving a renewed impetus to the work of the Council of Europe in protecting the rights of national minorities and developing an inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue;
- recognize that international seminars attended by government representatives and experts from various European countries along with members of associations of national minorities and indigenous peoples are an important tool in formulating and implementing international guarantees for the protection of national minorities;
- consider that the best practice in protecting and securing the rights of national minorities in the Member States of the Council of Europe presented at the seminar should be recommended for dissemination and application;
- note the growing problems faced by national minorities in contemporary Europe associated with migration and formation and strengthening of new ethnic communities in Europe, as well as the need to engage national minorities in addressing issues relating to integration and assimilation of migrants in the European communities.

- support the efforts to reinforce international instruments for the protection of rights of national minorities;
- provide for holding of regular inter-state meetings on the level of executive and legislative authorities on the protection of rights of national minorities under the aegis of the Council of Europe;
- support the strengthening of national mechanisms for the protection of human rights and rights of national minorities both in national legislation and in the context of implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities;
- develop interaction between state authorities and civil society institutions in the area of protection of rights of national minorities;
- recommend the Member States of the Council of Europe to take advantage of the experience of Russia and other European nations in establishment of advisory bodies of national minorities for the state authorities to ensure a more effective participation of national minorities in the process of state decision-making in the area of interethnic relations and protection of rights of national minorities;

- express concern that in some Member States of the Council of Europe national minorities are unable to fully exercise civic, economic and social rights due to political discrimination on ethnic grounds;
- suggest that the Council of Europe and the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities pay more attention to the processes unfolding in those states;
- call upon the Member States of the Council of Europe to assign a high priority to education of minorities and ensure equal access of minorities to education with a special emphasis on the education of compactly living ethnic communities;
- support the initiatives put forward at the International Conference “Dialogue of Cultures and Inter-religious Cooperation” held on 7 - 9 September 2006 in Nizhny Novgorod;
- support international initiatives aimed at protecting rights of national minorities.
- encourage the Member States of the Council of Europe, following the example of the Russian Federation, to establish national organizational committees for the United Nations Second International Decade of the World’s Indigenous People.



Thank You