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## Humanitarian cooperation as a factor in the strategic partnership between Russia and Germany

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## **Humanitarian cooperation as a factor in the strategic partnership between Russia and Germany**

Annotation: The main idea of the article is to describe the humanitarian relations between Russia and Germany, and as an example the cooperation between the Altai region and the federal Land of Saxony- Anhalt. The aim is to represent the difference of the meaning of such words as «humanitarian» and «humanitarian relations». The problem is that there are some differences in understanding of this type of cooperation. The author gives us brief information about the history of the German national region in the Altai region, its participation in joint projects with Germany, learning German language as a home language at the local and regional levels in German national region.

Today, foreign economic activity of Russian regions based on informal relations of Heads of State, on the voluntary participation in international humanitarian projects, on the presence of friendly relations with other countries, a partnership of large enterprises, there is general ethnicity and culture. Every Country has their own interests in different parts of the world. For example, Germany has its own interests in the Altai region. These interests are manifested in the creation of common projects, investment in Altai enterprises, sales of German products in the Altai region. But this economic and political cooperation could be more effective if developed and humanitarian cooperation between Germany and the Altai Territory. Humanitarian cooperation is one of the methods of the soft power. And the Altai region in addition to high investment attractiveness has another advantage - German National District (Region) , which was founded in 1990 and today is a well-developed infrastructure, in region people children can study in German schools, visit catholic churches and live in German culture .

Every country has their own interpretations of meaning “humanitarian cooperation”. For example, in the EU, is used to talk about human rights abuses and violence , the provision of emergency relief ( food supply , rehabilitation of health services , mine soils etc. ) . But this Russian it used to talk about culture and relationship between different cultures. In our (Russian) understanding of "humanitarian cooperation" covers an area of cultural relations, inter-civilizational dialogue and civil society dialogue and relations with compatriots abroad<sup>1</sup>. So in that case we will talk about relations between Germany and Russian locally.

At first we need to study the History between the German national regions in the Altai Territory and Saxony Anhalt

The history of formation development of the German national regions we can share in to seven periods : the first one- XVII - XVIII century. , The second - the end of the XVIII century. - The beginning of the XIX century. Third - XIX century. Fourth -1917 - 1941gg . Fifth -1941 -

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<sup>1</sup> Российский совет по международным делам // URL: [http://russiancouncil.ru/inner/?id\\_4=1859#top](http://russiancouncil.ru/inner/?id_4=1859#top) (дата обращения 12.02.2014)

1955gg . , Sixth - 1955 - 1990 he worked as the seventh - since 1991. today. Most favorable for the development period are the fourth and seventh . During these periods were created administrative units with their own governments ( in 1924 created Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic of the Volga Germans , in 1991 created the Azov German national district in the Omsk region and German national district in Altai Territory) . To date, these German national region of Altai has been active through the administration of the Altai Territory , as the only subjects of the Russian Federation have the authority to conduct international activities.

Creation of joint cooperation agreements is one of the most effective ways to agree on common approaches mutually beneficial cooperation. So between Saxony- Anhalt, Germany and the Altai Territory Administration in 2006 signed a protocol on economic and information cooperation. With the cooperation of 2011 was reduced to a cultural-humanitarian direction. But in 2010 a memorandum was signed on international cooperation and intention to conclude an agreement on the future relations between the twin cities: Belokuriha Bad Säckingen. Following the visit of the German delegation to Belokuriha in September 2011, a memorandum was signed between the sanatorium “Altay Castle”, a rehabilitation center and St. Vintsentius mayor of Bad Säckingen cooperation and intent to establish a joint Russian -German Medical Center balneological profile.

In 2012, were made educational practices for students of professional educational institutions of the Altai Territory together with the enterprises of the construction sector in Saxony-Anhalt. Students of Barnaul had the opportunity to get the practice in specialized construction enterprises in Saxony-Anhalt.

In the Altai region joint project of Altai State University and the University of Halle-Wittenberg "Kulunda" Research soil steppe zone of the Altai Territory. Altai State Agrarian University and Institute Hochschule Anhalt negotiating joint projects on a student exchange, research training of students and teachers, receiving grant support for projects in the agricultural sector<sup>2</sup>.

There are different types of communication, for example: different scientific and practical conferences, exchange between universities and countries, forums and fairs.

Between Russia and Germany in developing, maintaining business and cultural ties an important role of public plays institutions of culture the “Russian-German culture House”, created with support from Germany in 1998.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>Управление Алтайского края по обеспечению международных и межрегиональных связей // URL: [http://xn--22-dlci8j.xn--plai/representations/pologenie\\_germany.php](http://xn--22-dlci8j.xn--plai/representations/pologenie_germany.php) (дата обращения 25.10.13.)

<sup>3</sup>Культурные связи между Россией и Германией: прошлое – настоящее – будущее// URL: <http://www.germania.diplo.de/Vertretung/russland/ru/02-mosk/3-botschafter/interviews/2012-12-11-mgu.html> (дата обращения 25.10.13.)

In June 2013 in the Altai region went the 39th Russian-German seminar for young leaders, prepared jointly with the German-Russian Forum. In the period from 23 to 29 June the young leaders of the German federal states and from the Altai region got acquainted with the tourism and agro-industrial potential of the Altai Territory. During the negotiations, the Governor of the Altai Region Alexander Carlin got the agreement with Mr. Ernst (the chairman of the German- Russian Forum) about youth projects, including participation in an international youth forum management "APG. Altai. Points of growth ", as well as other events held in the Altai region, and to support youth initiatives.

German language as a tool of humanitarian cooperation and plays important role in the human cooperation.

In the Altai Territory there are a lot of ways to study German language for example in German culture development, operate various organizations, centers, foundations. For example: Russian - German House, regional and local German national-cultural autonomis. But most important role in development of Germany culture *plays German national districts*. Their special identifying feature is that they have their own territory, the administrative structure, which includes a number of rural settlements, they also have their own chapter, local government, their own symbols (flag, emblem). According to Olga Shadrina, article analyst in the magazine 's "Expert - Siberia": "*German national districts* were created as areas in terms of growth, future economic well-being zone. <sup>4</sup>"

In Russia there are more ways to learn German. These are the Regional German national-cultural autonomy (Regional GNCA) are this public association of citizens of the Russian Federation who consider themselves to the German ethnic group, two or more subjects of the Russian Federation. Authorities can create inter-regional coordination of their activities. These organs are inter-regional national-cultural autonomies .

Urban (local) German national-cultural autonomy (local GNCA) - it associations of Russian citizens consider themselves to certain ethnic communities. Local national-cultural autonomy are established at a general meeting (gathering) citizens of the Russian Federation, relating to a certain ethnic community and permanently residing in the territory of the respective municipality. The point is, that in Russia, in each region and district cannot be more than one regional autonomy<sup>5, 6</sup>.

Russian-German House - is a public cultural institution, which carries out the task of preservation and development of culture, language, traditions and identity of Russian Germans and

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<sup>4</sup> Шадрина О. Конец немецкой мечты. // URL:<http://www.bankfax.ru/news/30884/> (дата обращения 17.11.13.)

<sup>5</sup> Там же.

<sup>6</sup> Немцы новой России: проблемы и перспективы развития: Материалы 2-й международной научно-практической конференции. Москва, 7-9 декабря 2009 г. М.: «МСНК-пресс», 2010. С. 172.

functions while in a multicultural society in the region. Within the Russian-German House can work as a culture funds (commercial and noncommercial) or other public organizations.<sup>7</sup>

Almost all organizations perform the same tasks and functions, while non-governmental organizations, foundations and autonomy are not controlled by the authorities of the Russian Federation sufficiently. For example, on the basis of the Federal Law of 19.05.1995 № 82 of the Federal Law "On Public Associations", Art. 38, the control and supervision over the observance of laws by public associations of the Russian Federation. It just give the opportunity for the Russian-German communities to carry out their activities.<sup>8</sup>

The main activities of all Russian-Germany organizations are:

- German language courses;
- Libraries work, acquaintance with the works of German writers;
- Provided assistance in the implementation of the State Program "Compatriots", which aims to resettle people trapped after the collapse of the USSR outside Russia and want to move to Russia back<sup>9</sup>;

- Program "German Week in Russian / Russian Week in Germany", whose purpose is to promote cooperation among the leading universities of Russia and Germany. Who wants to build partnerships with universities in Germany, or organization can take part and make some educational programs and projects, cooperation in the field of technology transfer. This Cross program "Year of Germany in Russia / Russia Year in Germany" began in June 2012 and completed in June 2013. This program had a great slogan: "Germany and Russia: Together we build the future." The first part of the international program involves the implementation of major projects in Moscow and St. Petersburg. And from January to June 2013 projects implemented in the regions of the Russian Federation<sup>1011</sup>;

- Newspapers are published for the Russian Germans in two languages;
- Held various forums, competitions, meetings.

In the end of analyze of the Russian-Germany humanity cooperation we can make some notes, for example, that:

- Political relations between the two entities are supported by cultural and national ties;

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<sup>7</sup>Немцы новой России: проблемы и перспективы развития: Материалы 2-й международной научно-практической конференции. Москва, 7-9 декабря 2009 г. М.: «МСНК-пресс», 2010. С. 172.

<sup>8</sup>Распоряжение Правительства РФ от 21. января 2008 г. №40-р // URL: [http://www.consultant.ru/document/cons\\_doc\\_LAW\\_74289/](http://www.consultant.ru/document/cons_doc_LAW_74289/) (дата обращения 12.12.13.)

<sup>9</sup>Указ Президента РФ от 22.06.2006 N 637 «Государственная программа по оказанию содействия добровольному переселению в Российскую Федерацию соотечественников, проживающих за рубежом (далее – Программа "Соотечественники", в ред. от 12.01.2010)// Российская газета. – 2006. - № 5.

<sup>10</sup>Информационно-аналитический портал // URL: <http://russianweek-germany.ru> (дата посещения 17.11.13.)

<sup>11</sup>Информационно-аналитический портал [Электронный ресурс] РЕЖИМ ДОСТУПА: <http://v2.ulku.ru/statyi/1502.html> (дата посещения 17.11.13.)

- All conditions are for adaptation and development of Russian Germans. All activities are aimed at preserving the traditions and culture of the two countries;

- Humanitarian cooperation as a way to strengthen the social world being isolated from each other.

- A variety of methods for collaboration, allowing more fully learn the traditions and culture of the host country. For example: the emigration of Russian Germans in Germany from the German national districts, allows quickly and efficiently adapt to the European environment and their lifestyle.

- The German national districts affect cultural and economic development of both the district and the subject of the Russian Federation as a whole. However, developing the entire infrastructure: build new houses, kindergartens, schools, churches, roads.