Actions of Lifelong Learning addressing Multicultural Education and Tolerance in Russia

WP2

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Executive summary

Five reports (one for each Russian region represented in the partnership) on the existing research on inter-ethnic and inter-religious relationships and conflicts, social stability, human rights and inclusion of people with a migrant background. The issue is developed in a multidisciplinary perspective covering the demographic, social, anthropological, historical, political and educative themes and data. This report characterizes the context of Arkhangelsk Region.

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Existing Research Review – Arkhangelsk Region

Contributors

Key project staff:
N.S. Morova, project Manager, Director of the Institute of pedagogy and psychology, doctor of pedagogy, Professor of the Department of psychology of development and education FGBOU VPO “Mari state university”
L.V. Lezhnina, scientific researcher of the project, doctor of psychological sciences, Professor of the Department of psychology of development and education of the Institute of pedagogy and psychology of FGBOU VPO “Mari state university”
S.A. Domracheva, scientific researcher of the project, Associate Professor of the Department of developmental psychology and education FGBOU VPO “Mari state university”, candidate of pedagogical sciences

Involved staff:
S.V. Korableva, Associate Professor of the Department of developmental psychology and education FGBOU VPO “Mari state university”, candidate of pedagogical sciences
D.B. Ascalonova, Associate Professor of the Department of developmental psychology and education FGBOU VPO “Mari state university”, candidate of pedagogical sciences
M.N. Poptsova, expert manager of the Pension Fund, Yoshkar-Ola
D. Raspopova, translator, researcher of the international department of Mari state university

1) Geographical location

The Mari El Republic (Mari: Mariy El Respublica) is the national Republic within the Russian Federation. It is one of subjects the Russian Federation belonging to the Volga Federal District. It is situated in the East European Plain in its eastern part in the Middle Volga Region where the biggest rivers come together – these are the Volga, the Votluga and the Sura. In the north, northeast and east Mari El borders the Kirov Oblast, in the south and southeast – the Republic of Tatarstan and the Chuvash Republic, in the west and northwest – the Nizhny Novgorod Oblast. From south to north the Republic stretches for 150 km and for 60 km in its narrowest part. The length of the borders exceeds 1200 km.

The western part of the left bank presents boggy Mari lowland. In the west of the Republic the Volga takes a large tributary called the Votluga. Eastward down the lowland left the Volga feeders that start in the southern slopes of the Vyatka ridges flow: the Malaya Kokshaga with the Maly Kundysh and the Bolshaya Oshla inflows, the Bolshaya Kokshaga with the Bolshoy Kundysh and the Rutka inflows. There are a lot of lakes in their valleys.

The eastern part of the territory is situated within the bounds of the Vyatka ridges (height up to 275 m), there you can see karst relief forms; the surface is broken down with rivers’ valleys and ravines. There are
the Vyatka basin rivers among them: the Nemda and its tributaries – the Lazh, the Tolman, the Shukshan, etc.; the Buix, the Urzhumka, the Shoshma; left tributary of the Volga river: the Ilet and its feeders – the Shora, the Irovka and the Yushut. The navigable waterway length inside the republican water area amounts to 335 km including the Volga track – 230 km, the Vetluga track – 105 km. On the Volga River in the territory of the Republic the Cheboksary and Kuibyshev reservoirs are located.

Borders, length: The Mari El Republic is in the centre of the European part of Russia, mostly on the left bank of the Volga River. The Mari El surface is equal to 23,4 thousand km2. The length of the Republic from north to south measures 150 km, from west to east – 275 km. In the north, northeast and east it borders to the Kirov Oblast, in the southeast and south – the Republic of Tatarstan and the Chuvash Republic, and in the west and northwest the Nizhny Novgorod Oblast is its neighbour. The geographical centre of the Mari El Republic lies about the Nolka village of the Medvedevo region.

The Mari El Republic capital is Yoshkar-Ola. It is 862 km from Moscow, 146 km from Kazan, 335 km from Kirov, 93 km from Cheboksary and 332 km from Nizhny Novgorod.

Density of population: 29,6 persons per 1 km2.

Administrative and territorial division: Republic.

Population: 692,4 thousand people by 01/01/2012 (441,5 thousand of urban population; 250,9 thousand of rural population). The urban population is more than a half and amounts 63,8%; rural men – 36,2%.

National diversity: the Mari 41,8%; the Russian 45,1%; the Tatar 5,5%; other nationalities of the Russian Federation (the Chuvash, the Udmurt, the Mordva, the Ukrainian and etc. – more than 50 nationalities) 7,6%.

 Territory: 23,4 thousand km2 (57% forest massive, 38,9% agricultural lands, 1% bogs, 3% waters), big and small rivers – 476. The most important rivers – 11, great lakes – more than 200.

There are 3 towns (Yoshkar-Ola, Volzhsk, Kozmodemyansk) of republican subordination, 1 town (Zvenigovo) of regional subordination and 14 regions (Volzhsky District, Gornomariysky District, Zvenigovsky District, Kilemarsky District, Kuzhenersky District, Mari-Tureksky District, Medvedevsky District, Morkinsky District, Novotorialsky district, Orshansky District, Paranginsky District, Sernursky District, Sovetsky District, Yurinsky District) in the republic.

Yoshkar-Ola is situated on the banks of the Malaya Kokshaga River which is a left tributary of the Volga River in the centre of the Volga-Vyatka region. Yoshkar-Ola is one of the greenest Russian towns. The total area of all town woodland and planting is 1441 ha. The level of green space provision for the urban population is among highest in Russia. The planting system of the town consists of large town woodland, parks, garden squares, planting of boulevard streets and courtyards. At the present time there are 233,55 ha of public green planting in the town represented with parks, garden squares, gardens and boulevards. The green space provision for population is equal to 9,3 m2 per person.

Kozmodemyansk is located on a high right bank of the Volga River (the Cheboksary Reservoir), 104 km southwest from Yoshkar-Ola. A ferry line joins the town with the left bank part of the Republic. It is the main cultural centre of the Mountain Mari.

Volzhsk is the administrative centre of the Volzhsky District in the Mari El, the second largest town of the Republic. It is a big industrial centre of Mari El with enormous engineering potential. In the nearest future Volzhsk is planned to become a big touristic centre as well.
Climate is moderately continental with long frosty winter and warm summer. Average temperature in summer is +18 - +20 °C. The hottest period is the middle of July. The air warms up to +34, +38 °C. In autumn the weather is cold and wet, mostly accompanied with strong wind and rains. Early frosts and snow is possible. November is the windiest month. As a rule, winter begins in November. Average temperature in winter is -18, -19 °C. The coldest month is January.

Infrastructure: In the territory of the Republic there is 1 airport of interrepublican level. There is 1 railway terminal and 2 coach stations, 14 railroad stations, 45 passenger bus terminals, a river port in Kozmodemyansk on the Volga River, three landing stages: in Zvenigovo, Volzhsk and in Korotny village of the Gornomariysky District.

Relief and natural resources: The territory of the Mari El Republic is situated on the edge of forest and forest-steppe regions and possesses remarkable landscape diversity. The Volga River divides the territory of the Republic into two unequal parts: bigger – the left bank and smaller – the right bank. The Volga River serves as a physical border of natural zones of the Republic. Bowels of the earth are not rich in mineral resources: only peat, glass-melting and silicate sand, building stone, limestone and mineral springs are of any significance. The soil is low productive.

That are the woods of the Republic which stand for its natural and only wealth. The total area of the woodland is more than 1200 thousand ha or 57% of its territory. It is located mainly in the west and central parts; coniferous species dominate – pine tree, silver fir and fir tree. Among animals the following are widespread: wolf, bear, wild boar, fox, elk, hair, beaver, squirrel, musk-rat, stoat, mink, lynx, badger, polecat. Some game birds can be found in the woods: wood grouse, black grouse, hazel grouse, waterfowl and moorfowl. 1240 species of plants grow in the woodland, 6 of them are in the Red Book and more than 200 are rare. The “gifts of wood” are the base of the Mari national cuisine. Hunting, beekeeping and fishing are the oldest commercial businesses of the Mari people.

In the territory of Mari El there are 476 small rivers and brooks of 7 thousand km length and more than 600 lakes of 2,5 thousand ha of watery waste space. Fish fauna of Mari El ponds is represented by 57 species among which bream, pike-perch, pike, orfe, roach, silver bream, sabre fish, white-eyed bream, blue bream and some others that have commercial importance. The Volga River flows 155 km in the Republic. The rivers Ilet, Bolshaya Kokshaga, Yushut and Kundysh belong to the cleanest rivers of Europe and Yalchik, Kichier, Sea Eye, Crucian lakes are the pearls of the Mari land.

Economic geography: natural resources, major economic fields

Industry. The main industries of the Republic are electric power, mechanical engineering and metalworking production, timber, wood processing, pulp and paper industries, food and fuel industries; their joint share in the industrial production rate is 79,8%. The main industrial centres are the towns of Yoshkar-Ola, Volzhsk, Kozmodemyansk and Zvenigovo.

The biggest enterprises are:
Marijholodmash joint company produces refrigerating equipment
Mari integrated pulp and paper mill
Marbiofarm joint company produces different drug.
Plant of synthetic leather (private corporation) produces polymer films, linoleum, artificial supple leather, fabric-backed film
Mari refinery plant is a publicly traded company
Volzhsky Woodcombine - publicly traded company manufactures window frames, tables, chairs, book shelves, industrial wood, lumber.

The Mari El Republic offers great variety of building stone, haydite, brick and tegular raw material, carbonaceous rock for soil chalking, facing stone, peat, sapropel, mineral water and mud. The industrial companies of the Republic compose 25.7% of gross regional product and 65% of profits. The industrial enterprises provide more than a half of the tax receipts to the budgets of all scales.

Agriculture. The leading agricultural branch is cattle breeding (dairy breeding, food animals, hog raising, sheep rearing, poultry keeping). Here cereal (barley, oat, rye, wheat) and forage crops, fiber flax, hop, vegetables and potato are cultivated.

Transport. In the Mari El Republic the transport system is well developed, it includes motor-ways, railways, petrol and oil pipe lines, navigable rivers and also aviation service. Most cargo transportations are carried through railway and highway. The railroads’ length within the boundaries of the Mari El Republic is 202 km. The waterways’ length within water area of the Republic amounts 335 km including the Volga River way of 230 km and the Vetluga River way of 105 km. Bus routes connect the Republic with other regions of Russia, as well as Moscow, Saint-Petersburg, Nizhny Novgorod, Kazan, Kirov, Ufa, Ulyanovsk and etc.

Thus, the main factors that characterize the economic and geographical position of the Republic of Mari El, include the location of a Republic in Central Russia; proximity to transport highways of Federal importance; the favorable location of the main natural resources of the Republic (forests, agricultural lands) to potential consumers of the raw materials on the territory of the Republic; the solution of environmental problems of the Federal and regional level, particularly related to the condition of the Volga basin and large forest tracts; passing through the territory of the Republic of main gas and oil pipelines.

The challenges facing the region: Environmental problem is in raising the water level of Cheboksary reservoir storage, water flooding of forests, arable lands and valuable meadows, flooding in Kozmodemyansk district.

Transport problem is that Mari El is located in the inner stub thus the connection of the republic with the main regions is difficult.

Social problem is low level of living standards, heavy unemployment (10% of the working population in 2006), labour migration to Tatarstan and Chuvashia.

2) History, religion and culture

History. The first mention of the ancient Mari as a nation "tsarmis " refers to 961 Main events:
The beginning of the XII century – allusion of “cheremis” in the Russian Primary Chronicle.
XIII-XV centuries – the Mari were the part of the Golden Horde.
The end of the XIV century – the Sura Mari who were members of the Duchy of Nizhny Novgorod join to the Duchy of Moscow.

XV – the middle of the XVI century – the Mari joined the Kazan Khanate.
The end of the XV century – the Duchy of Vetluga and the Vyatka land joined the Russian State.
There were three cheremis wars: 1 – 1552–1557; 2 – 1571–1673; 3 – 1582–1584.
1670–1671 – the Mari participation in the Peasant War under the leadership of Stepan T. Razin.
1720–1740 – the beginning of Christianization of the Mari people.
1773–1775 – the Mari took part in the Peasant War under the leadership of Emelyan I. Pugachev.
In XVIII–XIX centuries the first factories with independent workers and attributed peasants appeared. Monasteries and big manufacturers held significant territories. Wood developing and saw milling industries were expanding.

In the second half of the XIX century industrial and manufacturing plants were settled; dockyard, glass factory and distilleries were built.

1905 – the first artistic work in Mari was written – “Grove” (Mari: Oto) by Sergey G. Chavain.

1920 – the Mari people founded their nationhood.

The Mari El Republic got its name after the ethnic self-designation of its native population Mari (“husband”, “male”), El in the Mari language means “country”. Entry of the Mari land into the Russian state presupposed the further history of the Mari people that continued during four and a half centuries in close connection with the Russian nation history. The most important result of the Mari entry into Russia was the preservation of the Mari as an ethnos.

In the middle of the XVI century the Mari people were involved into war opposition between the Russian State and the Kazan Khanate which lasted till 1552 when Kazan was conquered. During that war the Mountain Mari who lived on the Volga right bank supported the troops of Ivan the Terrible – in 1551 they got under the control of the Russian tsar. The left bank, meadow part of the Mari lands, joined the Russian State a year later after the Kazan Khanate dropped.

The Mari land integration into the Russian State went on till the end of the XVI century. In its territory towns-castles were founded which then became the administrative district centres. In 1574 the first town was founded – Kokshaysk, in 1583 - Kozmodemyansk, in 1584 - Tsarevokokshaysk (now Yoshkar-Ola).

Starting from the second half of the XIX century Kozmodemyansk was the second wood trade centre in Russia (after Arkhangelsk). According to the legend the town was founded by the first Russian tsar Ivan the Terrible when he was going back to Moscow by the river after he had beaten the Kazan Khanate with the help of the Mountain Mari hero Akparse, he saw a high hill and ordered to build a settlement there.

Being a part of the Russian State the Mari people preserved its rights on fields, meadows, woods, hunter and apicultural grounds.

The Mari land was populated gradually by the Russians. Russian peasants moved here from different places but mostly from northern districts of the Vyatka province. Mainly the Russian occupied the lands of the Yurino volost of former Vasilsursky district of the Nizhny Novgorod province whose landowners were the Sheremetevs since 1812.

In the XVIII-XIX centuries the industry of the Mari land started to develop: wood lumbering and processing, dock, glass factory and distillery appeared. The literacy among population increased – Mari schools opened, Mari books were published.

The Mari people in the XX century got its nationhood. In the territory of Mary historical settlement on November, 4, 1920 the Highest Central Executive Committee and the Council of People’s Commissars of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic adopted the decree “On the autonomous region of the Mari people creation”. The decree defined the administrative and territorial structure of the region with the centre in Krasnokokshaysk (from 1927 – Yoshkar-Ola).

In 1929-1932 the Mari autonomous region was a part of the Nizhny Novgorod region and in 1932-1936 – the Gorky region. In 1936 the Mari autonomous region was reorganized into the Mari Autonomous Soviet Socialistic Republic and at the present time is a fully legitimate subject of the Russian Federation – the Mari El Republic.
On June, 21, 1937 the 11th special conference of the Republican Councils ratified the Constitution of the Mari Autonomous Soviet Socialistic Republic.

The Mari people as a part of the Russian State saved its language and acquired its written language. In 1775 the first edition of the Mari grammar was published, that was the landmark of Mari literature birth. Nowadays the Mari language together with Russian is a state language of the Mari El Republic. The Mari saved their traditional region and customs. At the present day holy prayer groves of Mari pagans are reserved by the government.

It should be noted that Marie is the only nation in Europe that managed to preserve its original pagan religion practically unchanged.

The Mari people is a member of the fraternity association of relative Finno-Ugric peoples of Russia. From one year to another social, cultural and scientific ties grow stronger between peoples of the Finno-Ugric world. The Republic gains a vast recognition, the global community gets the opportunity to meet unique Mari culture.

In recent time history and culture took a remarkable place in the social and political life of the Mari El Republic thanks to wide building in Yoshkar-Ola, installation of new monuments and steps to develop tourism in the region.

Today the scientific work in the field of the regional history is carrying at the Faculty of History and Philology of Mari State University and in the V.M. Vasiliev Scientific and Research Institute of Language, Literature and History. History scientists defend theses, write monographs, collections of documents, at MarSU the journal “Mari archeographic vestnik” is published, in MarSRI – “Finno-Ugric Studies”. Moreover, the State Record Keeping of the Mari El Republic actively popularizes the science and also prepares the collections of documents to publication, issues “Mari Annual Records”.

Religion.

The main religions are Orthodoxy, Paganism and Islam. The historical way of the Mari religion is controversial. The Pagan religion developed under difficult conditions of the fight against Islam, invasive Christianization, a fight for original faith preservation of native culture and language. A unique philosophy, folklore, mythology and religious and ritual views formed the Mari worldview.

The Mari people out of all Finno-Ugric peoples saved to the most extend its ancient originally national religious convictions. At the present they are the only people in Europe who saved vivid patterns of traditional religion, moral standards of their ancestors. The Pagan religion was not imposed by the people, it satisfied its own national and cultural needs. The Christianization of the Mari became massive in 40-60-s of the XVIII century. The Mari Pagan faith saved its originality, provided harmony between man and nature. This religion spiritualizes a person, has life-asserting character. Nowadays the pagan and orthodox religions coexist peacefully among the Mari. About 60% of the Mari are orthodox and believe in the Mari religion at the same time, 80% of them are women. Nearly 40% of respondents said that they confess the Orthodoxy.

According to the results of a sociological study of religious consciousness of the population of the Republic of Mari El, which was conducted by the Sociology Department of the Mari Research Institute of Language, Literature and History in 2004, only 8.8 % of the students believe that religion takes a very important place in their lives; another 36 % say that it takes quite an important place; 47,1 % - minor and 8.1 % indicate that religion does not occupy any place in their lives. The proportion of students attending Church services was quite low. So only 4.5 % of respondents regularly attended Church; 51,8 % visited it regularly and 43.7 % never visited. Comparison of the results shows that the number of religious people is
growing. So, if in 1994 people considered themselves as religious were 43 % of all respondents, in 2004 it was already 68.5 % of the respondents.

In addition, in 2004, only 1.3 % of the interviewed pupils kept all the religious customs and ceremonies, and 11.5 % had complied with most of the rituals and customs. 59.7 % - comply with only some of the customs and ceremonies, and of 27.5 % did not observe. However, there is quite a noticeable difference compared to the results of the study in 1994. So, in 1994, none of the interviewed students followed all the religious rites and customs, observed most of these rituals of 6.7 % of the respondents in this category had kept some of the rites and customs - to 49.3 %, never kept them - 44 %.

In 2004 G.S. Zeleneeva wrote in the thesis, that there is a stabilization in the sphere of interethnic relations. Judging by opinion polls, the majority of inhabitants of the Republic at the end of the investigated period saw no possibility of a collision on religious or ethnic grounds.

The Republic of Mari El in the present can be characterized as a territory on which the existence of three main ethnic groups and three religions, ethnic and religious contradictions expressed rather poorly. However, this does not negate the need for active prevention of interethnic conflicts.

Culture.

The academic culture of Mari El absorbed the rich folkloristic heritage. Now the State Company of Dance “Mari El”, the Iskandarov State Chapel, the Orchestra of Folk Instruments “Mari Kundem” are famous inwards and outwards of Russia. The founders of modern Mari art were writers Sergey Grigorievich Chavain (Grigoriev) (1888-1937) and composer Ivan Stepanovich Kluchnikov-Palantay (1886-1926). All their creative work was charged with folkloristic patterns of the Mari people.

The best and brightest periods of history of the Mari literature are connected with Sergey Chavain’s name. He was its founder, a classic writer who highly raised the importance of the literal word in his compatriots’ eyes. His compositions entered the golden fund of the Mari belles-lettres.

The Mari land presented to Russia the creative work of the composer Andrey Yakovlevich Eshpay and poet Nikolay Alekseevich Zabolotsky (1903-1958).

The dramatic art of the Mari El Republic is on a high level. At the moment several theatres function in the Republic: the Shketan Mari National Theatre of Drama, Konstantinov Academic Russian Theatre of Drama, Sapaev Mari State Theatre of Opera and Ballet, Republican Puppet Theatre, Mari Theatre for Young Audience, the Mountain Mari Theatre.

The Mari El Republic is becoming the cultural centre of the global scale. Twice a year the capital hosts the International Festival of Finno-Ugric Theatres; the International Festival of Russian Theatres of National Republics of Russia and Countries of the Baltics and CIS Countries is held regularly. And in recent years the world stars turned to be often guests of another big International Festival of Opera and Ballet Art “Winter evenings”.

A great attention in the Republic is paid to the training of rising generation after present artistic masters. In Mari El 8 houses of crafts, studios, workshops, 48 children’s musical schools, children’s schools of painting, children’s art schools work. A real talent foundry for professionals of theatre stages not only in Republic but in Russia became the Faculty “Acting Skills” of the Palantay Republican College of Culture and Arts. In 2005 the first graduates of the “Choreographic Art” came out. The specialists with higher education are taught at the Institute of national culture and intercultural communication. It is the "youngest" training and research unit of the Mari state university. It was created by the decision of the Academic Council of the Mari state university № 1, dated 31 May 2013 on the basis of connection of 3 educational
sectors: the Institute of Finno-Ugric studies, faculty of culture and arts and the faculty of international relations.

The Institute of national culture and intercultural communication is the successor of the 80-year-old traditions of training of scientific and pedagogical personnel in the field of Mari and Finno-Ugric linguistics and artistic expression. Dozens of candidates and doctors of Philology, folk and popular writers, well-known journalists, statesmen passed through this academic school. The Institute has absorbed the best traditions of training specialists in the field of international relations, advertising, and public relations. Thus, the preservation and enhancement of cultural traditions in the Republic is given great importance.

Problems: commitment to the religion of the majority of the population remains low. Among young people religion is not widely spread.

3) Demographics

The demographic situation in the Republic of Mari El as in the Russian Federation is characterized by the tendency of permanent population reduction.

The population of the Mari El Republic according to Russian State Commission of Statistics report is equal to 688,686 persons (2014). The population is declining, approximately by 2286 persons. The peak of population reduction was fixed in 2010 and 2013.

Over the last 5 years the population has decreased by 7,773 person (table 1).

Table 1.

<table>
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<th>2012</th>
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<td>Population</td>
<td>696459</td>
<td>695482</td>
<td>692435</td>
<td>690349</td>
<td>688686</td>
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<tr>
<td>Growth in relation to previous year (fall)</td>
<td>-3659</td>
<td>-977</td>
<td>-3047</td>
<td>-2086</td>
<td>-1663</td>
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In 2006 the population was 711,54 thousand persons. The reduction of population in 2014 comparing with 2006 was 22,8 thousand persons. The density of population is 29,46 persons per km² (2014). The urban population is 64,49% (2013).

In 2005 the population of the capital city - Yoshkar-Ola - was 276,4 thousand people, of which 61.6% were in the working age. By 1-st January 2009 the population of Yoshkar-Ola was 260,5 thousand people (33% of the total population of the Republic and 53% of the urban population) that corresponds to 74-th place in all-Russian rate of population. The density of population is 2587 persons per km² (2009).

Improving the demographic situation is one of the problems. Demographic processes in the Republic of Mari El, as in Russia in general, remain challenging. The resident population of the Republic of Mari El on January 1, 2007 was 704,4 thousand. It has decreased per 4.8 thousand people since 2006. The reduction was due to natural diminution and outflow of people from the republic.

For the period 2001-2005 population of Mari El has decreased by 36.3 thousand people. This demographic situation in the Republic has arisen for many reasons, the main of which is the lowering of the living standards of the population. At present, however, in the dynamics of fertility in the Republic some positive trends can be observed.
Compared with 1999, which became “the point of absolute minimum”, in recent years there has been a steady increase in the absolute number of births, total fertility rate. The total fertility rate increased from 8.8 births per 1,000 population in 1999 to 10.6 in 2006.

Table 2.
Data on territory and permanent population of the Mari El Republic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Territory*, km²</th>
<th>Population by 1 January 2013, persons</th>
<th>Density of population, total persons per km²</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All population</td>
<td>Urban population</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Mari El Republic</td>
<td>23376,65</td>
<td>690349</td>
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<td></td>
<td>246214</td>
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Specific density of the urban population in the total population in 2012 was 63,1%; in 2013 it increased to 64,3%; the rural population reduced and amounted 35,7%.

The most densely populated regions are Medvedevsky, Volzhsky, Sernursky, Paranginsky, Sovetsky and Novotorialsky.

The urban population of the Mari El Republic (by 1 January 2010 according the census) is: Yoshkar-Ola – 248,7 thousand people; Volzhsk – 56,2 thousand people; Kozmodemyansk – 22,7 thousand people; Zvenigovo – 12,0 thousand people.

The population of the capital is growing in the fast lane. In 2014 in Yoshkar-Ola it reached 260 352 persons (increased by 11,6 thousand persons comparing with 2010). This is connected with the development of infrastructure, the creation of work and leisure conditions for townpeople.

In Volzhsk there is reduction of population. If in 2010 it was equal to 56,2 thousand people, in 2014 it was 54,87 thousand, less by 1,33 thousand people.

From January till May 2014 in the territory of municipal regions of the Republic the migration loss was registered, it reached 1863 persons. That data was presented by the Statistics Department of Mari El. The greatest population loss according to Mari Statistics was noted in the Mari-Tureksky, Morkinsky and Medvedevsky regions. The least loss of rural population was in the Kilemarsky and Yurinsky regions. The population growth in 2014 in Mari El was in Yoshkar-Ola only, Medvedevo and urban settlement Krasnogorsky of the Zvenigovsky region. During January-May 2014 6786 persons came to Mari El however at the same time 7581 persons left the Republic.

The rate of natural increase (+), fall (-) by 1000 persons is 0,6.

Ethnic composition: Representatives of more than 50 ethnic groups inhabit the Mari El Republic. There are the Russian 47,4%, the Mari 43,9%, the Tatar 5,8% and other nationalities: the Chuvash, the Udmurt, the Mordva, the Ukrainian and etc – 2,9% in Mari El. The most part of the rural population are the Mari people.

The title population of the Republic – the Mari – is divided into three mail subethnic groups: the Mountain, the Meadow and the Eastern. The most numerous Meadow Mari (% of ethnic group) populate a vast low left bank of the Volga (After Volga region), the Mountain Mari inhabit the right bank of the Volga.
River – the northern hills of the Volga height. The Eastern Mari live East from the Vyatka River, mainly in the territory of Bashkiria. The majority of religious people are Orthodox.

A great part of the Tatar who live in the Republic (60%) are located in the Paranginsky, Mari-Tureksky and Morkinsky regions where a significant number of Tatar settlements are situated and in Volzhsk i.e. in neighbour regions with Tatarstan. More than quarter of the Tatar of the Republic lives in Yoshkar-Ola. In the Zvenigovo region there are several Chuvash settlements where 35% of the Chuvash people live who are in the Republic. A third of the Chuvash live in Yoshkar-Ola and Volzhsk. Settlements with the Udmurt people appear in the Mari-Tureksky region where 72% of the Udmurt of the Republic reside. In the Republic the Tatars dominate in 36 settlements.

In Zvenigovo area there are several Chuvash villages, which are home to 35% of the Chuvash, taken into account in the Republic. A third of the Chuvash people live in the cities of Yoshkar-Ola, and Volzhsk. The settlements with the Udmurt population are found in the Mari-Turek, on which territory there are 72% of the Udmurt population.

Among other peoples who inhabit the Mari El Republic the more presentable in quantity are the Ukrainian (5,3 thousand people), the Mordva (1,7 thousand people) and the Belorussian (1,4 thousand people). The main flow of them towards the Republic began in the 1930-1940-s during the industrialization. The Ukrainian and Belorussian migrated in the period of the Great Patriotic War in connection with the evacuation of industrial enterprises and population from temporary occupied territories by Germany. A great part of the Mordva, Ukrainian, Belorussian and representatives of other peoples migrated to the Republic in the 1960-1980-s, that was caused by massive migration and mobility of the population.

International migration (immigration) to the Republic was massive till 1992 and was directly connected with interethnical tension in new countries – former Soviet Republics. The most part of immigrants came from the Baltics, Ukraine and Kazakhstan. In 2000-2004 immigration turned to be structurally different and could be characterized as a labour migration from the Republics of the Caucasus and the Middle Asia. The existing scale of migration can be estimated as significant, besides the population moving is growing. The tension on the international grounds is still nearly absent between immigrants and the native people but it can appear while the number growth of the first.

International migration is calculated only by hundreds or dozens of incomers. In particular from Kazakhstan (in 2002 – 251 persons, in 2007 – 43 persons), from Ukraine (in 2002 – 86 persons, in 2007 – 70 persons), from Uzbekistan (in 2002 – 81 persons, in 2007 – 93 persons) and also a number of migrants from Azerbaijan and Armenia.

The analysis of the data on total results of population migration in the Republic of Mari El presented after the request of Mari State University to the territorial department of the federal service of state statistics in the Mari El Republic for 2013 showed the following:

Table 3.
Total results of population migration in the Mari El Republic for 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of migration</th>
<th>Number of incomers</th>
<th>Number of leavers</th>
<th>Migration growth (fall)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urban areas and rural settlements</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International migration with the CIS countries</td>
<td>595</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International migration with other foreign countries</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban areas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
International migration with the CIS countries   502  165  337
International migration with other foreign countries    73  71  2
Rural areas
International migration with the CIS countries  93  29  64
International migration with other foreign countries  16  7  9

Most of the profits as a result of international migration adds to the urban population. This is due primarily to employment opportunities for young people - of educational opportunities.

migration growth constitutes decrease (-2307 persons);
including international migration (412 persons);
from the CIS countries among them (401 persons);
the allocation of migrants of the Mari El Republic according the level of their education and the total number of incomers (595 persons) is the following:
with the highest professional education – 140 persons;
with secondary professional education – 161 persons;
with secondary (full) education – 164 persons.

The total number of immigrants for 2013 is 684 persons, the biggest number of immigrants are of working age from 20 to 39 years and composes 54,5% (Table 4).

Table 4.
Allocation of immigrants of the Mari El Republic according to the age groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Urban areas and rural settlements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In January-August 2014 12761 people have arrived in the Republic, 13721 people have dropped out. The migration loss has amounted to 960 people.
The Republic of Mari El has a relatively low economic attractiveness for migrants. So, in Mari El, despite the high demand for specialists in 2012, the quota for the issuance of work permits to migrant workers was used only for 26.4%.

The level of education. The number of students admitted to the educational institution of higher professional education, who arrived from other areas, is not significant: 8 persons per 1000 inhabitants. Number of residents who do not have secondary education per 1000 persons aged 15 years and over is 7%.

The share of population with higher education in the total population aged 15 years and over is 19%.

Problems. The demographic situation in the Republic, although it has a positive trend (the excess of births over deaths), but it should be further regulated.

4) Economic and social situation

The production of petrochemicals. Mari Oil Refinery LLC is a leading exporter of the Republic and one of the most dynamically developing enterprises. Diesel oil fuel, heating oil, straight-run petrol and other refinery products are manufactured in the enterprise.

Pulp stock and pack paper also constitute a significant export part of the Mari El Republic. The growth of production volumes is provided by reconstruction and technical equipment change at the enterprises of paper production and expansion of new sales markets. The leading enterprises of the branch are Mari Self-contained Paper Mill JSC, Mari Printing and Publishing Combine JSC, Printstyle firm LLC.

"Krasnogorsky Integrated Plant of Vans" JSC provides 86% of the total shipment for subsection production. Company's main activity is the manufacture of bodies for car and trailer vans of various modifications, as well as furniture and consumer goods production.

Manufacture of leather, leather products and footwear. The major enterprises in the industry are privately held non-profit corporation “Plant of synthetic leather” and “Yoshkar-Ola Shoe Factory” JSC. Currently, there is an increase in domestic and external demand for engineering complex production. Machine-tool construction and tool-making facilities, engineering for consumer goods and food industries and household appliances production have paramount importance. The leading enterprises of this kind of activity are: CJSC "Ariada", LLC "Association Motherland", JSC "Volzhsky Electromechanical Plant", JSC "Gran", JSC "Company Pole ", LLC Firm “LESTECHCOM”, JSC "Hephaestus", etc. Main types of production are trade refrigerated equipment, medical equipment, woodworking machines, fire extinguishers, metalware, etc.

In the territory of the Republic the mineral wells and also the springs are situated in Krasnogorsky village which water is used for treatment in health centres and resorts.

Gross regional product (gross domestic product, GDP) amounted to 117 089 324, there is an increase over the previous year by 19 765 986.

Table 5.
Gross regional product in the Republic of Mari El for 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of business activity</th>
<th>Current prices, thousand roubles</th>
<th>Volume index from 2012 to 2011, %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GRP structure in basic prices, %</td>
<td>2011  2012</td>
<td>2011  2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRP in basic prices</td>
<td>97 323 338</td>
<td>117 089 324</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In 2013, Yoshkar-Ola was still accounted for the largest proportion of workers – 46.2%. Volzhsk and Kozmodemyansk shared values of total employment in its territory 28.2% and 32.0% respectively. In 2013 among municipal districts according to the number of employed people there, the leaders were the Medvedevsky region that provided jobs to 9.3% of the employed population in the Republic, and the Zvenigovsky region with 5.9% of employed. These disparities in employment are first of all linked to the geographical distribution of companies in the Republic, that are mainly located in the urban area; it is certainly an additional factor to enhance the role of towns in social development – urbanization.

In 2003, 54.9% of the average employees number at large and medium-sized enterprises worked in the towns (Yoshkar-Ola – 42.4%, Volzhsk – 8.3% Kozmodemyansk – 4.2%). Among regions the number of employees at large and medium-sized enterprises stood for the Zvenigovsky (6.2%) and Medvedevsky (9.6%) regions.

As for small businesses, the picture is somewhat different. By the end of 2013 the towns remained only 68.8% of the employed (58.6% in Yoshkar-Ola). Particularly significant progress in small business development was considered in the Medvedevsky and Morkinsky regions. By 2010, in the Medvedevsky region average number of employees at small and micro-enterprises was 6.0% of jobs, and in the Morkinsky region – 2.2%.

The Medvedevsky region showed the biggest growth in all employment rates. Here the growth of total employment reached 275.6%, which is foremost due to the formation and development of small businesses, where the average number of employed increased by 16.4 times. The Yurinsky region, on the contrary, was characterized with a decline in total employment by 51.9%, the development of small businesses have reached the minor successes there. The growth rate of the average number at enterprises of this group was the most insignificant in comparison with other administrative units of the Republic – only 262.4%.

Distribution of small enterprises by industries

According to the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Mari El 2817 small businesses were involved and 21,8 thousand people were employed there, 18,9 thousand people of them on a regular basis. The dominant part of small enterprises (more than 76% of their total number) is located in Yoshkar-Ola, where the main sources of labour and raw materials, wider consumer market, better developed industrial and social infrastructure are presented.

Table 6.
Sectoral structure of small business of the Republic by January 1, 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic sectors</th>
<th>Number of small enterprises</th>
<th>Share in total volume, %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Industry</td>
<td>536</td>
<td>19,0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>2,7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>3,1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>397</td>
<td>14,1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade and catering</td>
<td>1186</td>
<td>42,1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing maintenance and utilities</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>0,9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science and scientific services</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>1,7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Material and technical supply 133 4,7
Finance, credit, insurance 48 1,7
Others 278 10
Total 2817 100

Sectoral structure of small businesses shows that the non-productive sphere is more conducive to business development; increasing number of small enterprises were involved:
– from non-productive spheres – trade and catering (42,1%);
– from the productive sphere – industry (19%) and construction (14,1%).

Small businesses are represented by different forms of ownership. The predominant one is private ownership – 83% of all small businesses, including trade industries – 90% (of all small enterprises engaged in trade), likewise in transport sectors – 91%, industry – 79% and construction – 77%.

The average salary in the Mari El Republic in April 2014 amounted to about 19 826,6 roubles. There is a growth compared to April 2013 – by 11%. For the organizations unrelated to small business, the salary for April 2014 was 21 628,7 roubles. Workers of financing activities still receive the most – 1,7 times higher than the average salary in the Republic. The lowest salary is fixed in fisheries and fish-farming, where it is 2 times lower than the average one.

The cost of living for employees, pensioners and children for the IV quarter of 2013 per capita amounted to 6198 roubles, for the working-age population – 6610 roubles, for pensioners – 5074 roubles, for children – 6188 roubles.

Cost amount of living minimum wage for the main social and demographic groups was the following (Table 6):

Table 7.
Cost amount of living minimum wage for the IV quarter 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population category</th>
<th>Foodstuff</th>
<th>Non-grocery goods</th>
<th>Services</th>
<th>Consumer basket</th>
<th>Obligatory payments and fees</th>
<th>Living minimum wage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population of working age</td>
<td>2 976</td>
<td>1 460</td>
<td>1 460</td>
<td>5 897</td>
<td>714</td>
<td>6 610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pensioners</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The living minimum wage per capita for the IV quarter 2013 has decreased compared to the previous quarter by 1.2% due to lower growth in the consumer price index for charged services in the IV quarter 2013 in relation to the III quarter by 3.3%. Compared to the corresponding period in 2012 the average living minimum wage per capita has increased by 14.2%.

Living minimum wage in the Republic for the I quarter 2014, dated April 16, 2014 No 163 was equal to 6642 roubles. Compared with IV quarter 2013, the living minimum wage per capita has increased by 7.2%.

Table 8. The living minimum wage in the Mari El Republic for the I quarter 2014, per capita (roubles per month)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All population</th>
<th>including:</th>
<th>Population of working age</th>
<th>pensioners</th>
<th>children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Living minimum wage</td>
<td>6642</td>
<td>7068</td>
<td>5425</td>
<td>6700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>including:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumer basket cost</td>
<td>6179</td>
<td>6302</td>
<td>5425</td>
<td>6700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum set out of it:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food stuff</td>
<td>3121</td>
<td>3182</td>
<td>2739</td>
<td>3390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-grocery goods</td>
<td>1529</td>
<td>1560</td>
<td>1343</td>
<td>1655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>services</td>
<td>1529</td>
<td>1560</td>
<td>1343</td>
<td>1655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obligatory payments and fees</td>
<td>463</td>
<td>766</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The living minimum wage of a pensioner in the II quarter 2014 amounted to 5557 roubles and has increased in comparison with I quarter by 132 roubles.

The minimum salary in the Mari El Republic was 6549 roubles (from 1 January 2014).

Quality of living

To determine the quality of living in the regions and assess the current disparities in this field the experts of the Rating Agency "RIA Ranking" conducted a study and made a rating of the quality of living in the regions based on objective indicators, which are concluded from the official statistics data.

The ranking selected 61 indexes, which are combined into 10 groups, representative of all the main aspects of the living conditions in the region:

Table 9.
Rating score for the group the Mari El Republic
№  Index groups   %
1  Level of personal income  17,7
2  Living conditions 64,3
3  Social infrastructure provision 47,7
4  Ecology and climate 59,2
5  Life safety 36,7
6  Demographic situation 35,8
7  Public health and education 43,7
8  Territory and transport development 27,8
9  Level of economic development 27,3
10 Small business development 34,5
   Summery rating score 37,32
   Rate position – 2012 with relative methodic 65

We give examples of single indicators in the Mari El Republic.
The poverty rate is 19,5%.
Proportion of population with incomes below the subsistence minimum – 20%.
These indicators show a low level of living.
Average living area in square per capita except for old and dilapidated housing is 22 square meters per capita.
Proportion of people living in apartment buildings, duly recognized as unfit – 0.8%.

Rating score for the group of selected indicators
Social infrastructure provision 2013 – 47,7
The number of doctors per 10 thousand people – 31
Capacity of outpatient clinics per 10 thousand people – 291
Provision of retail space – 633 sq. m per 1000 people
Retail trade turnover per capita - 81 thousand roubles. per capita
Rating score in the ranking of regions for the sports infrastructure development – 54,4
Position according to a group of indicators "Social infrastructure provision" – 2012 – 27
Life expectancy at birth, years – 69

The number of officially registered unemployed with the Employment Service, at the end of period (according to the Federal Service for Labour and Employment) thousand people – 3,8

including receivers of unemployment allowance – 3,6 thousand people

The number of unemployed citizens who are registered with the employment service (according to the Federal Service for Labour and Employment) – 4,4 thousand people

Organizations need for employees claimed to employment services – 5362 people

Unemployment rate (the end of 2012) amounted to 0,97%

The Republic continues to improve its living standards. The most important and accurate measure of living standards and the material well-being degree is "the average per capita financial income".

Nominal income of the Mari El Republic population in January 2014 was formed in the amount of 6916,3 million roubles and increased compared to the same period in 2013 by 23,7%. The average per capita financial income amounted to 10045,5 roubles and increased by 24,1%. The per capita disposable cash income (cash income minus compulsory payments and fees) amounted to 8966,1 roubles. Real income increased by 16,4%. Real disposable income for January 2014 increased by 22,4% compared to January 2013. Expenses of the Mari El population amounted 7586,7 million roubles and also increased. The average per capita cash expense for January 2014 amounted to 11019,2 roubles and grew by 7,7%. Consumer spending (buying goods, payment for services, payments for goods and services using credit cards abroad) for January 2014 amounted to 6742,5 million roubles and increased by 12,1%. On average consumer spending per capita for January 2014 amounted to 9793,1 roubles.

The level of economic activity in the Republic of Mari El in the first quarter of 2014 was 67,7% (in the Russian Federation – 68,7%); employment rate – 64,4 (in the Russian Federation – 64,7%); unemployment rate – 4,9 (in Russia – 5,9%).

Problems in economic and social sphere:
- underdeveloped small and medium business (small business prevails only in the sphere of trade and public catering);
- underdeveloped housing and communal services, lending and insurance, health care in part the lack of availability of doctors;
- remain high rates of poverty of the population, the population with incomes below the subsistence minimum, and the unemployment rate.

5) State and political structure

The Mari El Republic is a member republic (state) of the Russian Federation. Its status is defined by the Constitution of the Russian Federation and the Constitution of the Republic.

The basic law of the Republic is the Constitution of the Mari El Republic. The state power in Mari El is implemented in terms of division on legislative, executive and juridical branches. The legislative and juridical bodies are separate.

The State Assembly of the Mari El Republic fulfils the legislative function; it exercises supervisory powers within the limits and forms determined by the Constitution of the Mari El Republic and the Mari El laws. The State Assembly of the Mari El Republic consists of 52 deputies. 26 of them are elected through single member electoral districts, the other 26 deputies are elected on the republican electoral district
proportionally to the votes given for candidate lists that were recommended by the parties and electoral blocks. The term of deputy authorities for a single convocation is 5 years.

Table 10. Qualitative deputy staff of the fifth State Assembly of the Mari El Republic (by 1 January 2014):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Mari</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Russian</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>59.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Tatar</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Chuvash</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other nationality</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(passport of the fifth State Assembly of the Mari El Republic, Yoshkar-Ola, 2014)

The executive authority is performed by: the Head of Government of the Mari El Republic, he is the chief officer in the system of executive power, appointed by the President of the Russian Federation for 5 years; the Government of the Mari El Republic; the Administration of the president of the Mari El Republic; other executive bodies.

The juridical authority is performed by: the Supreme Court of the Mari El Republic, the Court of Arbitration of the Mari El Republic, the Constitutional Court of the Mari El Republic, district courts and Justices of the Peace who are components of the Russian juridical system.

Political and economic relations with Moscow

The interrelation between the State Assembly of the Mari El Republic and the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation is set according to the Agreement signed on 28 December, 2009 by the Federation Council of the Russian Federal Assembly and the State Assembly of the Mari El Republic.


The Constitution of the Russian Federation says:

Local government in the Russian Federation ensures to population an independent decision for local questions, possession, use and disposal of municipal property.

Local government is performed by people through referendum, elections and other forms of direct will, through elective and other bodies of local government.

Local government is conducted in towns, rural settlements and in other territories taking into account historical and other local traditions. The structure of local government bodies is predicated upon population itself.

Local government in the Russian Federation is guaranteed by the right on legal defense, compensation of extra expenses arisen as a result of decisions taken by local government bodies, ban on rights limitation of local government prescribed by the Constitution of the Russian Federation and federal laws.

The Constitution of the Mari El Republic highlights:

Neither religion in the Mari El Republic can be national or obligatory.

Religious associations are separate from the state and equal in front of law.

The structure of local government bodies is decided by population itself.
Legislative documents of the Republic and federal authority bodies regulate interethnic and interconfessional relations in whole Republic. Except the Constitution these are the declaration of state sovereignty of the Mari Soviet Socialist Republic, law projects, laws, directions, statements of the Mari El President.

Doctrines and state-run programs on immigration and ethnic politics

The state-run program of the Mari El Republic called “State national politics of the Mari El Republic for 2013-2020” and its subprogram called “Ethnic and cultural development, interethnic and interconfessional relations in the Mari El Republic” are in force. A realized republican target program “Ethnic and cultural development of the Mari El Republic (2009-2013)” was also a program and target tool.

The basic objectives and performance targets of the Program “Ethnic and cultural development of the Mari El Republic

Objective 1. Building conditions to meet individual rights to religious freedom, creativity and participation in cultural life, implementation, and development of their ethnic and cultural identity.

Performance targets: holding open tenders of projects and activities amount of performing consulting work and assist the participants of competitions degree of public participation of national and cultural organizations in the implementation of the Program number of grants to NGOs and municipalities.

Objective 2. The preservation of cultural and linguistic diversity. Fostering the formation of conditions for learning and developing the native culture by citizens themselves and the using of the mother tongue and the official language of the Republic of Mari El.

Performance targets: implementation of specialized projects on the practical application of advances in Mari linguistics number of scholarship and thematic projects in the Mari language teaching in educational institutions number of grants allocated for projects which expand the use of the Mari language implementation of projects which popularize folk traditions through holding different events.

Objective 3. Distribution and strengthening tolerant social attitudes and in the society.

Promoting the integration processes based on historical and cultural traditions, heritage of the peoples of Russia, the national civil identity and self-awareness, state patriotism.

Performance targets: planned ethno-sociological research and other analytical and research events, examinations and expert studies on the implementation of the Program.

Objective 4. Monitoring of interethnic relations in the Republic of Mari El. Scientific, analytical and methodological support of the implementation of the Program.

Performance targets: the planned ethno-sociological research and other analytical and research events, examinations and expert studies on the implementation of the Program.

The main objectives of the Program:

- Creation of conditions for the realization of creative initiatives, projects and activities in the field of ethno-cultural development by national-cultural associations, communities, creative teams and organizations.

- Supporting ethno-cultural communities in the implementation of the right to ethno-cultural (national and cultural) development and self-government Implementation of projects in the Mari language, aimed at its development, the expansion of the use, quality improvement of learning it.
- Implementation of specialized projects and activities for the conservation and promotion of folk calendar ceremonial customs, traditions and holidays
- Realization of projects and activities in the field of ethnic youth culture Implementation of specialized outreach projects to promote cultural diversity, tolerant socio-cultural attitudes Implementation of commemorative and celebratory events of joint activities of national-cultural associations of Mary El Republic
- Creating terms of strengthening interregional cooperation in the field of ethno-cultural and inter-ethnic relations ethno-sociological research and monitoring of the situation in the field of inter-ethnic and inter-religious relations

Scientific, analytical and methodological support of the Program
Realization of this Program is important for prevention of international conflict because it provides following activities:
- Creation of conditions for the realization of creative initiatives, projects and activities in the field of ethnic and cultural development
- Assisting ethno-cultural communities in the implementation of the right to ethno-cultural (national and cultural) development and self-government implementation of projects in the field of Mari language implementation of specialized projects and activities for the conservation and promotion of folk calendar ceremonial customs, traditions, holidays implementation of projects and activities in the field of ethnic youth culture implementation of specialized outreach projects to promote cultural diversity, tolerance sociocultural attitudes implementation of anniversary and celebratory events implementation of joint activities of national-cultural associations of the Republic of Mari El creating conditions for strengthening interregional cooperation in ethno-cultural and inter-ethnic relations conducting ethno-sociological research

Scientific, analytical and methodological support of the Program.

Expected outcomes of the Program
- Implementation of the Program will streamline and focus the activities in the field of ethno-cultural and inter-ethnic relations, will bring clarity and accuracy in the organization of work of the following national policy priorities set out in the basic normative legal documents and other state documents.

Interethnic relations are examined at all authority levels on the basis of the Law on the state bodies and local government powers in the field of interethnic relations. It states: “The federal law ensures that the powers of authority bodies of the RF subjects are the following powers in the sphere of interethnic relations: consolidation of interethnic and interconfessional agreement; prevention of national, language and religious discrimination; social and cultural adaptation of migrants”.

The experts note that all confessional leaders in the Republic have marked the importance of tolerance and peace in the sphere of interconfessional relations. According to the survey results the most part of the Republic population does not consider a possibility of religious and ethnic conflicts.

Thus, the Mari El Republic can be now characterized as the territory where three main ethnoes and three main religions coexist and interethnic and interconfessional contradictions are expressed rather weakly. However that does not cancel the necessity of active work on interethnic contradictions precautions.
Religious education at school and higher school

Religious education is provided on the basis of the Orthodox gymnasium of Blessed Sergius of Radonezh (Yoshkar-Ola) opened in 2000. Now it has all educational levels from primary till senior forms. The education is carried up in compliance with the state educational standard. Additional components are introduced, such as the English language (from the second form), the Slavic language, Regional Studies, Rhetoric, Informatics, Choral Singing and Fundamentals of the Orthodox Culture.

Sabbath schools in the Republic function on the basis of many churches: the Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary; the Church of the Tikhvin icon of the Virgin (Yoshkar-Ola); Yurino Sabbath school at the Archangel Michael Church (Yurino); parish of the Sovereign Icon of the Virgin (Medvedevo); the Cathedral of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker (Volzhsk), etc. The classes are held in groups regarding the age. The youngest study “Law of God” program. The senior groups follow “Ecclesiastical year” cycle which includes lives of the saints, holy days, saint icons and Christian living.

Children visit Orthodox exhibitions and stage theatre performances on great holy days: Christmas, Easter and others. They make festival stands of hand-made exhibitions. Teachers of Sabbath schools try to teach faith to children, open the depth and beauty of the Orthodox dogma and divine service. Therefore, regular participation of Sabbath school pupils in public worships brings together knowledge and gives them practical application.

There are no religious oriented high schools in the Mari El Republic. However there are special courses on the Orthodox culture fundamentals in Mari State University.

The principles of educational system functioning and developing base on the Law “Education in the Mari El Republic” (dated 1 August 2013, No 29-3) that stands for “protection and development of ethnic and cultural features and traditions of the people who inhabit the territory of the Mari El Republic” and “opportunity for everyone to get education of all levels from primary to higher”.

In the Mari El Republic there are: the Republican Centre of Russian Culture; Cultural and Informational Centre “Intellectual”; Republican Centre of Mari Culture; Republican Centre of Tatar Culture and its Sabbath Muslim School.

Special regional bodies responsible for multicultural and multiethnic relations in the society

The main body responsible for multicultural and multiethnic relations in the society is the Ministry of culture, press and on Ethnic Affairs of the Mari El Republic. It solves the following tasks:

- assistance in development of national cultures of the people who live in the Mari El Republic;
- creation of conditions for originality preservation and cultural development of the Mari people and other peoples in the Mari El Republic;
- development of interregional ties in the spheres connected with the Ministry activity;
- working out and realization of republican programs, concepts and propositions on development of culture, press, interethnic and interconfessional relations and etc.

In 2012 the Mari El Ministry of Culture ensured the activity of the Governmental Commission on realization of the State National Policy Conception in the Mari El Republic, the Commission on state languages of the Mari El Republic under the Government of the Mari El Republic, the Council on interaction with religious associations under the Head of the Mari El Republic; there were sessions of the Council on Ethnic Affairs and Advisory Council on Religious Associations under the Ministry of Culture of the Mari El Republic.
The Republican target program “Ethnic and cultural development of the Mari El Republic for 2009-2013” encouraged activities dedicated to the prevention and development of national languages, culture and history of the peoples of the Republic, harmonization of interethnic and interconfessional relations: “Ignatiev Readings”, the Day of National Hero, the Day of Slavic Writing and Culture, the Day of the Russian Language, round table “Islam against Terrorism”, scientific and practical conferences “The Mari Language in IT” and “Sociological Research of Interethnic and Interconfessional Relations”; the Day of Mari Writing, etc.

More than 740 cultural establishments obey the Ministry; they employ more than 5000 persons. Mari El was the forth in the all-Russian regional rate of cultural development. The work on preservation, reconstruction and restoration of cultural and artistic monuments, education and introduction of the youth to the culture, folk culture in particular is conducted (from: newspaper “Mariyskaya pravda”, 04.07.2014).

The Ministry of Culture, its subordinate organizations and agencies, local authorities and public associations regularly host cultural events, meetings, celebrate commemorative dates: the Mari Youth Forum, Interregional Meeting of Young Correspondents who write in Mari “Mari young correspondents”.

National holidays are celebrated in Yoshkar-Ola, such as “Peledysh Pairem”, “Sabantuy”. Not only creative teams of all nationalities of the Mari El Republic take part in them, but also the diaspora representatives from the Kirov, Sverdlovsk Oblasts, Bashkortostan, Tatarstan and other regions. (from: “Mariyskaya pravda”, 24.06.2014).

Mari El participates in festivals and presentations of the tourism resources ”Small Towns of Russia”, the festival is held in order to attract to the cultural and historical heritage of the small towns (from: “Mariyskaya pravda”, 24.06.2014).

The main political parties and their views on multiethnic issues and immigration problems

The five parties are represented in the Republic: the all-Russian political party “United Russia”, political parties “Communist Party of the Russian Federation”, the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia – LDPR, “Just Russia”, the Russian United Democratic Party “Yabloko”.

Mari regional branch of the party "United Russia" is the only political party, interacting constructively with the President and the government of Mari El Republic, ensuring political and economic stability, really working on the revival of the Republic through the implementation of sustainable policies for socio-economic development.

In the current demographic situation main attention focuses on improving the health of women and children. The main efforts of the party are focused on solving two key nowadays problems of this area: strengthening its material and technical base and the provision of medical institutions with qualified personnel.

A number of prominent projects of the regional branch of the party is devoted to purposes of social support of motherhood and childhood, raising the prestige of the institution of family. New target programs are developed for the near future. They will contribute to improving the demographic situation in the Republic.

The development of spiritual education, strengthening of interethnic relations, inter-ethnic and interconfessional consent is continued. The main direction of social politics is the development of ethnic cultures and ethnic relations . The complex of measures was adopted for the conservation of spiritual principles and national traditions, the development of traditional culture of the peoples of Mari El. The main aim in this field remains the same: to preserve and increase the multinational culture of the peoples of the republic.
Areas of responsibility in legislation (at national, regional and local levels) for the issues related to ethnic and religious integration

Solving the questions that directly or indirectly affect the interethnic relations is run by several executive bodies of the Mari El Republic, among which:

The Ministry of Culture, Press and on Ethnic Affairs of the Mari El Republic (ethno-cultural activities and projects, support of folk art, national and cultural centres and autonomies, print and electronic media, cultural ties with the densely populated areas outside the Republic where the Mari people reside, analytical work).

The Ministry of Education and Science of the Mari El Republic (ensuring of ethno-cultural and language learning needs of students in accordance with the rights granted by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, federal laws, the Constitution of the Mari El Republic, the laws of the Mari El Republic; teaching and use of native languages during the study in educational institutions; interregional cooperation in the field of education with municipal educational institutions in the densely populated areas outside the Republic where the Mari people reside, educational programs of the youth patriotic upbringing and tolerance developing; work with youth organizations).

Thus, the Mari El Republic is one of the most favorable regions of the regulation of interethnic relations, which are not burdened by any historical conflict factors.

6) the language situation

The state languages of the Mari El Republic are Mari (mountain and meadow) and Russian. Their official status is supported by the Constitution of the Mari El Republic. The law of the Mari El Republic “On languages in the Mari El Republic” declares the (nominal) equality of languages and linguistic rights of citizens, except as permitted under federal law.

The legal basis of ethnolanguage policy is provided primarily in the Constitution of the Mari El Republic, according to which the official languages are the Mari (mountain, meadow) and Russian languages.

The Mari people is divided into two main ethnic groups: the Mountain (“Kyryk (Mountain) Mari”) and Meadow Mari (“Olyk Mari”). Each group uses its literary norm, i.e. the Mountain Mari language is spread in the Gornomariysky region of the Mari El Republic, and actually the Mari language, which native speakers are representatives of the Meadow Mari and the associated by genetic affinity Eastern Mari geographic group living in Bashkiria, Tatarstan, Udmurtia, Perm, Sverdlovsk and other Oblasts. The existence of two independent literary norms is connected with significant differences in vocabulary, partly grammar and even phonetics and affirms some difficulties in the oral speech understanding between the Mountain and Meadow Mari.

Bilingualism in public institutions, schools, businesses, the mass media

In accordance with the Article 24 of the Law “On languages in the Mari El Republic” (2001), “the official paperwork in the Mari El Republic is conducted in the state languages of the Republic”. The Article 38 states that “citizens have the right to choose freely the language of training and education in child welfare institutions and secondary schools. Directors and employees of the educational institutions are selected basing on the language knowledge of education and training adopted in the institution”.
After the state language study program the Mari language is totally taught in 181 schools. Thus, Mari is taught by the non-Mari children, as well as the Mari not having an opportunity to learn it as a mother tongue, or the Russian-speaking Mari (who do not speak the Mari language).

The Republican Center of Mari culture was established in November 1999 by the decree of the Government of the Republic of Mari El.

The center organizes the traditional calendar ceremonial celebrations and participates in them actively, conducts days of national hero and days of Mari alphabet, interregional national song festivals. The center conducts celebrations to significant events and dates, organizes concerts.

Annually the Center of Mari culture participates in activities in areas where the Mari live - Udmurtia, Tatarstan, Bashkortostan, Sverdlovsk region, Kirov region, Leningrad region, the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous District, St. Petersburg.

The center has organized workshops, creative laboratories, practical seminars, competitions, develops and implements federal and regional projects, engaged in production of print and electronic collections of scripts, manuals.

At the Center of Mari culture student association, creative teams: national theater, ethnic studio, folk ensemble, children's literary circle work. The center organizes and conducts popular among the population evenings.

The Republican center of Tatar culture

The objectives of the Institution is the execution of works, rendering of services in order to implement the powers of the founder in the field of culture and arts, storing cultural traditions, organizing the leisure time of the population in accordance with applicable law.

The institution was established in order to:
- The preservation and further development of culture and spiritual wealth of the Tatar people, including rituals, customs and traditions of the Tatars;
- The preservation and strengthening of friendship between the peoples living in the Republic of Mari El;
- Developing creative links with government and civil society organizations of the Republic of Mari El, the arts, sciences and culture of the Russian Federation;
- Providing methodological and organizational support creative teams in the organization of studios, workshops, training centers;
- Setting and expanding ties with the centers of Tatar culture, operating outside of the Republic of Mari El.

THE REPUBLICAN CENTER OF RUSSIAN CULTURE

performs the following activities (in accordance with NACE codes specified at registration):

Activities, recreation and entertainment, culture and sport

Other activities in the field of culture

Libraries, archives, club-type (main activity)

Publishing, printing and reproduction of recorded media

There are 19 schools with teaching of Tatar language in the republic. There is a community of Tatar culture, the Republican center of Tatar culture. There is a newspaper which publishes articles in Tatar language.
According to the sociological research results (2005-2006) there are pupils in Mari El schools out of the total number (78.5%), who study in Russian (74%), in Meadow Mari (3.4%) and in the Mountain Mari language (0.9%).

Primary education system in the mother tongue does not cover all children with the native, not Russian, language (with the first functional, not Russian, language). Secondary education in the Mari language lacks in the Republic. Mari philology and pedagogical disciplines studying in specialized secondary and higher educational institutions is partly conducted in the Mari language.

The knowledge of the Mari language doesn't find practical application as the main documents required for the citizen are issued in the Russian language. However names of streets and signs of the organizations, establishments, shops, are obligatory written both in Russian and in Mari languages. At the same time each citizen of the republic whose nationality is radical (Mari) has the right to send a letter to public authorities, court, etc. instances in his/her native (Mari) language and will receive the answer in the same language.

The introduction to education of children training in the Mari language (since 2001 year) received resistance from pedagogical workers and parents. These issues were settled at the level of education authorities by means of introduction an obligatory subject which is named “Cultural history of the Mari people”, but training in the Mari language puts into practice at request of parents.

The analysis of the Ministry of Education of Mari El Republic shows that in rural areas where radical Mari's population dominates, training of bigger number of children in the Mari language, than in the cities of the republic is carried out. A subject of cultural history of the Mari edge is in addition entered into all kindergartens. It allows children to get a foretaste of the Maris’ living in the territory of the republic and to study elementary words in the Mari language that allows to smooth interlanguage distinctions already at children's age, and also received more positive reaction from parents. Musical performances, and performances of the Mari fairy tales in national language are put in practice in kindergartens.

The government of the Republic of Mari El, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Culture consider carrying out the necessary and obligatory actions supporting various nationalities, introduction to education acquaintance with various cultures and education of respect to each other. Educational institutions when developing the educational programs include a regional component according to which studying of native (Mari) language is carried out.

More than 120 newspapers and magazines, including 16 newspapers and magazines in the Mari language are published in Mari El. Their combined daily circulation is about 32000 copies. V.M. Vasilyev Mari Scientific and Research Institute of Language, Literature and History under the Government of the Mari El Republic publishes quarterly the magazine “Finno-Ugric Studies” in Russian, Mari and Finnish with 500 copies.

Mari speaking population of the Mari El Republic is very interested in the newspaper “Surt peche” (“Farmstead”), “Mari chang” (“Mari Bell”), etc. The total number of publications issued in the Mari El Republic in the Mari language from 2000 until now has not changed. The mass media presents a variety of children, news, cultural and other broadcast in the Mari (Meadow and Mountain) languages, there are programs on the radio, portals and sites on the Internet.

In the Mari El Republic radio broadcasting in the VHF band successfully operates and develops – “Mari El Radio – Radio Mari El”. The Internet site dedicated to the Mari music is available.

An important event in the life of the Republic and a kind of test was the XVI Meeting of the Coordination Council for Culture under the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation on the topic “Preservation of
the traditional folk culture as a factor of ethnic tourism development” on 27-28 September 2012. The Meeting participants – directors and specialists of executive bodies in the sphere of culture from the 74 regions of the Russian Federation had the opportunity to get acquainted with the cultural and tourist potential of the Mari El Republic and discuss the topical questions of ethnic tourism development in cooperation with federal authorities, business community and civil society organizations interested in new projects promotion.

In order to provide state support for professional teams of the Mari El Republic in the field of theatrical, musical and choreographic art in 2012 three grants of the Head of the Mari El Republic were implemented for the first time: M.Shketan Mari National Drama Theatre – presentation of the Mari musical “Yumanudyr” (“Daughter of God”); Republican Puppet Theatre – production of “The Nutcracker” and an exchange tour with the St. Petersburg theatres; E. Sapaev Mari State Opera and Ballet Theatre – “Professional studio creation for online broadcast performances and important theatre events”), their implementation in 2012 cost 6000 thousand roubles.

Last year the Ministry activity went on together with the Republican Scientific and Methodical Centre of Folk Art, Cultural and Leisure Activities for the implementation of key events aimed at the cultural potential and intangible cultural heritage of the Mari El Republic preservation, cultural and leisure areas modernization, support and further development of amateur folk creation, traditional folk culture protection, leisure providing for the population, information and guidance services.

Republican Centres of National Cultures (Mari, Tatar, Russian culture), republican and municipal institutions, community organizations traditionally held winter and spring-summer ritual calendar and national holidays, festivals and thematic events.

Legislation in the field of bilingualism and measures for the bilingualism dissemination and protection: As a legal framework for the resolution to many problems reflected the ethno-linguistic perspective of language behaviour, the federal laws “On the languages of the Russian Federation peoples” (1991); “On Education in the Russian Federation” (2013); the Constitution of the Mari El Republic; the Law on the Languages in the Mari El Republic (2001); the Law of the Mari El Republic (2002) No 43-3; the Republican target program “Ethnic and cultural development of the Mari El Republic (2009-2013)” act and according to the latter the work in the field of interethnic relations was carried out in 11 priority directions.

Using a representative sampling the Sociology Department of the Mari Scientific and Research Institute of Language, Literature and History analyzed the interethnic relations in the Republic, surveyed 1170 people so far. The respondents were townsmen and a number of settlements residents in various regions of the Republic. The study showed that 88,9% of the Meadow and 95,2% of the Mountain Mari called Mari as a mother language. While 10,9% of the Meadow and 1,0% of the Mountain Mari named Russian as native.

So, according to a recent opinion polls conducted by the Mari SRI, the question “Is there any need in the Mari language teaching at all schools of the Mari El Republic?” was answered positively by 62,1% of Mari respondents and only 19,4% of the Russian. The question “Does the Russian-speaking population of the Mari El Republic need for the Mari (state) language knowledge?” got negative answers from 18,4% of Mari respondents and 60,8% of Russian ones.

Following the statistics gathered by researchers, the purpose to study and know the Mari language is quite high: about 72% of the Mari schoolchildren and 12,5% of Russian pupils feel the importance of the Mari language knowledge. 15% consider that they have a fairly high level of linguistic competence: 10% –
fluent, 5% have fluent speech, but read and write with difficulty. However, Mari did not become the language of real communication among pupils. In addition to that 21% of the Mari and 44% of the Russian suppose that study focus on one of languages depends not only on directives, but also motivations to study it.

Dominant spoken language is Russian, according to the results of the last census all residents of the Republic know it sufficiently to communicate. The Russian language dominates almost everywhere, has a higher social status, but a number of newspapers, magazines and transmissions on television and radio are in the Mari language. In rural areas, Mari, as the languages of other ethnic minorities, is spread much wider than in the towns, both in the mass media and in the sphere of culture and education. On the Internet all the variety of national culture of the Mari El Republic is presented, for example, several magazines and newspapers are published in Mari: the magazine “Onchyko” (“Forward”), the magazine “U Sem”, “Pchemysh” (“Wasp”), “Keche-Solnyshko”, the Republican newspaper “Kugarnya” (“Friday”), municipal and regional newspapers.

Regional languages and the languages of ethnic minorities in the educational system

According to the Ministry of Education, primary education (4 years) is given in the following languages: Russian (22 635 pupils), Meadow Mari (5194), Mountain Mari (1122), Tatar (362). Primary as well as preschool education in the mother, not Russian, language is in practice only in rural areas. In the towns and major built-up areas primary education is carried out in Russian. The mother tongue teaching as a subject for the non-Russian children is generally held in rural schools which are usually national schools. The number of hours for studying the mother, not Russian, language depends on the study program and a year of study and varies from 3 to 6 hours a week (from 8 to 24% of the study time).

Since 2011 the Institute for Advanced Studies and Retraining of the Federal State Budget Educational Institution of Higher Professional Education “Mari State University” in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, Press and on Ethnic Affairs of the Mari El Republic organizes retraining courses for public and municipal employees inside the program “Problems of interethnic and interreligious harmony in the Russian Federation. Counteraction to extremism in state bodies and local authorities of the Mari El Republic”.

In the national electronic and print media informational saucers several educational campaigns were carried out to promote tolerance, interethnic and interreligious harmony, preservation of ethnic and cultural heritage of ethnic groups living in the Republic. Every year seminars and other training activities in the field of interethnic and interconfessional relations are held for the media personnel.

Under modern conditions new mechanisms appeared; they confirm their effectiveness in educational institutions. These mechanisms are ethno-cultural educational technologies that allow to optimize and enhance the process of mastering, conservation, augmenting and transmission of the ethnoculture.

On the basis of the Mari national kindergarten No 29 “Shy ongysh – Silver bell” in Yoshkar-Ola an experiment was made on development and testing of content and psycho-pedagogical support technologies in the development of ethno-cultural identity of a preschool child in terms of the national kindergarten. The experiment supposed to: provide psychological and educational assistance in successful adaptation of children in the ethno-cultural environment; knowledge broadening and deepening among preschool children on culture, customs, traditions, national history and, as a result, the formation of ethnic and cultural consciousness in children.
The largest application of ethno-cultural educational technologies in students’ training at secondary vocational schools received Mari Republican College of Culture and Arts and Commerce and Technology College. National and regional theme is reflected in the students’ research work.

In the higher educational system of the Mari El Republic ethno-cultural educational technologies gained the greatest expansion in work with students of Mari State University with major in “Folk Art” and qualification “Ethno-cultural centre head, a teacher of folk art culture” (a future ethnic culture expert). Ethno-cultural educational technologies are used in the training of future preschool teachers and future social teachers within the special course “Ethnopedagogics and Ethnic Psychology”.

Due to the absence of the migrants flow into the Republic, who do not speak Russian, educational centres for the Russian language study are not available, but there is a division in MarSU, capable of this kind of activity. The Institute of Additional Professional Education in MarSU performs lingvo-didactic testing of Russian as a foreign language for the RF citizenship. In case of successful test pass, foreign citizens receive the Certificate which is necessary to apply for the citizenship of the Russian Federation.

In the Republic great attention is paid to intercultural education. So it is possible now to get an international certificate of the University of Cambridge in Yoshkar-Ola. An educational center "Encore" takes tests for pupils, students and teachers and for those who go abroad for permanent residency.

7) educational system

Regional system of education includes 17 of the municipal education authorities, 14 of which are in rural areas, and the remaining 3 are located in urban districts.

General information on public and private kindergartens

In the Mari El Republic the preschool educational program is realized by 248 preschools, 9 educational institutions for preschool and primary school age “Primary school – kindergarten”, and at 81 general education institutions preschool groups are organized.

According to recent reports by May 1, 2014 the program of preschool education in these institutions involved 35331 pupils. An alternative solution to the problem of children provision for places in preschool institutions is the introduction of variant forms of preschool education (short-stay, before-school education, weekend groups, adaptive groups, and also the educational activity organization at home for children living in remote areas), that 669 children in the age from 1 to 7 years attend.

In 2012 the implementation of a phased program ("roadmap") to eliminate the shortage of places in preschool institutions allows to enter 1 587 places in pre-school and educational institutions, including at the expense of internal resources - 127 seats, due to the reconstruction - 1 160 seats, due to the reorganization in pre-school educational institutions, Yoshkar-Ola groups combined type group General developmental type - 300 seats (15 pre-school educational institutions).

An alternative solution to the problem of provision of places for children in preschool institutions is the introduction of various forms of pre-school education (group a short stay, preschool education, weekend, adaptation group, as well as the organization of educational activity at home for children living in remote communities).

According to the results of 2012 the number of children enrolled in alternative forms of preschool education increased by 663 people and on January 1, 2013 is 1 187. The measures covered 100 percent of
children aged 3 to 7 years by preschool education and 1 January 2013 to eliminate the priority for this category of children.

Development of public private partnership in the sphere of preschool education by the Government of the Mari El Republic, the Ministry of education and science of the Republic of Mari El and the local government considered the possibility of granting preferential rent for private kindergartens and (or) groups of short-term stay for preschool children, as well as cooperation of individual entrepreneurs and municipal pre-school educational institutions in the provision of municipal pre-school educational institutions for educational services and catering for children who attend group care and supervision, organized by individual entrepreneurs.

In order to streamline and systematize the work of the local authorities to increase the number and availability of places in preschool institutions of the Republic the development of each municipal district phased plan ("roadmap") to eliminate the shortage of places in preschool institutions for 2013 – 2016 was initiated. Analysis of municipal road maps showed that the situation with the availability of places in preschool children from 3 to 7 years has stabilized; however, need to be addressed with the provision of places in preschool institutions for children under the age of 3 years.

According to forecasts of local authorities exercising control in the field of education, taking into account the demographic situation in 2013 remain uncovered by the services of pre-school education 2 678 children aged 2 to 3 years, in 2014 - 1 425 children in 2015 - 1 094 in 2016 - 544, in 2017 - 504 and 2018 350 children.

The Mari El Government is taking the necessary measures for the non-state forms of preschool education development. In the territory of the urban district “Yoshkar-Ola” operates a private kindergarten “Seasons” with up to 80 children. In addition, 222 children visit groups of baby care, organized by individual entrepreneurs. According to information on the Internet 27 private kindergartens are located in different districts of Yoshkar-Ola. The experience of the urban district “Yoshkar-Ola” in development of non-state forms of preschool education is recommended for application for the all heads of administrative municipal districts and urban districts of the Republic.

Increasing demand of the population under the existing preschool educational institutions network capacity for preschool educational services is projected till 2015. Therefore, the complex of material, technical and direct regulations is planned to come in force: return of preschool educational institutions previously disused; construction of modern preschool educational institutions and reconstruction of educational institutions buildings for the pre-school groups; support of private children’s educational institutions and alternative forms development of preschool education (family kindergartens, gaming support centres, etc.).

Provision of pre-school children with the places in preschool educational institutions is 69,3% (693 places per 1000 children).

Number of children registered for placement in preschool educational institutions is 488 children per 1000 places; the need for pre-school education services is 48,8%.

The problem of placement of children in public kindergartens is still important, despite of the great efforts of the Government of the Republic of Mari El in the construction of new kindergartens, reconstruction of given spaces for using them by pre-school groups.
In 2010-2012 in preschool institutions of the republic a shortage of teaching staff could be noticed, despite their systematic personnel training. The main cause of it was the low wages. In 2013, this problem was solved by optimizing the network of kindergartens, increasing wages of pre-school teaching staff.

Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Mari El dated June 3, 2014 N 283 "About approval of a range of additional activities that characterize the development of pre-school education in Mari El Republic in 2014." Changes in pre-school education, aimed at improving the efficiency and quality of education services include providing availability of pre-school education.

General information on public and private schools

At the beginning of the 2013-2014 academic year, the educational organizations network of the Mari El Republic amounted 268 full-time educational organizations with 7 subsidiaries (reduction of the number of organizations by two units comparing to 2012/2013 academic year) and 5 evening (shift) educational organizations.

Thus, the total number of educational organizations in the Mari El Republic is 273; 190 of them are rural, 83 – urban, 25 of them are located in urban-type settlements.

Existing types and categories of educational organizations in the Republic fully satisfy the needs of citizens for high-quality general education.

By the beginning of 2013/2014 academic year 7 gymnasiums, 12 lyceums and 4 special subject schools functioned in the Republic.

Table 11.
Types of educational organizations in the Mari El Republic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of educational organizations</th>
<th>Urban area</th>
<th>Rural area</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Secondary schools</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnasiums</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyceums</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special subject schools</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>83</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>273</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student contingent was equal to 67648 people, including students of full-time educational organizations – 66788 people, which is 207 people more than in 2012/2013 academic year. Based on the total number of the full-time educational organizations students, 45680 people study in urban areas, which is 542 student more compared to 2012/2013 academic year, and 20561 people in rural areas, that is 371 persons less compared to 2012/2013 academic year. Number of students in public and municipal educational institutions (excluding evening (shift) ones) is 121 by 10 teachers.

Table 12.
Pupils in secondary schools.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>In regular classes</th>
<th>Among them</th>
<th>In remedial classes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Urban area</td>
<td>Rural area</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-2012</td>
<td>66837</td>
<td>64773</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In 2011-2012 more than 66837 pupils studied in educational institutions. In 2012-2013 the ratio of urban and rural schoolchildren was 68% and 32% relatively, i.e. urban pupils were more numerous than the rural ones 2 times. There is a reduction in contingent: in 2012-2013 academic year compared with 2011-2012 a total decrease was 1256 pupils. The outflow of pupils from the rural areas (-741 persons) and the afflux to urban schools (+499 people) are marked.

Table 13. Number of schools and pupils

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2011-2012</th>
<th>2012-2013</th>
<th>2012-2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of general educational institutions, units</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of pupils in general educational institutions, thousand persons</td>
<td>66,8</td>
<td>66,6</td>
<td>66,8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of teachers, thousand persons</td>
<td>5,5</td>
<td>5,5</td>
<td>5,4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2014 more than 66788 pupils attended educational institutions. The correlation of urban and rural pupils in 2013-2014 was 68,7% and 31,3% respectively, i.e. more than 2 times. Compared with the previous year there is a minor change (7%). An increase in contingent is evident: in 2013-2014 compared to 2012-2013 academic year total increase of pupils was 1207 people. The outflow of pupils from the rural areas (-371 persons) and the influx to urban schools (+523 people) still continue.

The number of schools reduces every year, mainly due to closing of shabby, small schools. The number of students in the last three years remains constant, the number of teachers is also unchangeable and amounts within 5,5 thousand persons.

General information on public and private colleges

At the beginning of 2013/2014 academic year, there were 20 independent public educational institutions of secondary vocational training, 1 subsidiary of the state educational institution of secondary vocational education, as well as 1 subsidiary and 2 subdivisions of the universities implementing the programs of vocational education and 3 private educational institutions of secondary vocational training.

The number of students in public educational institutions of secondary vocational training by the beginning of 2013/2014 academic year was 10 thousand people (compared to 2012/2013 academic year the number of students has decreased by 9,7%). 10 thousand of the population accounts for 145 students of public educational institutions of secondary vocational training. Admission to the public educational institutions of secondary vocational training in 2013 amounted to 3,1 thousand people and has decreased in comparison with 2012 by 16,7%.
As in October 1, 2013, 786 people studied with a full refund of learning, or 7.9% of students in public institutions of secondary vocational training (by October 1, 2012 – 10.4%), and 155 people on target study system, or 1.6% (by October 1, 2012 – 2.7%).

In 2013, the state educational institutions of secondary vocational training graduated 1857 persons, by 23.6% less than in 2012. 82.4% of the total number of graduated specialists terminated full-time courses, 17.6% – part-time courses. 239 of all graduates or 12.9% obtained a high level diploma of secondary vocational education, 1618 – a regular diploma of secondary vocational education.

In the Mari El Republic there are 17 public technical secondary schools and colleges (including subsidiaries) located in towns and villages of the Republic:

- Yoshkar-Ola Agricultural College (Yoshkar-Ola).
- Yoshkar-Ola Medical College (Yoshkar-Ola).
- Yoshkar-Ola Civil Engineering Technical Secondary School (Yoshkar-Ola).
- Yoshkar-Ola Technical Secondary School of Service Technologies (Yoshkar-Ola).
- Yoshkar-Ola College of Technology (Yoshkar-Ola).
- I.S. Palantay Yoshkar-Ola Musical College (Yoshkar-Ola).
- Kozmodemyansk College of Electronic Technology (Kozmodemyansk).
- Volga State University of Technology. Mari Agricultural College (Yezhovo).
- I.S. Palantay Mari Republican College of Culture and Arts (Yoshkar-Ola).
- Mari Republican Art College (Yoshkar-Ola).
- I.K. Glushkov Orshanka Pedagogical College (Orshanka).
- Metropolitan Business College (Yoshkar-Ola).
- Technical Secondary School of Economics, Business and Advertising (Yoshkar-Ola).
- Yaroslavl Agricultural College Subsidiary (Kozmodemyansk).

For instance, the Federal State Educational Institution of Secondary Vocational Education “Mari Agricultural College” trains for: Agronomist, Surveying Engineer, Technologist of milk and dairy products, Veterinarian, Accountant. In addition to these specialties graduates learn trade in the following specialties: Tractor driver/machine operator of agricultural production, Horticulturist, Laboratory assistant of agrochemical analysis, Mechanical milking operator, Operator of artificial insemination of farm animals and birds, Veterinary attendant, Beekeeper, Florist, Canine handler, Secretary assistant, Floral designer, Equestrian, A, B, C-category driver.


General information on public and private universities

As of September 1, 2013 in the Mari El Republic 2 state universities, as well as 4 private institutions of higher education (including affiliates) operated. During the next academic year 3 of the mentioned above private institutions were closed because of different reasons.
Totally 22,8 thousand people study at the universities. Number of students at state universities at the beginning of 2013/2014 academic year was 18,5 million people (compared to 2012/2013 academic year, the number of students has decreased by 7,5%). 10 thousand of the population accounts for 268 students of state higher education institutions.

Full-time study dominates at state universities. As of October 1, 2013 58,5% of students followed full-time study programs, 41% – part-time courses, 0,5% – internal and extra-mural (evening) courses. 5,9 thousand students studied under condition of the full tuition refund, or 32 % of the total number of students at public universities (by October 1, 2012 – 37,4%).

In 2013 state universities enrolled 4419 students (0,6% less than in 2012), 21,4% of the total number of students were admitted with a full tuition refund (in 2012 – 32,1%).

In 2013 state universities turned out 4368 specialists, of which 2332 persons (53,4%) finished full-time courses, 2031 persons (46,5%) – part-time courses and 5 persons (0,1%) – internal and extra-mural (evening) courses.

In 2013 state educational institutions of higher education provided full-time courses turned out 1739 people trained by the budget, including 1116 women. 497 people got job placement, or 28,6% of the graduated students of full-time training programs, studying at the expense of budget funds. Within the target training 175 people are graduated. 141 people, or 80,6% got job placement in accordance with the signed contracts in the framework of the target training.

The contingent of students at private universities and affiliates amounted to 4,3 thousand people, or 18,9% of the total students population of the Republic. Compared with the 2012/2013 academic year the number of students at private universities has decreased by 20,9%.

Private universities are focused mostly on working students and receivers of the second university degree, so the accent is given to part-time courses. At the beginning of 2013/2014 academic year the students contingent of part-time courses was 95,6% of the total number, while 4,4% of students attended full-time courses. In 2013 private higher education institutions turned out 1002 specialists (in 2012 – 1343 specialists).

Mari State University

Federal State Budget Educational Institution of Higher Professional Education “Mari State University” currently includes six Institutes (Institute of Agricultural Technologies; Institute of Finno-Ugric Studies; Institute of Economics, Management and Finances; Institute of Open Education and Informational Systems; Institute of Pedagogics and Psychology; Institute of Advanced Training and Staff Retraining), 10 Faculties (Faculty of History and Philology; Faculty of Physics and Mathematics; Faculty of Biology and Chemistry; Faculty of Electrical Engineering; Faculty of Law; Faculty of International Relations; Faculty of Physical Education, Sport and Tourism; Faculty of Culture and Arts; Faculty of Technology and Professional Studies; Faculty of Foreign Languages), 62 departments. Training is conducted over 56 specialties (profiles).

The number of students is more than 9000 people. Teaching staff amounts to about 900 people, including more than 100 doctors and professors, more than 500 candidates of sciences and associate professors. Post-graduate courses operate over 49 specialties, doctorate – over 7 specialties.

The University has an important mission to provide a sustainable social and cultural development of the Republic, as well as integration into the European and world scientific, educational and cultural space. The
creation of the International Association of universities of the Finno-Ugric countries and regions of the Russian Federation initiated by the University is significant in this regard. The University has become an integral and essential part of the Republic of Mari El. The evidence of it is university graduates, who make up the core of the personnel potential of the country and work in all sectors of the economy and social sphere.

The University plays a special role in training personnel for the regions of compact residence of Mari. Hundreds of youths from Kirov, Nizhny Novgorod, Sverdlovsk, Perm region, Bashkortostan, Udmurtia, Tatarstan, were educated at the University, especially in Philology, culture and art, pedagogy, journalism, regional studies. The University provides the training of scientific and teaching staff of the higher school for them.

The Information center of the European Union works in cooperation with the embassies at the University of the Russian-American and Swedish educational centers. In 2008, the University opened a branch campus "APTECH", the world leading educational Corporation in the field of information technology.

The first Russian scientific school on the issue of "socio-psychological rehabilitation of children with disabilities" is created in the University.

In general, MarSU system meets modern principles of variability, mobility, multi-level structure, continuity that creates the foundation for the “lifelong education”. The University keeps its status of the single classical university of the Republic. Its mission is to meet educational needs of the individual, society and state in the field of general and applied science, to maintain the leadership in the educational system modernization in the Republic and the region, taking into account global tendencies, to influence actively on the social, economic and cultural development of the Mari El Republic and the region and to harmonize interethnic and interconfessional relations in the multi-ethnic region.

Volga State University of Technology is the university complex; its structural subdivisions include the Institution of Secondary Vocational Education “Yoshkar-Ola Agricultural College” and the State Educational Institution “Professional Technical Secondary School No.1”.

The University is certified to pursue activity in the field of higher education after 38 bachelor’s degree programs, 25 master’s degree programs, 57 specialties for professionals, as well as 15 specialties of secondary vocational education. University programs of higher education make up 17 bigger groups of specialities and study profiles.

At the present time 6621 full-time students and 5302 part-time students, more than 3000 students after programs of secondary vocational education, 219 post-graduate students (including 150 full-time students), 6 doctoral candidates study at the University. The University disposes 10 Faculties and 2 educational centres with the Faculty rights, 49 departments, the Institute of Additional Professional Education, the Tertiary College “Polytechnic”, the Yoshkar-Ola Agricultural College and two affiliates in Volzhsk and Mariinsky Posad.

At the University the National Accreditation Agency in Education is located. There the Regional (Mari) Centre of New Informational Technologies in Education, the Laboratory “Multimedia Systems”, the RHYTHM methodical centre, the International Centre for Sustainable Forest Management, the Centre of collective use “Ecology, biotechnology and processes of environmentally friendly energy products production”, a number of other scientific and educational structures operate.
The University employs highly qualified teaching staff. The relative share of regular lecturers with science degrees and (or) academic titles is 68.6%, in particular doctors of sciences and (or) professors – 11.6%.

Interregional Open Social Institute is a private higher educational institution, organized in 2003 which currently provides profession training at 2 faculties over 20 specialties, bachelor’s and master’s degree programs and MBA programs. There is a post-graduate course over 7 profiles. At the moment IOSI trains about 4000 students on full-time, internal and extra-mural, part-time and distance learning programs and programs of additional professional training. The University structure includes 10 departments, 7 scientific and research laboratories, the regional training centre, the IT centre, testing centres TOEFL, Certiport, Prometric, Pearson VUE.

IOSI teachers and staff participate in international events: the International Conference “Reliability and statistics in transport and communication” (RelStat ’13), International Interuniversity Scientific and Educational Conference “Topical problems of education” (Riga, Latvia), III International Forum of Young Entrepreneurs “Strategy. Mission. Perspective – 2012” (Yaroslavl), International Conference of Young Students and Post-graduate Students “Psychology: the world of possibilities” (St. Petersburg), International Scientific and Practical Conference “Professionality of the teacher: essence, matter and prospects for development” (Moscow, Yaroslavl), IX International Youth Spring Scientific Conference “Social and humanitarian sciences and practices in the XXI century: from the youth research experience (human capital, innovations and development) (Yoshkar-Ola), XX International Congress of the Psychologists’ Association INFAD “Positive psychology, teaching in family: psychology, development, upbringing and education” with participation of the representatives from Spain, Italy, Portugal, Brazil, Poland, Angola, Latvia and other countries (Moscow), VII St. Petersburg Summit of Psychologists “Technologies of Success” (St. Petersburg).

We give examples of statistical data on the Republic in the field of higher education:

The number of students enrolled in the educational institutions of higher professional education, per 1000 persons – 8.

The number of residents who do not have secondary education per 1000 persons at the age of 15 and older – 7%.

The share of population with higher education in the total population aged 15 and older – 19%.

Post-graduates per 10000 population – 1.

Table 14. Educational institution of higher professional education (at the beginning of academic year), together with affiliates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Total, thousand of persons</th>
<th>Per 10000 population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011/2012</td>
<td>21,7</td>
<td>314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/2013</td>
<td>20,0</td>
<td>289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/2014</td>
<td>18,5</td>
<td>268</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The ratio of students in public and private universities is 4.3 respectively (more than 4 times).

Table 15. Specialists turn-out from educational institutions of higher professional education (persons)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Private</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>per 10000 population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>4523</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>4529</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>4368</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From November 2013 to August 2014 Fund “National Center of marketing research, consulting and education” (Kazan, Russia) with the support of the Regional public organization “Institute of civil society”, (Moscow) conducted the study of the higher education system in the Volga Federal district. Experts from Mari El were the employers, representatives of management of education, economics and management of universities. They were asked to evaluate the current situation in the sphere of higher education.

Reform implemented by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation has led to significant changes in the higher education market of the Republic. In addition to 2 state (Mari State University and Volga State University of Technology) and 1 private University (Interregional Open Social Institute) in the Republic there are branches of private universities, the number of which is gradually reduced (in 2010 worked 8 branches in 2012 - already 6, 2014 - 0).

Experts have identified such advantages of Mari universities as: good highly qualified teaching staff with high speed of adaptation to new trends, a well-developed infrastructure and resources: technical, methodological, training; technology state accreditation (National Accreditation Agency) was created in Mari El (everything that is done in Mari universities, extends to the whole of Russia); education is not commercialized, as in large cities, it is more accessible and more focused on students; universities train specialists in various fields - from agriculture to fundamental directions; remained strong scientific personnel; as an attractive point was also highlighted the wonderful ecology of the region.

Among the weaknesses of Mari universities, the experts identified the lack of funds to ensure the normal functioning of the educational process due to the reduction of budget places for the reception and retention of students in the Central regions. Now the government of the Republic of Mari El takes measures to reduce the outflow of graduates from schools in other regions, to increase the interest of students in entering Mari universities. At the same time, experts point out that only Mari students and graduates of schools are not enough for training personnel to work in the Republic.

The experts confirmed that in Mari El there is a high level of quality of the higher education. In the Republic the level of preparation of graduates is higher than the national average level; also there is high average score of exam entrants (62,2); universities have accreditation efficiency, Mari universities are working on Federal educational standards; in the Republic a high level of employment of graduates is
recorded; graduates are in demand abroad; in many areas students from near and far abroad get both budgetary and extra-budgetary places.

One of the problems of higher education is that students do not always possess tolerant knowledge. Especially important is the tolerance of the future specialists of the education system. For future teachers it is important to promote not only the tolerance of members of any national or social groups, but also tolerance of the child's personality in general. The origins of this lay in misunderstanding of the nature of the child; immature sensitivity, kindness, in the absence of a pedagogical orientation.

However, the state standards of the disciplines of psycho-pedagogical, cultural and social unit in various specialties do not include questions that define the basis for interethnic dialogue and tolerance education. These gaps institution has the ability to recover at the expense of extra-curricular activities, courses, seminars and educational work in this direction.

Additional education in the educational system of the Mari El Republic

Additional educational institutions network in the Mari El Republic is represented with 49 institutions of the total coverage of children – 36613 persons, that is 45% of the total number of children aged from 5 to 18 years (81073 persons), among them:

- Children’s Creative Houses – 12
- Children’s Activity Centres – 7
- Centres of Technical Creativity – 3
- Youth Technician’s Stations – 2
- Children’s Sports Schools – 19
- Palace of Children’s and Youth Creativity – 2
- Ecological and Biological Centres – 2
- Touristic and Sports Centres – 2

The main category of the institutions of additional education pupils is children aged from 7 to 10 years (15322 persons); while the number of pupils aged from 11 to 14 is 12920 people; from 15 to 18 – 5380 people; preschool children – 2991 people.

Presently, there are 11 orientations of additional education in the Republic. The largest number of children is involved in physical training and sports programs (11397 people) and artistic (11030 people) orientations.

According to data presented by the educational bodies of municipal units, by January 1, 2013, the total number of teachers of additional education (institutions of additional education) was 1132 persons. At the same time the basic quantity – 76% (869 people) – is teachers aged over 35 years; the number of teachers under the age of 35 years is 23% (263 people).

77% of teachers have a university degree; 24% – the highest qualification grade; 38% – the grade; 33% – do not have the grade.

Practical implementation of the federal state educational standards for general education was provided with the integration of the basic and additional education systems, carried out on the basis of the general educational institutions by organizing of 3678 variously oriented school associations and 48 additional educational institutions, that covered 62060 children (93.8%).

The institutions of additional education for children of the Republic conduct their activity on study programs realization of 10 focus areas: physical training and sports, scientific and technical, artistic,
ecological and biological, sports and technical, touristic and regional, social and pedagogical, military-patriotic, scientific and culturological.

The core centres of the children’s additional education development at the regional level are the five state budgetary institutions of children’s additional education (hereinafter – SBI CAE of the Mari El Republic): “Children’s and youth tourist centre «Wind rose»”, “Children’s and Youth Centre of Technical Creativity”, “Children’s Ecological and Biological Centre”, “Specialized Children’s and Youth Sports School of Olympic Reserve”, “Palace of Children’s and Youth Creativity”. These centres provide network municipal and regional educational institutions cooperation in the system of education and additional education of children, provide children’s participation of the region in federal and international events and implement the functions of organizational and methodological centres.

In addition, nowadays 19 specialized children and youth schools of Olympic reserve under the Ministry of Sports of the Mari El Republic, 2 specialized children and youth schools of Olympic reserve and 16 children and youth sports schools under the Ministry of Education and Science of the Mari El Republic function in the Republic. In order to prepare high-class athletes the State Educational Institution of Secondary Professional Education of the Mari El Republic “School of Olympic Reserve” and the State Budgetary Institution “Centre of Sports Training «School of the Highest Sportsmanship»” operate. Institutions of additional education of sports orientation over 48 types of sports train 16115 people in general. 6715 people (41%) are engaged in subordinate institutions under the Ministry of Sports of the Mari El Republic.

Recreational and sports work with different groups of population, work on the sports reserve and high-class athletes preparation in the Republic is carried out by 1448 specialists, including 295 people from the institutions under the Ministry of Sports of the Mari El Republic, 389 people from the institutions of general education, and 75 people practise recreational and sports work domiciliary.

The institutions of the cultural field of the Mari El Republic play an important role in additional education, children and adolescent engagement and their leisure organization provision. 19 specialized children's libraries, the State Budgetary Institution of Culture of the Mari El Republic “Republican Children's Library”, 251 rural and 20 urban libraries with the number of readers of 126 thousand people give library service to children. Thus, the system of continuing education in the field of culture and art, which allows preparing professional personnel over many creative specialities and well engaging in aesthetic education of the population, is established in the Mari El Republic. All ethnic groups have the opportunity to be present at various levels of education.

Special educational institutions for children without parents

Six boarding schools of general education, one boarding school of general education for orphans and children deprived of parental care, one sanatorium boarding school and five evening (shift) schools of general education with the total number of pupils equal to 1082 persons function.

For example, the State Educational Institution “Volzhsk secondary boarding school for orphans and children deprived from parental care with disabilities of VIII category” located in Volzhsk possesses a good material base. Pupils of the institution study under the programs of senior secondary education; modern informational technologies are implemented and integrated education is carried out.

By the end of 2013 the total number of orphans and children deprived from parental care resided in the educational institutions of the Republic was 679 people, including boarding schools pupils – 433 and in other specialized educational institutions – 246 pupils.
In 2012, in the Mari El Republic 1317 children (in 2011 – 1359) attended eleven special (or correction) educational institutions, 368 people (in 2011 – 369) studied in three state educational institutions for orphans and children deprived from parental care.

In the Mari El Republic a sufficient legal basis for custody and guardianship in relation to minor children and their social protection is created; 6 republican target programs are implemented. Since January 2011, in the Republic the Institute of Children’s Commissioner at the Head of the Mari El Republic operates, it deals with the problems of childhood in accordance with the international standards.

According to the Ministry of Education and Science of the Mari El Republic by January 1, 2013, 1317 children were brought up in custodial families, among them the ones aged till 7 years – 215 children, aged from 7 till 18 – 1102 children.

On the agreement basis between foster parents and the custody and guardianship bodies in the Republic 679 children were brought up in foster families, including the ones aged till 7 years – 115 children, from 7 till 18 years – 564 children. The child is placed in a such family for the period indicated in the contract.

Another form of a substitute family – a patronate family – is a temporary foster family where a child due to these or those reasons is deprived of the opportunity to grow up in his/her own biological family and comes to more or less long term.

For health reasons studying at home is organized for 598 children, including 350 handicapped children (in 2010 170 children studied at home, 150 of them were handicapped children, in 2009 – 82 children, 72 of them were disabled).

Regional language, history and culture in school education

There are two official languages in Mari El: Russian and Mari. Local radio and television broadcast programs in Mari, Mari concerts and performances are held. The languages in the Mari El Republic compose national treasure and historical and cultural heritage of the population, have equal rights and are under state protection.

Covering all forms of verbal communication, subject to legal regulation, the law does not establish legal rules of the language use in interpersonal unofficial relations, as well as in public religious associations and organizations activity.

Republican target programs for the language conservation and development involve such directions as the publication of literature assistance in the state languages of the Mari El Republic, the languages of compactly living national and ethnic groups in the Mari El Republic and having its national territorial entities outside the Republic; their scientific research financing; creation of conditions for different languages use in the mass media; professional training organization in the field of languages preservation and development; public education system development in order to improve the language culture of the population.

Citizens have the right to choose freely the language of education and training. Nobody has the right to impose on a person to use any language beyond his own will. The state languages of the Mari El Republic ignorance cannot become a reason for restrictions against citizens during the employment to particular positions.

As noted in the Concept of development education system of the Republic of Mari El from 2012 to 2020, forming students’ ethnic identity through cultural education is an important stage in the development of civil consciousness. Etnocultural education is a process in which goals, objectives, content, technology
education are focused on the development of the personality as the subject of ethnos and as a citizen of
the multinational Russian Federation. Ethnocultural education is determined by the introduction
knowledge of the native people's culture, social norms, moral values; familiarity with the cultural
achievements of other peoples into the educational process using experience of traditional education with
the aim of developing children's interest in national culture, forming friendly attitudes towards people of
different nationalities.

The Mari El Republic recognizes the equal right of citizens, at their request, to receive education in their
native language. Citizens have the right to choose freely the language of study and education in children's
institutions and secondary schools. Throughout the territory of the Mari El Republic public information
should be disseminated in the state languages. The Mari El Republic carries radio and television broadcast
in the state languages of the Mari El Republic, providing their programs to the neighbouring regions.

Mari and Russian as the state languages of the Mari El Republic are studied in all educational institutions
of the Republic.

In MarSU Summer School of Mari language is regularly conducted. In training there advantages of long
experience of teaching are used in a comfortable and safe environment, and the development of traditional
Mari culture. The program consists of two parallel modules: one is for beginners and another one is for
advanced students (those who continue to study Mari language).

In accordance to the Law "On languages in the Republic of Mari El" and the Law "On education in the
Russian Federation" national-regional component is included in the curriculum. It reflects the ethnic,
economic, cultural, historical and other specific features of the particular republic. Mari (state) language is
included in the learning process along with the Russian language as an academic subject.

The curriculum of Mari (state) language introduces the students the spiritual richness of national values
and cultural traditions of Mari people, teach the students about the importance of mutual understanding
between peoples, nurturing of interpersonal trust, tolerance, respect for the views and beliefs of the
people regardless of their nationality.

Law "On Languages in the Republic of Mari El", expressing respect to all nationalities living in the
Republic, defines the basic principles for the regulation of social relations in the field of development and
functioning of languages used by the population of the republic in the state, socio-economic and cultural
life, provides for the protection of constitutional rights of citizens in this area, promote respect for national
dignity of man, his culture and language, contributes to the further strengthening of friendship and
cooperation among peoples. This law aims to create conditions for the preservation and equitable, the
original development of languages.

In the Republic of Mari El intolerable propaganda of hatred and contempt to any language, creating
contrary to constitutionally established principles of national policy obstacles, restrictions and privileges in
the use of languages is banned.

Intercultural approach to school and university programs

State educational policy of the Mari El Republic is conducted in accordance with the basic provisions of
the Russian legal documents. The basic approach to numerous ethnic groups representatives teaching in
Mari El is intercultural (multicultural) education. It is based on a set of ideas, values and practices that
contribute to peaceful, equitable and mutually beneficial co-existence of different cultural, ethnic and
social groups in one country or its region. The leading idea of such education lies in tolerance and
equivalence formation among different cultures, providing equal educational opportunities for everyone.
Everyone who wishes in the Republic, as well as in whole Russia, can get any kind of education in accordance with his individual needs and capabilities, and regardless of ethnic/religious affiliation.

The main form of intercultural education implementation is the education of people of different nationalities in the same group (school, class, etc.) that provides direct communication and interpenetration between cultures and communities with different identity.

Intercultural education is provided by its content, namely:
- studying of Russian, foreign (English, French, German, etc.) and native language (kindergarten, school, high school);
- studying of the history of civilizations, history of Russia, its peoples and foreign countries (school, high school);
- studying of philosophical theories and history of science at selected field of knowledge (high school, post-graduate school);
- studying of ethnology, ethno-psychology and ethnopedagogics by the professionals of Humanities (college, high school).

Students of all nationalities are included in the Mari El Republic in intercultural education system. However, titular nation representatives (Mari) and other ethnic groups in the places of their compact residence (e.g., the Tatars in the Paranginsky region of the Republic) have the opportunity to study in their native language.

Coverage of students who are taught in their native language and studying the native language, in recent years remains stable and is determined only on demand, i.e. the desire of consumers themselves to receive educational services in their native language. In addition, pupils of secondary schools study the Mari language as the state one 1-2 hours a week (depending on the options of the basic curriculum of the Republic), as well as in all schools the subject “History and Culture of Mari El peoples” is taught. Thus, in 2011-2012 academic year, in Mari El 17,6% of students studied the Mari language as native, 44,4% – the Mari language as the state one, the subject “History and Culture of Mari El peoples” – 78% of students.

Under modern conditions new mechanisms that confirm their effectiveness in educational institutions have appeared. These mechanisms are ethno-cultural educational technologies which help to optimize and activate the process of development, maintenance and translation of the ethic culture.

The best examples of the education organized for ethnic groups members are national kindergartens and primary schools, national classes and classes with in-depth study of particular languages in the towns and regions of the Republic, as well as the National Gymnasium No.14 and the National Presidential Art School in Yoshkar-Ola. During the work ethnic pedagogization of the entire educational process and education of children in the spirit of national culture are conducted. Ethnic and cultural development of students is carried out under the following directions:

1) development of the Russian civil identity;
2) formation of a conscious, respectful and friendly attitude towards another person, his opinion, worldview, culture, faith, traditions, languages;
3) formation of communicative competence in cooperation with representatives of different nationalities and etc.

The capacity to implement intercultural approach in school and university curricula in Russia is laid with current Federal State Educational Standards (FSES). The FSES structure includes in each of the cycles of studied disciplines basic (compulsory) and variable (regional) parts, in the framework of which the
Intercultural educational disciplines are introduced. So, after the curriculum of Mari State University program “Psycho-pedagogical education” future bachelors study “Russian language and speech culture”, “Culture and intercultural communication in the modern world” within the basic part of the course; “History and Culture of the Mari people”, “Mari language” – within the variable part, and “Cultural Studies”, “Ethnology”, “World Art” – as optional subjects.

A compulsory subject for all Russian fourth-year students, including in Mari El, starting from September 1, 2012 became the course “Basics of religious cultures and secular ethics”, offering students to get acquainted with the Orthodox, Islamic, Buddhist, Jewish or secular module. Since 2014 Mari State University in conjunction with the Mari Diocese started the teacher training “Basics of Orthodox Culture”, 75 people completed the training.

The educational institutions from kindergartens to universities are the main institutions of socialization of all ethnic groups representatives living in the Republic. In the context of the intercultural education, students learn the culture of their own and other peoples (language, traditions, customs, way of life, etc.) and through direct communication in joint educational activities they form tolerant attitudes and relationships with different cultures and ethnoses.

In education in the republic accumulated experience in the implementation of international and Russian grant for innovative projects is accumulated (projects of Intel, the Flemish community of Belgium in the field of education, National training Foundation, a joint program of the Council of Europe and the European Union "National minorities in Russia: developing languages, culture, media and civil society", program of the Company of M.A. Kastren (Finland), "Networking Academy" (the Netherlands).

Immigrants in school: challenges and best practices
Social and economic characteristics of the Republic determine low percentage of migrants’ families; mostly they are representatives of Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and other CIS countries. The main problem for the children of such families is learning difficulties, because these children often either do not understand Russian at all, or know it very badly. Today, there are neither governmental programs to work with non-native children, nor specialized textbooks and methods of teaching. So far, the only valid option in the educational institutions is the provided extra time outside the curriculum for additional individual lessons with such children.

There are no special educational centres (in the Russian language) for immigrants.
There are no public national schools in the Republic.
Framework for continuing education (adult education, youth education, informal education and etc.)
The ideas for Intercultural education are implemented not only for schoolchildren and students, but form the basis for continuing education of youth, adults and seniors in the Republic. The following examples of educational activities of the first University in the Mari El Republic – Mari State University – prove it:

1. Preparation and taking of certification exams within the Russian state system testing of Russian as a foreign language (TORFL) at all levels of proficiency in the Russian language and the language of business communication and also obtaining the Russian citizenship for working migrants;

2. Annual additional education courses “Summer School of the Mari language and Culture for Russian and Foreign Citizens”, its participants are citizens of the Russian Federation, Germany, Switzerland, the USA, Austria and Finland, who for three weeks are learning the language and culture of the Mari people;
3. Refresher courses for state and municipal employees under the program “Topical problems of interethnic and interreligious harmony strengthening in the Russian Federation. Counteraction to extremism in state bodies and local authorities of the Mari El Republic”;

4. Educational program “University of the Third Age” designed for the seniors with active life position, aimed to continuing personal development and communication, and based on the principle of learning throughout the life (in 2013-2014 more than 500 people were trained).

The Institute for Advanced Studies and Retraining of Mari State University provides advanced training, professional retraining, conducts training courses for professionals from different sectors of the economy and education.

Adult education is handled by different organizations, each of them prepares specialists of a particular profile.

In particular, the professional development of educators is carried out on the basis the State Budgetary Educational Institution of Additional Professional Education for (Professional Development of) Specialists “Mari Institute of Education”.

Within the state task in 2013, 5044 teachers followed the training under an accumulative system. The training was conducted over 62 programs in volume from 18 to 72 hours.

During 2013 extra-mural courses and seminars were organized as a part of the regional systems of general education modernization, 1050 teachers and executives studied there. This practice allows training for not only individual students from educational institutions, but entire teams – administrators and teachers of various positions that provides the greatest efficiency in the educational institutions improvement.

Thus, the activities implementation under the regional educational systems modernization, along with other resources (the state task and the Federal Target Program for Education Development), enabled to achieve planned monitoring indexes of the professional development of teachers and school leaders from the total number of the Republic teachers and school leaders to 74,5% in 2013.

Besides academic work, the Institute conducts methodological support research and designing for the development of general education; scientific, methodological and expert support for education development of all levels; coordination and testing of major fundamental and applied research in the field of education modernization in the Mari El Republic; scientific cooperation expansion with educational and scientific institutions, organizations and foundations of Russia and the international community; ensures conditions for successful integration of the institutional research and teaching activity into the united educational space of the Russian Federation.

Much attention is paid to cross-cultural interaction, so in 2013 International Scientific and Practical Conference “Development of ethno-cultural education in today's educational environment”, Interregional Scientific and Practical Conference “Literary and Cultural Heritage of S.G. Chavain” dedicated to the 125th anniversary of the founder of the Mari literature S.G. Chavain; republican conferences “Mari regional studies: experiences and prospects in the Federal State Educational Standards implementation” and “Regional Educational Policy in the implementation of the Federal Law «On Education in the Russian Federation»” were held.

The Autonomous Educational Institution of the Mai El Republic “Housing Maintenance and Utilities Training Centre” is a non-profit organization which operates through educational services provision after the accelerated educational programs: training, retraining, second working professions education;
advanced training (labour grade advance) for workers; short-term and periodic advanced training of executives and experts in the fields: labour protection and occupational safety; fire safety of industrial security.

The Federal State Educational Institution of Additional Professional Education for Specialists “Mari Institute of Retraining for agribusiness personnel”. The main objectives of the Institute are: to meet the needs of agricultural executives and specialists in gaining knowledge about the latest developments in science and technology, advanced domestic and foreign experience; improve their business skills, prepare them for their new job functions; organize and conduct advanced training and professional retraining of agricultural executives and specialists, civil servants, peasant (farm) households, agricultural cooperatives.

Networks and joint projects of educational institutions

The introduction of information and communication technologies in the education of the Mari El Republic goes in a fast lane. Traditionally, the interaction within teaching community is carrying in person (in conferences, seminars, etc.), but new forms of communication – network one – appear together with the active development of the Internet.

Network activity within the pedagogical community of the Mari El Republic is aimed at: solving of problems concerned the processes of school informatization support and professional development of teachers; widespread of electronic educational resources; mass adoption of the methods for their use; modernization of the methodological support system for educational informatization in the Republic.

Presently in the Mari El Republic 13 school Networking Academies Cisco ® function; there students have the opportunity to access the latest educational technologies, as well as get internationally recognized documents which prove their professional skills.

The educational system of the Mari El Republic is open to intercultural cooperation, as evidenced by its international activities.

Problems in education:
- in the sphere of preschool education: the lack of places in pre-school educational institutions; low wages of preschool teachers; integration of children with disabilities together with healthy children and unwillingness of the teachers to inclusive education; the introduction of the Federal state educational standards;
- in the field of general education: increase the number of children with disabilities in the general education system; unwillingness of teachers to work with children who have special educational needs; lack of training for primary school and individual specialists (teachers of maths, physics), that is typical in more rural schools;
- in the sphere of higher education:- the lack of funds to provide the normal functioning of the educational process due to the reduction the number of budget places for the reception and retention of students into the Central regions (according to Federal experts);
- in the field of children’s additional education: increasing the service fees (according to independent estimates of parents);
- in the sphere of additional professional education of adults: the lack of centres for work with migrants; lack of programs of additional professional education aimed at the storing and strengthening of interethnic and interconfessional relations, forming tolerance (in the opinion of the authors of the report, based on the analytical report).
The problem is a low ability of migrants to speak Russian. There are no special courses for training migrants. The public is not ready to interact with migrants either. There are no special services which solve the problems of migrants. As a rule, centers of social, psychological and educational assistance to families and children solve the problems of migrants, experts of these centers have not received special training in working with migrants. There is no education in their native language, there is no adaptive courses for migrants to their new social and cultural environment.

8) religion

The Orthodoxy has been and remains the main religion in the Mari El Republic. The majority of the Russian population living in the Republic and a large part of the Mari ethnic group confess it. The Tatar ethnic group and other small ethnic communities, compactly living in some regions of the Republic, are Muslim. The small number of the Mari confesses the Mari pagan religion. However, the Paganism is widely spread in the dual faith confessional group, which amounts up to a quarter of the Mari population.

Now there are 66 acting temples and 10 churches; 76 parishes, 2 monasteries (Mironositsky Convent and a friary – Bogoroditsky-Sergiev Hermitage) in the Republic, 83 priests and 13 deacons serve in the temples.

The Mari El Republic refers to multi-religious territories of Russia, where different confessions exist and interact for many centuries on the basis of different nationalities co-residence. According to the 2011 survey results, 55.6% of respondents indicated the Orthodox confession; 7.6% mainly confess the Orthodox faith, and sometimes follow the Mari traditional faith; 5.2% are equally attached to the Orthodox and Mari traditional faith, 3.5% mainly follow the Mari traditional faith; 1.1% confess only the Mari traditional faith; 4.8% – Islam; 0.4% – adherents of other religions; 3.9% – believe in God, but do not understand the religions; 2.4% – believe in “their God”; 15.5% – did not answer.

The largest confession in the territory of the Mari El Republic is the Russian Orthodox Church. The Orthodoxy outspread in the Mari land is associated with the events of the mid-16th century – the Middle Volga lands joining to the Russian state. The mass baptism of the Mari began in the first half of the 18th century.

The diocese of Yoshkar-Ola and Mari was founded in July 1993. Since then, the number of parishes has increased from 30 to 92. Urban and rural temples are restored and the new are built. The number of priests rose nearly 3 times; the church administrative structure has formed: there are 8 deaneries (Yoshkar-Ola, Mountain Mari, Suburban, Meadow Mari, Volzhsky, North-Western, Northern and Eastern) in Mari El.

The history of the Mari Traditional Religion began in the ancient times. Nature worship (sun, water and wind) and the veneration to plants, animals, birds, celestial bodies, objects and phenomena of the nature take a central place in Mari religion. Prayers are held in the sacred groves (Mari: oto, kusoto). The national Mari holidays are accompanied with ancient traditional rituals.

In the Republic six local religious communities of the Mari Traditional Religion united under the Central religious organization are registered officially in accordance with federal legislation on freedom of conscience and religion. Other religious groups and organizations in Mari El as a rule are either small or do not have strong traditions in the Republic.

Bodies, religious institutions: the Diocese of Yoshkar-Ola and Mari El; the Centralized religious organization of the Mari Traditional Religion of the Mari El Republic, etc. The Orthodox Church respects
other confessions, support business contacts with them in for the sake of peace and order in multinational Mari El. The Diocesan administration pays great attention to the spiritual education of children and young people. For this purpose, in Yoshkar-Ola the St. Serguis of Radonezh Orthodox Gymnasium opened in 2000. 28 Sunday schools for children and adults work successfully in the diocese. All parishes possess libraries with the literature of religious content.

The Department of Interethnic and Interconfessional Relations under the Ministry together with concerned executive authorities and local government, public and municipal institutions of culture and education, national and cultural associations of the Mari El Republic does a significant work to preserve and promote ethnic and cultural diversity of Mari El peoples. The national holidays, contests, festivals, practice and research conferences, seminars and “round tables”, aimed at interethnic and interconfessional relations harmonization were organized.

During the period from 2009 to 2013, 469 projects and activities – in average about 90 events a year – were realized. The main result is the maintenance of interethnic peace and consent in the Republic, consistent work on national and religious extremism prevention.

The Republic has all the conditions for interethnic conflicts prevention: there are national periodicals; children have the opportunity to get education in their native language. New radical religious groups are absent.

The Mari people have always treated holy places with great love. In Mari El there is a large number of springs, which attract people. The exact number of sacred springs in the Mari El Republic is unknown even to the diocese: the only noted thing is that 62 chapels near holy wells are consecrated throughout the Mari El Republic. The most frequently organized tours to holy places: in Petyaly, Yaransk (to Father Matthew), in Raifsky Monastery, Bogoroditsky-Sergiev Hermitage, Mironositsky Convent.

In the towns of the diocese – Yoshkar-Ola, Volzhsk, Kozmodemyansk – the Orthodox centres function. Sunday schools, libraries, charity cafeterias, clubs and courses for Sisters of Charity work there. Centre workers patronize large families, hospitals and rest homes. There are two Orthodox Brotherhoods in the diocese – Mironositsoe in Yoshkar-Ola and the brotherhood of the Icon of the Mother of God “Consolidation of all Sorrows” in Volzhsk.

In Yoshkar-Ola, Volzhsk and other areas of the Republic the Muslim community resides densely. Today, the Mari El Republic has up to 30 Muslim parishes. 16 of them have the official registration.

Religious discrimination in the Republic does not exist, the representatives of each religion have the opportunity to realize their needs in the form of religion and to visit relevant institutions (Orthodox churches, Muslims, mosque).

Conclusion: religious discrimination does not exist in the republic, the representatives of each religion have the opportunity to realize their needs in the form of religion and to visit relevant institutions (churches for Orthodox Christians, mosques for Muslims).

9) Criminality and deviance: past and present situation

The crime rate of the Republic is still decreasing. Thus, at the end of 2013 the ratio was equal to 117,8 crimes per 10000 population, while the previous year the same figure was significantly higher – 137. So, there was 14% decline. In particular, there were less thefts, robberies, assaults, murders, other grave and especially grave crimes. And the detection rate was 58,8%.
In the total array of crimes 38.4% is theft, number of which decreased by 10.9% (3555 up 3169). The number of burglaries decreased by 22.8%. At the same time during 2013 the number of intentional infliction of harm to health increased by 11.8%. The number of thefts of vehicles increased by 14.8%. The number of robberies decreased by 17.6%.

Following 3 months of 2014 the number of registered crimes in the Republic has reduced by 12%. Less registered murders, assaults, thefts, frauds, robberies, embezzlements and motor vehicle thefts, home burglaries were reported. The juvenile crime has reduced almost by 35%. Its share dropped to 4.7%.

The overall crime detection in the 1st quarter of 2014 was 68.3%. The detection of grave and especially grave crimes – 65.4%. Detection of murders and the facts of deliberate grievous bodily harm infliction was 100%. In most cases, they are committed as a result of domestic violence and alcohol intoxication. Alcohol remains one of the main motivating factors of the commission of illegal acts. The increase in the number of crimes committed in a state of alcoholic intoxication, was 5.8%. Share "drunk" crime rate was 42.3%, (last: 32.8 per cent). The proportion of crimes of this category of Mari El is in the 12th place in the Volga Federal District.

Motor vehicle thefts detection has increased from 25% to 40%.

87 drug-related crimes were investigated, their detection rate reached 55.1%.

Considerable forces of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) of Mari El work on drug abuse prevention and illicit drug trafficking suppression.

- Crimes on ethnic and religious grounds were not fixed.
- Ethnicity and religious affiliation do not affect the crime rate.
- Ethnic criminal organizations have not been recorded.
- Terrorist crimes of ethnic and religious purposes were not fixed.
- The crimes of Russian extremist groups are absent.

In Yoshkar-Ola the crime rate reduction is seen for the past 6 years. For the period since 2008 the overall crime rate in the capital of the Republic has declined more than 3,5 times. During the same period, the number of pillages has decreased 7 times, robberies – 4 times, property thefts – more than two and a half times.

In 2013, the Russian MIA Agency in Yoshkar-Ola, in coordination with other law enforcement agencies managed to keep this positive dynamics. The number of committed in Yoshkar-Ola crimes compared to 2012 has decreased by 15.7% (from 3776 to 3185 facts). In absolute terms, the number of committed crimes in the town has decreased by nearly 600 facts (-591).

As a result, following 2013 the lowest crime level was marked in Yoshkar-Ola in the last 20 years (since 1993). It amounted to 122 crimes per 10000 population. It is one of the best indicators among large municipal units; less crime level is recorded only in the Gornomariysky region (103 facts).

For reference: the crime rate in the Medvedevsky region (163), the Zvenigovsky region (124), Volzhsk (134,9), the Gornomariysky region (103). The lowest level by the end of 2013 was registered in the Volzhsky (80,4) and Sernursky regions (82,4).

The crime rate reduction was contributed with a significant amount of preventive measures. The Russian MIA Agency in Yoshkar-Ola organized and initiated a number of proactive and preventive operations.

In the matters of public order the public units of law enforcement and capital residents actively assist police officers. By the end of 2013 in Yoshkar-Ola 23 voluntary people's patrols of 765 people were
registered. In 2013, more than 30 crimes were solved and 440 administrative offenses were prevented thanks to the public forces. Close cooperation with private security companies has been established for the public order maintenance.

Following the year, in Yoshkar-Ola street crime rate has decreased by 8,4% from 1080 to 989 crimes, while in average the crimes of this category marked an increase (+4,5%) in the Republic. 36,4% of the crimes committed on the streets were solved.

Number of children and adolescents engaged in crimes

The juvenile delinquency prevention is paid with a particular attention. According to the last year results in Yoshkar-Ola a decrease in the number of crimes committed by juveniles was marked. They committed 135 crimes, which is 6,3% less than in 2012 (144 facts).

However, with increasing participation of adolescents committing crimes related to drug trafficking. For 2013 revealed 9 cases involving minors in crimes.

Over 2013 juvenile units of the Russian MIA Agency in Yoshkar-Ola carried out preventive work with 244 young offenders. 190 disadvantaged parents are on the preventive supervision in the Juvenile Department. Metropolitan police officers, including the subjects of prevention representatives held more than 400 preventive raids in 2013. Juvenile inspectors prevented 682 administrative offenses against the family and minors.

The number of crimes related to the detention, trafficking and abuse of alcohol and drug use, by age, in urban and rural areas:

One of the criminogenic factors that significantly affected the criminal situation is a high level of alcohol abuse. The share of “drunk” crimes increased one and a half time from 27,1% to 37%. Statistics show that among the number of investigated crimes the ones committed under the influence of alcohol amounted to 81% of murders, 93,5% of the facts of intended grievous bodily injuries infliction, 69,2% – thefts and 86,7% – robberies.

In 2013 the MIA Agency intensified the work on administrative and legal prevention of “drunken” crimes. 10580 offenders were brought to responsibility for appearing drunk and drinking alcohol, that is almost 1000 more than last year (+7,9%) (2012 – 9801 facts).

In 2013 in Yoshkar-Ola 413 crimes in the sphere of drug trafficking were registered (2012 – 398 facts), of which more than half (229) were identified by the members of internal affairs bodies. By the end of 2013 the number of serious drug-related crimes has reduced twice – from 239 to 118, but the registration of the crimes related to drugs selling has increased from 165 to 198 (+20%). Due to codeine medicines sales tightening, the facts of crackhouses maintenance virtually ceased, only three such crimes were registered compared to 31 facts in 2012. Totally in 2013 more than 4,5kg of drugs were confiscated from illegal turnover (4515 grammes).

Totally 631 crimes related to drug trafficking were detected. The officers of the Department of Internal Affairs confiscated 4036 grammes of narcotic drugs, psychotropic and potent substances from illicit trafficking. 224 administrative offenses related to illicit trafficking, narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances abuse were identified. Regarding a significant danger to the society, considerable attention is paid to drug trafficking and drug abuse counteraction.

Modern technologies contribute to effective work of the Police. A software package “Legend”, a positioning control system for outdoor detachments and vehicles, a hardware-software CCTV system “Security” are widely used in everyday activities. Surveillance network includes currently more than 200
cameras and continues expanding. Informational technologies and photo-video recording of offenders are actively used in the road safety.

The partnership system with civil society and citizens is improving. The Public Council operates by side of MIA Agency. The MIA Agency administration regularly reports in front of the public, working groups and deputies. Active cooperation has been established with the mass media.

According to the opinion poll conducted in July 2013 by the Public Council members under the MIA Agency, over 50% of respondents generally positively evaluated actions of the capital Police, only 1.8% of respondents stated categorically of unsatisfactory police work (216 people were questioned).

As shown by the poll, 77% of the citizens belong to the police positively, 62% trust in providing personal and property safety.

By the end of January 2014 the positive tendencies of crime rate reduction remained. The number of registered in Yoshkar-Ola crimes decreased by 4.9% from 225 to 214 facts, the number of grave and especially grave crimes reduced by 9.6%. The number of juvenile crimes reduced significantly from 15 to 3 facts, the share of “teen” crimes in the total number decreased from 11.4% to 2.8%. The share of crimes committed in a state of alcoholic intoxication reduced from 40.2% to 34.9%.

The measures taken to ensure the road safety stabilize the situation on roads in the Republic.

Governmental actions to prevent and settle ethnic and religious conflicts

The program of realization of Strategy of the national policy of the Russian Federation, adopted in 2012, aimed at the harmonization of relations between the indigenous population of different nationalities, cultures and religious beliefs, and to provide opportunities for adaptation and integration of migrants. An important role in achieving these goals is given to the regional and local authorities and management, as outlined in the Federal law of October 22, 2013 No. 284-FZ "On amending certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation in the part of the definition of powers and responsibilities of public authorities of subjects of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government and their officials in the sphere of interethnic relations" (law No. 284).

The government of the Republic of Mari El poses challenges for ministries and agencies to improve and prevent inter-confessional and inter-religious conflicts.

The activity on tolerant attitudes formation in society is one of the key aspects of the social and economic development of the region and one of the main focus areas of the Ministry of Culture, Media and on Ethnic Affairs of the Mari El Republic.

In the framework of this practice every quarter the following actions are carried out: meetings of the Governmental Commission on the State National Policy Conception of the Mari El Republic Implementation; meetings of the Council for Cooperation with Religious Associations under the President of the Mari El Republic; “round tables” with representatives of the Republican national and cultural associations.

The questions of interethnic and interconfessional relations, tolerance and mutual understanding in the society are examined at the meetings of the Ministry of Culture Board of the Mari El Republic.

In addition, the Ministry monitors the situation in the sphere of interethnic and interconfessional relations in the Mari El Republic. In this direction, the following actions are undertaken:

- analysis of public speaking of public persons, statesmen and organizations, analysis of publications in republican, regional, Russian and foreign print and electronic media, scientific publications;
- analysis of the print media circulations, book publications, dissemination and ratings of the electronic mass media;
- analysis of the situations in the field of national and regional education, culture, the use of the official languages of the Mari El Republic;
- participation, as well as the preparation and implementation analysis of the events initiated by national and cultural associations operating in the Republic.

Target programs widely cover the areas related to issues of interethnic and interconfessional relations, shaping of public tolerance, non-proliferation of extremist ideas, all of that provokes the positive result and stable situation in the Mari El Republic.

As researches by I.K. Trofimova show, the Volga Federal District (VFD), which includes the Republic of Mari El, is an example of successful regulation of interethnic relations.

In general, the state of interethnic and interconfessional relations in the region is stable. This is largely promoted by the equal status of the main ethnic groups and traditions of interethnic and inter-confessional cooperation. The relationship of the main nationalities of the region is not burdened with any historical conflict-generating factor. The relationship between so-called "titular Nations" and the Russians, together constituting the largest part of the population exert decisive influence on the nature of interethnic relations. They have no pronounced and sustainable mutual ethnic prejudices that is largely due to the common historical destiny.

Conclusions: the impact of ethnic and religious factors on the level of crime is not recorded, the information about it is not contained in any source. Most crimes are committed by persons in a state of alcoholic intoxication and are caused by domestic violence.

PROBLEMS: despite the fact that the increase in recorded crime reduced, increases the growth of juvenile delinquency, there is a so-called "drunk" crime, increase in illicit traffic in narcotic drugs.

10) relationship between different religious and ethnic groups

The most important indicator of interethnic peace in the Republic is the situation connected with intermarriages. Percentage of intermarriages within the total number of marriages throughout the whole study period remained practically unchanged and amounted to about 30%. In the Republic the following intermarriages dominate: Russian husband-Mari wife and vice versa. The second place is filled with Russian-Tatar and Tatar-Russian marriages, the third – Russian-Ukrainian and Ukrainian-Russian, the fourth place – Mari-Tatar and Tatar-Mari marriages. This indicates a high level of tolerance and fairly close cultural level of the various ethnic groups living in the Republic.

Opinion polls that have followed the study of ethnic and religious aspects of the Mari El social life note a tolerable level of intergroup relations. The studies of two last decades indicate rather peaceful interethnic relations in the region. So, from the point of view of the majority of respondents, nationality in everyday life is not an obstacle for interaction. For example, nationality does not matter: while communication – for 83,1% (2011); while choosing close friends – for 65,7% (2011); while working together – for 55,2% (2011); while choosing a marriage partner – for 56,1% (2011).

In 2011, 57,7% of respondents indicated that the national (ethnic) identity is important for them. Ethnic identity support is largely influenced by the factors such as family and parents (83,5%), social network (49,3%). Mass media as a source of ethnic identity support was mentioned only by 11,3%. The main joining
factors that the respondents called were the mother tongue (70.2%), folk customs (38.6%), historical past (28.4%), religion (20.2%).

Two-thirds of respondents answered that they have the greatest sympathy towards the Russian and Mari people, and a large majority of respondents (49.4%) indicated that the conflict initiation on the ethnic grounds is unlikely in the Republic. Moreover, 86.7% of the respondents rated the current relationship between the representatives of different nationalities in the Republic as good and satisfactory.

High language integration is present, as 99.5% of respondents speak Russian, 55.3% – Mari, 17.5% – Tatar. 51.5% name Russian their mother tongue, Mari – 33.6%, the Mari and Russian languages at the same time are native for 7.8%, Tatar – 17.5%. Most (86.9%) of respondents want their children certainly knew their native language. Besides, the majority is interested in the cultures of the peoples living in the territory of the Republic: 89.9% are interested in the Russian culture, 81.5% – the Mari culture, 49.4% – the Tatar culture.

According to 2011 survey, 66.4% of respondents said that they did not have any difficulties in communicating with people of other nationalities. Those who experience difficulties, consider the main cause is their ignorance of the languages (22.4%). The affront to national dignity is rarely encountered by respondents.

A pattern of intergroup relations among the youth is special. Results of the 2011 survey were stratified into three age groups: 1st group – 15-19 years old, 2nd group – 20-24, 3rd group – aged 25-29. Young respondents evaluated the relationship between different nationalities in Mari El as good and satisfactory (the first group – 83.1%, the second group – 78.3%, the third group – 90.1%). The vast majority of young people do not lay emphasis to the national affiliation of a person while communicating with him (the first group – 73.4%, the second group – 80.8%, the third group – 90.0%), and the most have no difficulties in communicating with people of different nationality (the first group – 61.1%, the second group – 66.1%, the third group – 70.1%). Those who experience similar difficulties said that the obstacle is usually the lack of language skills (the first group – 22.4%, the second group – 20.7%, the third group – 19.9%), as well as ignorance of the traditions and customs (the first group – 20.5%, the second group – 10.7%, the third group – 7.5%).

Nearly half of the young respondents believe that nationality does not harm collaborative work or study: the first group – 44.4%, the second group – 52.7%, the third group – 63.9%. The fact that the nationality also does not matter in friendship was proved in the first group by 59.9%, the second – 66.5%, the third – 65.8%.

Moreover, the majority of young people believe that when choosing a marriage partner the nationality is not important (the first group – 60%, the second group – 61.1%, the third group – 61.6%). A small part of the respondents considered such a marriage undesirable (the first group – 10.9%, the second group – 5.5%, the third group – 7.8%), and another part believes that their relationship will depend on the nationality of the person to whom they marry (the first group – 4.3%, the second group – 13.8%, the third group – 11.9%).

However, the youth is concerned about the future state of interethnic relations in the Republic. A significant proportion of young respondents found it difficult to answer on the ethnic conflicts occurrence (the first group – 41.3%, the second group – 35.5%, the third group – 35.6%). But there is a considerable proportion of those who deny this probability (the first group – 39.1%, the second group – 36.5%, the third
group – 44,5%). Only a minority admits the potential for conflict (the first group – 18,4%, the second group – 26,4%, the third group – 18,0%).

Young respondents less often than mature population express their negative attitude toward immigrants from other regions of Russia (the first group – 21,7%, the second group – 16,4%, the third group – 19,1%).

Importance of ethnicity and religious affiliation

Confessional composition of the Republican population has been traditionally represented mainly by Orthodox believers, followers of the Mari traditional faith and the Islam. Some Mari confess dual faith, i.e. compliance with the Mari traditional faith along with the Orthodoxy. In 2004, 51,1% called themselves Orthodox, in 2011 – 55,6%; followers of the Orthodoxy and the Mari traditional faith – 12,6% (2004), 12,8% (2011); the Mari traditional faith believers – 2,8% (2004), 4,6% (2011), the Islam – 6,5% (2004), 4,8% (2011). Belonging to a particular confession is defined by the ethnicity of a person: Russian believers are mostly Orthodox, the Tatars are Muslims. The Mari traditional religion is based on the faith in natural forces that man should honour and respect, so the traditional faith persists as a part of the Mari national heritage and spiritual wealth. Interweaving of ethnic and confessional relations requires social consent and mutual tolerance.

Regarding prospects of interconfessional relations in the Republic, 46% (2004) and 53,4% (2011) of respondents said that changes would not follow, and the relationship would remain peaceful; 8,4% and 6,1% of respondents talked about the possibilities of complications; others found it difficult to forecast. On the possibility of serious conflicts in the Republic on the religious grounds in 2011 52,6% gave a negative answer, 32,9% of respondents could not say exactly. Thus, a half of respondents believes that interconfessional situation in the Republic is peaceful.

In 2014, scientists project conducted two studies: a sociological survey students Mari State University and a questionnaire survey of experts by interviews.

According to the results of a sociological survey of students conducted in April-May 2014, revealed the following:

1. Every second student replied that he has friends - representatives of other nationalities (49%) of the respondents gave an affirmative answer.
2. Most of the students are satisfied with the fact that they live in a multicultural environment (38% - are satisfied, 34% - rather satisfied than not satisfied, 18% said - "I do not care."
3. Intermarried with people of other ethnicity agree more than half of the respondents (59%).
4. The majority of students (71%) have never encountered a manifestation of stigma on a national basis, (22%) experienced the phenomenon only occasionally.
5. 52% of respondents believe inter-ethnic situation is stable, 40% - estimate it generally stable, but do not exclude the possibility of conflicts arising from domestic violence. With the approval "of the possibility of inter-ethnic conflict" agreed to only 8% of the subjects.

Thus, comparing the results of the study in 2011 and 2014, we can see that in the Republic of Mari El has been stable in terms of inter-ethnic and inter-religious relations.

The 2014 expert survey in the framework of this project revealed the following results:

1. absence of significant differences in the situation assessment of the experts representing the four sectors (government, society, mass media, science);
2. majority of respondents (80%) evaluated an overall social and economic situation in the Republic as stable, normal;
3. 50% of the experts of the political and administrative elite distinguished power and political structures (government, parties);
4. among the most active in defending their ethnic interests were called the Tatars (30% of the experts), representatives of the Central Asia and the Caucuses (15%), the titular nation Mari and the Russian (5%);
5. 30% of the experts rated intensity of migration flows in the Republic as low/below average, 25% – as average, 10% – as intensive/high, the other 35% could not give such evaluation;
6. majority (85%) of the respondents deny the existence of xenophobic attitudes towards migrants and ethnic groups of the Republic;
7. majority (90%) of the experts called the traditional national holidays (Peledysh Pairem, Sabantuy, Russian birch) and the Days of national cultures as successful initiatives and activities aimed at interethnic and interconfessional consent;
8. majority (90%) of the respondents rated the linguistic situation as normal/stable;
9. majority (95%) of the respondents considered the religious situation in the Republic as peaceful/stable;
10. majority (85%) of the respondents deny the connection of ethnic/religious factors with criminality and the influence of ethnic/religious affiliation on interpersonal relations, stressing that “criminality has no face”, “there are no such nations, there are individuals”;
11. majority (90%) of the respondents noted the absence of ethnic/religious groups whose rights and interests are infringed in the Republic;
12. all the experts agreed the influence of the federal governmental policies on interethnic and interconfessional situation in the Republic, mostly noting its positive features;
13. 100% of the respondents rated the interethnic and interconfessional situation in the Republic as stable/normal, while 90% do not predict its drastic change and deterioration;
14. among possible destabilization factors most experts pointed cases of extremism, chauvinism, nationalism.

Thus, the survey indicates a stable situation in the Republic in the field of interethnic and interconfessional relations and the absence of obvious signs of potential conflicts on this ground.

The Mari El Republic is one of the first regions of the Russian Federation which adopted the target-oriented approach in the state national policy implementation. Work coordination in the field of interethnic and interconfessional relations carried out in the framework of the Governmental Commission implementation of the State National Policy Conception in the Mari El Republic, the work of the Commission on the State Languages of the Mari El Republic, the Council under the Head of the Mari El Republic in the interaction with religious organizations, the Advisory Council on Religious Associations, the Council on Ethnic Affairs.

In 2012, the Mari El government approved a new state program “State national policy of the Mari El Republic for 2013-2020”. The program is aimed at creation in the Republic highly favourable conditions to meet national interests of all the peoples living in its territory, to ensure their full participation in the political, social, economic and cultural development, to preserve interethnic peace and harmony in the region. Functions of programs implement, monitoring, regulation and coordination in the field of the state
national policy and interconfessional relations are imposed on the Ministry of Culture, Press and on Ethnic Affairs.

Within the State program "State National Policy of the Republic of Mari El for 2013-2020" sociological research on issues of national and confessional relations in the territory of Mari El is scheduled every two years.

Additions made to the Regulations on the management of the press and mass communications, in terms of monitoring of publications in print and electronic media, internet resources, in order to timely detect and prevent the cases of spreading the materials that are aimed at inciting racial, national and religious hatred.

In order to prevent ethnic and religious conflicts, combating xenophobia, Ministry of Culture has developed instructions for receiving information and has recommended the creation of a contact center (the "hot" telephone line) to receive information about the conflict. Currently, the department interethnic and interfaith relations of Ministry of Culture performs the function of the call center to receive information about the conflicts.

The system of public media of the Republic publishes: 4 national newspapers in the Mari language; 8 republican journals 5 in Mari; from 27 regional and city newspapers 7 Mari, 2 newspapers with liner in Mari and Tatar languages. Mari language is increasingly being used on television, on radio and on the Internet.

System that provides the interests of national and ethnic groups in the education sector is also stored. In recent years the number of students that study in their native language and learn their mother tongue remains stable. Training programs such as "Native (Mari), Language and Literature," "Mari (state) language," "History and culture of the peoples of Mari El," "Native (Tatar) and native (Udmurtia) languages" are conducted. In 261 educational organizations the course "Basics of religious cultures and secular ethics." is introduced.

Interregional Public Movement "All-Mari Council - Mer Canas" has been created and it works in the field of storing the native language and spirituality of the Mari people, the development of national culture, interaction with other national public organizations and associations.

In 2013, the Ministry developed the Recommendations for local authorities on the procedure for emerging conflicts identifying in the sphere of interethnic and interconfessional relations and actions aimed at their consequences eliminating. In 15 municipal regions and urban districts the Councils on Ethnic Affairs under the heads are formed, in all 17 of them the Councils on Cooperation with Religious Associations operate.

The work on the preservation and development of national cultures is executed by the Republican Centres of the Mari, Russian and Tatar Culture, the Municipal Centres of the Udmurt and Chuvash Culture in densely populated areas by these groups. At the initiative of the citizens in the Republic national and cultural autonomys of the Tatars, Ukrainians, Jews, the Ethnic and Cultural organizations of the Mari, Russian, Udmurt, Azerbaijanis, Armenians, Uzbeks, Bashkirs, Dagestan and other ethnic groups successfully function. Totally in the Republic in 2014 there are 32 national and cultural associations, 27 non-commercial organizations, 133 religious organizations, including the Russian Orthodox Church – 93, the Islam – 16, the Mari traditional religion – 5 organizations.

The system of state mass media of the Republic published: 7 Republican newspapers, 4 of them in the Mari language; 8 Republican journals, 5 of them in the Mari language; 27 regional and municipal newspapers, 7 of them in Mari, 2 newspapers with a loose leaf in Mari and Tatar. The Mari language is
increasingly being used on television, radio and on the Internet. The national electronic and print mass media carry out information campaigns to promote tolerance, interethnic and interconfessional consent and preserve ethnic and cultural heritage of the ethnic groups living in the Republic. Every year seminars and other training activities in the field of interethnic and interconfessional relations are held for the mass media representatives.

The Ministry of Culture, Press and on Ethnic Affairs of the Mari El Republic together with national and cultural associations hold the Mari, Russian, Tatar, Udmurt, Chuvash calendar-ritual and traditional festivals, events dedicated to significant dates in the ethno-cultural life.

According to the first ranking of international threats, conducted in the Russian Federation, the Mari El Republic is one of the prosperous regions, where interethnic peace and consent are preserved and the tendency of joint development and tolerant attitudes conserve.

Recent sociological research was conducted in the Mari El Republic in 2011 on the topic “Interethnic and interconfessional relations in the Mari El Republic”. The studies show quite peaceful ethnic and interconfessional situation in the Mari El Republic, for several decades interethnic peace and consent persist in the Republic, there is a tendency of tolerant attitudes.

11) associations and other organizations involved in the development of the dialogue between different ethnic and religious groups

The basis for the state government bodies and municipal units activities of the Mari El Republic during practical problems solving of ethno-cultural development, international cooperation and confessional relations is the State National Policy Conception of the Mari El Republic and the Russian Federation. The programs implementation functions for the improvement and development of interethnic and interconfessional relations, regulation and coordination in this field are assigned to the Ministry of Culture, Press and on Ethnic Affairs of the Mari El Republic.

Among the program activities there are not only traditional national and state holidays, various festivals and contests, but also seminars, educational, publishing and informational projects, projects in the field of language policy, education and etc.

The work on interaction with national and cultural associations is conducted. “Round tables” are organized every quarter with the leaders of the national and cultural social associations. At the meeting the issues of migration policy, national and religious extremism prevention, the application of legislation, regulatory activities of public associations, etc are discussed.

Interregional and international cooperation

The Mari El Republic pays great attention to interregional and international cooperation. It was the Mari El Republic which has initiated many common Finno-Ugric cultural projects and initiatives. Representatives of the Mari El Republic participate actively in the work of the International Advisory Committee of the Finno-Ugric Peoples and the Russian Association of the Finno-Ugric Peoples.

Several non-governmental organizations, developing the Finno-Ugric cooperation operate in the Republic: the Development Foundation of Finno-Ugric Peoples Cultures, the Friendship Societies Mari El – Hungary, Mari El – Finland, Mari El – Estonia, the Russian Association of Finno-Ugric Journalists, the Regional Branch of the Russian Association of the Finno-Ugric peoples, the Finnish Centre of Culture, Science and Education in the N.K. Krupskaya Mari State Pedagogical Institute.
The following scientific organizations work: the Institute of Finno-Ugric Studies, the Department of Finno-Ugric Languages of MarSU and etc. Together with the MA Castrén Society the Finno-Ugric and Mari projects are funded. Carrying out the work on interregional cooperation the Ministry thereby supports the Tatar, Udmurt, Chuvash and Bashkir diaspora residing in the Mari El Republic. The teams of the Republican Centre of Tatar culture take part in the celebration of the Independence Day of the Tatarstan Republic, the folk festival “Sabantuy”.

While fulfilling its statutory purposes to work with the Mari diaspora in the regions of the Russian Federation, the Republican Centre of Mari culture systematically conducts extra-mural activities in the Kirov Oblast, Tatarstan, Udmurtia, the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug.

Higher education institutions cooperate closely with foreign universities in the field of scientific events. Mari State University enables a remote learning course of the Russian language. Students are offered with a flexible program that focuses on the needs of listeners who plan in future to continue their education in MarSU. The MarSU International Office disseminates information and provides consultations on the conditions of participation in the programs, interacts with representatives of foreign scholarship programs in the Russian Federation.

The Interregional Open Social Institute holds refresher and retraining courses under the Cisco Regional Networking Academy and the Centre for International Certification “Mosi-IT Professional” after training programs: Microsoft Office, CCNA (Cisco Certified Network Associate), CCNP (Cisco Certified Network Professional) for professionals of the Russian Federation educational institutions with the international certificates awarding. In authorized testing centres Certiport, Pearson VUE, Thomson Prometric and TOEFL international exams taking are organized after the programs: Microsoft, Cisco, Citrix, IBM and of other IT-companies. Once a month international English exam taking is held at the authorized testing centre TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) on the basis of the Interregional Open Social Institute.

The Interregional Open Social Institute participated in the EU Tempus program, aimed at the development of higher education systems. Disciplinary area: “Information Technologies”. The talks with the representatives of foreign countries embassies (Armenia, Abkhazia, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, China, Japan, South Africa, India, etc.) were held in order to exchange students, increase competition of the Institute for educational services export in the field of higher education and global promotion of the Russian education.

International projects and international scientific events

The Federal State Budget Educational Institution of Higher Professional Education “Volga State University of Technology” (VSUT) continued working on the Tempus Joint European Project implementation “Qualifications Framework and Lifelong Education for Sustainable Forest Management”. The project consortium consists of 16 universities and organizations from Russia and 6 EU countries. The project concerns the harmonization of Russian and European educational standards in the field of Forestry Bachelor’ and Master’ training.

In 2013 VSUT representatives participated in the new Tempus project in the field of eco-tourism development (NeTour) together with the Universities of Spain, France, England and Finland. In 2014 in the Tempus project “Compliance Achieving and Verification of the Academic Programs to the National Qualifications Framework” (ALIGN_QF). The work on the international accreditation of educational programs in the field of Public and Municipal Administration in accordance with the European educational goes on. Joint educational programs with the Universities of the Czech Republic and Slovakia were developing.
Interconfessional relations. In accordance with its functions since May 2005, the Ministry of Culture, Press and on Ethnic Affairs of the Mari El Republic implements the state policy in the sphere of interconfessional relations in the Republic. The Ministry of Culture has established contacts with all religious organizations and maintains a constructive dialogue and joint activities with them according to the law on freedom of conscience and religious associations.

In 1993, the Russian Orthodox Church on the territory of Mari El to form the new diocese, to formalize its presence in the country. Organizational and financial power of the Orthodox Church provided her superiority in the confrontation with the representatives of paganism. Its main rival since the mid-1990s, becoming the Western Christian (mainly Protestant) sect, to combat which is widely used in the media, preaching, outreach clergy. Indirect support provided and the official authorities. Thanks to these measures of activities of Western missionaries in the country by the beginning of the 2000s, has been reduced to a minimum. This trend is typical for this time.

Major religions - Orthodox Christianity, paganism, Islam. Historical destiny Mari religion contradictory. Pagan religion evolved in complex conditions of struggle against Islam, forced Christianization, the struggle for the preservation of the identity of faith native culture and language. Despite this, Mari until today could bring their religion and culture in a relatively traditional form. In the formation of the world Mari played an important role has its own philosophy, folklore, mythology and religious-ceremonial presentation on . Despite forced Christianity and decade of atheist propaganda, Mari pagan faith to preserve its identity, providing harmony between man and nature. This religion elevates man has life-affirming character. Currently there peacefully among the Mari pagan and Orthodox religion. About 60% of the Mari hold simultaneously Orthodoxy and Mari faith in this category 80% of women. Orthodox religion called its about 40%.

On the state national policy implementation, cooperation with national public associations, extremism countering in the Mari El Republic

The Ministry of Culture, Press and on Ethnic Affairs of the Mari El Republic is the executive body which coordinates activity in the field of the state national policy implementation in the Mari El Republic. The Ministry prepares and carries out activities aimed at the preservation and development of traditional culture and language of the peoples living in the territory of the Republic, support of interethnic and interconfessional peace and consent.

The quarterly meetings of the following advisory bodies are conducted: the Council for Cooperation with Religious Associations under the Head of the Mari El Republic; the Commission on the State Languages of the Mari El Republic under the Government of the Mari El Republic; the Governmental Commission Implementation of the State National Policy Conception in the Mari El Republic.


The Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Mari El Republic provides subsidies from the state budget of the Mari El Republic on a competitive basis to the socially oriented non-profit organizations of the Mari El Republic to carry out activities aimed at the international cooperation development,
conservation and protection of identity, culture, language and traditions of the peoples of the Russian Federation.

Interethnic and interconfessional relations, like all social relations in the developing and modernizing state are constantly developing. These changes are of particular attention because of specific ethno-cultural development of the Republic and modern ethno-political situation.

References


Electronic resource contains information location of the Mari El Republic, States that it is part of the Volga Federal district borders on Nizhny Novgorod and Kirov oblast, the republics of Chuvashia and Tatarstan. Specify the Supreme bodies of legislative and Executive power. The authors give us an idea of the nature, specially protected territories, the economy, the environment, health, education and science PE-Ola.


The site presents the official statistical reports and basic statistics, the results of the National Census 2010, 2012 years.

The official website of the Government of the Republic of Mari El, the section of the Ministry of economic development and trade of the Republic of Mari El. [Electronic resource] - Mode of access: http://marioh/mecon/Pages/about.aspx

D.V. Hare, a Geography of Russia and neighboring countries. [Electronic resource] - Mode of access: http://geo.1september.ru/article.php?ID=200800704

The category is the candidate of geographical Sciences A.I. Hare, he characterizes the position and formation of the territory of the Republic of Mari El, the nature of the population; industry, agriculture and attractions. The author notes the challenges facing the region in view of its geographical position.


The book is a second, revised edition released in 2005 the collective monograph of the same name. It discusses the history, economy, material and spiritual culture of the Mari people. The focus is on the most important issues of ethnic and cultural development of the Maris. The new edition is supplemented by the results of ethnographic research scientists Marneuli in recent years.


Electronic resource contains brief summaries, General information, historical and statistical information about the country and its cities.


Electronic resource contains information about the results of a sociological research of religious consciousness of the population of the Republic of Mari El, which was conducted by the sociology Department of the Mari research Institute of language, literature and history named in honor of V.M. Vasiliev in 2004. The author compares the results of sociological surveys 1994 and 2004 and concluded that religiosity among youth over the past ten years is quite increased. This is largely due to the growth of religious consciousness of the entire population of the Republic of Mari El.


The author had used the documents and materials, which can be divided into several groups. The first group of sources are the population censuses and current statistics that allow us to trace changes in the national composition, find out the level of knowledge of the Russian and the national languages of the Republic's population, to track demographic changes, which occur on the territory of the Republic of Mari El.

The second group of sources are the legislative documents of the Republic and the Federal authorities that regulate inter-ethnic and inter-confessional relations in the Republic and in the country as a whole.

The third group sources include data current archive of registry office of the Republic of Mari El, which give the opportunity to evaluate the nature of interethnic relations through the promotion of inter-ethnic marriages. This group of sources reflects the ethnic identification of children born in inter-ethnic marriages.

Fourth, the most important group of sources, represent data etnosotsiologicheskikh studies, which were conducted in the framework of the General plan of the sociology Department of the Mari scientific research Institute. Vasiliev V.M. are the Basic materials of national sociological survey "Ethnic relations in the Republic of Mari El" (1994, 2001).

The abstracts can be found on the website of the Scientific library of theses and abstracts disserCat http://www.dissercat.com/content/mezhnatsionalnye-i-mezhkonfessionalnye-otnosheniya-v-respublike-marii-el-na-rubezhe-xx-xxi-v?_openstat=cmVmZXJ1bi5jb207bm9kZTthZDE7#ixzz38fvXoG8i

Sm. 7. The Institute of national culture and intercultural communication. [Electronic resource] - Mode of access: http://marsu.ru/units/inkimk/

Sm. 2. Results of 2010 All-Russian population census, 2012. Results of All-Russian population census. V. 4. Ethnic composition and language competence, citizenship. M.

The document presents the results of the 2010 census, indicating the population, their national origin, marital status, etc.

Information presented in the Portal GOV12, he is a directory of public authorities of the Republic of Mari El. On the main page lists all of the federal government and have references. Information posted on the portal Hey Mari is usually static in nature,


The site contains information about the geographical location of the republic, its boundaries, infrastructure, natural resources and minerals, population, language and religion.

16. Sm. 3.
17. Sm. 2.


The site provides information on all the regional authorities, ministries and agencies, the government, the allocation of responsibilities, plans and activities.


Electronic resource represents current research results and rankings of various regions of the Russian financial, social, industrial and other sectors.

20. Sm. 2.


Presents the passport program, which specifies the purpose, objectives, target indicators and indicators of the programme. As the main goals of the program are: Goal 1. The formation conditions for satisfaction of individual rights to religious freedom, creativity and participation in cultural life, the implementation and development of their ethnic and cultural identity. Objective 2. The preservation of cultural and linguistic diversity. The promotion of conditions for the study, cultivation and development of the citizens of his native culture and the use of native and official language of the Republic of Mari El.


The Law establishes the legal, institutional and economic features of the functioning of the education system in the Republic. The competences of state authorities in the sphere of education and measures of social support of students, teachers and other employees of the education system. The law provides for the continuation of previously established social safeguards for students and teachers. Special attention is paid to the learning conditions of persons with disabilities in General educational institutions. Are new rules on experimental and innovative activities in the field of education, information openness of the education system and other.

In the resource noted that at the meeting of the Government Commission on the implementation of the concept of state national policy of the Republic of Mari El, considered and approved the work plan of the Commission for 2009. Special attention is paid to the implementation of the resolution of the VIII all-Russian Mari movement of the Congress, the legislation of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Mari El, municipal legal acts in the field of state language policy and cultural development, improving the quality of on-air broadcasting in the Mari language and publication of national literature.


Published the main directions of the election Program of the Mari regional branch of the party "United Russia" "We build the future of Mari El!"


In the resource States that the Constitution of the Republic of Mari El is the Basic law of the Republic of Mari El, adopted by the Constitutional Assembly The Republic Of Mari El. Consists of: a preamble, which noted that "the People of the Republic of Mari El, through their representatives in the constitutional Assembly, exercising our inherent right to self-determination, confirming the historical unity with the peoples of Russia, claiming rights and freedoms, civil peace and accord, declaring its desire to ensure the welfare and prosperity of the Republic, to establish a legal state, which would ensure the rule of law as an expression of the will of the people, to develop a culture and economy in order to ensure a decent standard of living for all, adopts this The Constitution". Only in the Constitution of 9 chapters, 112 articles.


28. Sm. 9.


The author described the plan of the international and inter-regional activities, international cooperation of the Ministry of education and science of the Republic of Mari El in 2012, 2013, and 2014 and their results.


The author notes that in the Republic of Mari El is saved interethnic and inter-confessional consent and there is a tendency joint development and conservation of tolerant relations. For almost four decades has developed a practice of cooperation of the governing bodies of the Republic and researchers, in particular, sociologists to study the ethnic and religious aspects of public life.

31. Sm. 29.

32. Sm. 29.


34. Higher education of Mari El: status and prospects (experts) // Mari true. - August 26, 2014
The article presents the results of a sociological survey conducted by independent experts to assess the effectiveness of higher education institutions and the quality of higher education in the Republic of Mari El.


"The concept of development of education in the education system of the Republic of Mari El" developed in accordance with the Federal law "On education", the normative-legal acts of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Mari El for the purpose of optimization of educational activities in educational institutions.

In the "Concept..." presents the analysis of the current situation in the regional system of education, identified new priorities in education, adequate modern historical-cultural and socio-economic situations and regional peculiarities of the Republic of Mari El. The main provisions of the concept define mechanisms for education, socialization of students, reduce social risks.


In the legal rights of citizens in the choice of language, the use of languages in government and public administration. According to the laws of language in the Republic of Mari El is a national treasure and historical and cultural heritage of the country's population, are recognized as equal and are under state protection. Mari El Republic, provides care for the preservation and development of the Mari language as the basis of its entire national culture.


Electronic resource contains information about which place is considered Holy and why. Lists numerous sources, given their geographical position, explained, to whom I have dedicated this source and from any disease helps the miraculous water.


This website presents statistics for the year 2013, the first quarter of 2014 on the offenses of various kinds of crime analysis to the previous period. Describe measures used to reduce crime in the region.


The book presents expert analysis of the socio-economic status of the VFD based on relevant statistics and in-depth study of the characteristics of ethnic and confessional relations, including in the Republic of Mari El.

The author notes that the problem of interethnic relations in our country has always been relevant, but in recent years has become particularly acute. The paper analyzes the implementation of individual state programs. The author argues that the leading role in the formation of new, not ideological, but more viable and functional, the values in the sphere of interethnic relations belongs to local communities.

43. Sm. 30.
44. Sm. 30.

There was considered the course of implementation of the decision of the Presidium of the State Assembly of the Mari El Republic from 24 December 2013 № 1417, which approved measures to implement the Protocol decision of the Council under Plenipotentiary of Russian President in Volga Federal district on the issue "On implementation of regional programs, aimed at harmonization of interethnic and interfaith relations in the regions of the Volga Federal district". It was also noted that the implementation of the state ethnic policy in the Mari Republic is in conformity with the Federal legislation and national regulations.


The resource examines the main trends in the development of national relations in the Republic of Mari El, the principles of the state national policy, goals, objectives, priorities and governance arrangements of the state national policy in the Republic of Mari El.


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