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## The experience of implementing Soviet policies of assimilation of national minorities: application in contemporary public administration

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**Abstract.** The study provides an analysis of the Russian system of state governance of national policy, using the example of the Roma population, who are indigenous to Russia. The author argues that the prevailing negative stereotype of this people does not correspond to the real situation. The problem of social integration of the Roma population in the Russian Federation has been covered in research literature. However, the potential for transferring Soviet experience to the modern system of managing the social integration of national minorities has not been analyzed by the scholarly community. The aim of the research is to analyze and evaluate the positive experience of state governance of national policy in the early USSR and its application to managing the social integration of compact Roma settlements. The mechanisms of the “korenizatsiya” (indigenization) program for ethnic groups and some outcomes of this policy in the areas of education and social integration of Roma citizens are analyzed. The primary sources for the study include archival materials from the Central Executive Committee of the USSR, statistical data, academic articles, and current documents. The author introduces some previously unpublished archival documents into scholarly discourse. Using methods of comparison, analysis, and synthesis of sources and statistics, as well as interview methods conducted between 1979 and 2015, the historical experience is revealed and its application within the modern system of state governance is considered. The author analyzes common stereotypes regarding citizens of Roma ethnicity. The reasons for the loss of the positive outcomes of the Soviet experience are also revealed, contemporary mechanisms and problems of social integration in Roma settlements are examined, and effective mechanisms from Soviet practice are selected and proposed for use in the modern system of state governance of social integration for national minorities. The research results can be applied in federal and regional programs for working with compact Roma settlements.

**Keywords:** socialization, Roma, ethnic minorities, indigenization, state governance, USSR

**Conflicts of interest.** The author declares no conflicts of interest.

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## Опыт реализации советской политики ассимиляции национальных меньшинств: применение в современном государственном управлении

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**Аннотация.** Приведен анализ российской системы государственного управления национальной политикой на примере коренного для России цыганского населения. Автор утверждает, что сформировавшийся негативный образ этого российского народа не соответствует реальному положению дел. Проблема социализации цыганского населения в Российской Федерации освещалась в исследовательской литературе. Однако возможность трансляции советского опыта в современную систему управления социализацией национальных меньшинств научным сообществом не анализировалась. Цель исследования — анализ и оценка положительного опыта государственного управления национальной политикой раннего СССР и применения его в управлении социализацией цыганских компактных поселений. Проанализированы механизмы программы коренизации народов, некоторые итоги этой политики в области образования и социализации цыганских граждан. Основными источниками исследования стали архивные материалы Центрального исполнительного комитета СССР, статистические данные, научные статьи и актуальные документы. Автором введены в научный оборот некоторые архивные документы. Методами сравнения, анализа и синтеза источников и статистики, а также методами интервью, проводимых в период с 1979 по 2015 г., раскрыт исторический опыт и рассмотрено его применение в современной системе государственного управления. Автором проанализированы распространенные стереотипы в отношении граждан цыганской национальности. Также раскрыты причины утраты положительных результатов опыта СССР, изучены современные механизмы и проблемы социализации цыганских поселений, отобраны и предложены к использованию в современной системе государственного управления социализацией национальных меньшинств эффективные механизмы из советской практики. Результаты исследования могут быть применены в государственных и региональных программах по работе с цыганскими компактными поселениями.

**Ключевые слова:** социализация, цыгане, этнические меньшинства, политика коренизации, государственное администрирование, СССР

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## Introduction

The Russian public administration system has repeatedly undergone historical changes, including in the implementation of national policy. Being a multinational country, it is important for the Russian Federation to maintain internal stability and prevent ethnic strife. Meanwhile, conflict problems exist and require immediate resolution. From the point of view of the modern development of interethnic relations within the Russian Federation and the socialization of several national minorities, it is important to consider the experience of the early Soviet state, which, starting in 1924, pursued a policy of rooting out the peoples of the USSR.

**The aim of the study** is to analyze and evaluate the positive experience of public administration of national policy in the early USSR and its application in managing the socialization of national minorities.

## Theoretical and methodological basis of the research

The problem of socialization of some national minorities is becoming relevant and topical today. The main sources of the research were archival materials of the Central Executive Committee of the USSR, statistical data, scientific articles and modern documents. This topic was covered by some authors in the early 2000s. The works devoted to the history of socialization management mechanisms by N.F. Bugai [1], A.P. Kilina [2], and A.A. Gutsalov [3] are of interest. The problems of socialization of Roma communities were analyzed in the works of N.G. Demeter [4], A.I. Kovaleva [5], as well as young authors O.I. Gudenkova [6], E.A. Mikhailova [7]. However, we suppose that the possibility of translating the Soviet experience into a modern management system for the socialization of national minorities has not been analyzed by the scientific community. The author uses methods of comparison, analysis and synthesis of sources and statistics, as well as methods of interviews conducted in the period from 1979 to 2015. The author reveals historical experience and examines its application in the modern system of public administration of the socialization of national minorities.

## Results

In this article, the author examines the experience of socialization of Roma communities during the Soviet period. The author focuses on the Roma people primarily because the situation in compact Roma settlements has recently deteriorated significantly [8]. In general, the experience of the indigenization of small nations was very successful, although the ultimate goals were changed by state policy in the face of the military threat, the main tasks were fulfilled — by the beginning of the Great Patriotic War (WWII), the majority of national minorities had acquired the most important features of Soviet citizens: literacy,

collectivism, patriotism. The result of this policy was the socialization of various small peoples of the USSR: Buryats, Evenks, Yakuts, Gypsies, small peoples of Central Asia, etc. According to the results of the censuses of 1926 and 1939, significant progress was achieved in one of the main tasks — education. According to the 1926 census, the literate population in the USSR was only 55.5%, and by 1930 it was already 67.3%. In the national suburbs, for example, in Tajikistan, it was 2.2%, and by 1930 it was already 8.7%. Before 1926, there were only 72 literate Chukchi<sup>1</sup>, a quarter of a century later, over 80 schools were operating in Chukotka<sup>2</sup>. Among the Gypsies in the USSR in 1926, there were 5,076 literate people, or 8.3%<sup>3</sup>, as a result of this policy, the number of literate representatives of the population increased by almost 2 times by 1939 [9].

Translating this experience into the state of modern Russian national policy, the author wants to draw attention to the situation with Romani compact settlements, which requires increased attention from the authorities. Having withdrawn from solving social problems in the 90s, the state left it to the citizens to decide their own fate. And in a matter of years, many of the achievements of the USSR were lost. Economic crisis, social and economic competition, crime, negative attitudes aggravated the already precarious economic situation of the Roma communities.

The majority of the Roma population of the Russian Federation is indigenous. Most of it has been living on the territory of modern Russia since the 16th century, and in the southern regions since the 14th century [10]. Before the Second World War, the Gypsies of the Russian Federation were considered a small indigenous people of the country. During the Second World War in the western and southern territories, the Roma population suffered huge losses because of the fascist genocide. Therefore, the old-time Gypsy population, which was based on Russian Gypsies (Ruska Roma), had greatly decreased by the 50s. However, after the end of the Second World War, Gypsies from Eastern Europe began to move to USSR en masse<sup>4</sup>. Especially numerous were the settlers from Romania, the Kotlyars, who, as a result of centuries of slavery, were an extremely closed society and very poorly socialized even during Soviet times. Representatives of the 8 largest ethnic Roma groups live on the territory of the Russian Federation, which are very different from each other [10]. Therefore, the national composition of the Roma population of the

<sup>1</sup> All-Union population census of December 17, 1926: summary reports: in 10 volumes. *Center. Statistical Department of the USSR, Department of the Census*. Moscow: Central Committee of the USSR; 1927–1929. Issue 7: Age and literacy of the USSR population. 1928. (In Russ.).

<sup>2</sup> Rytkhau YuS. *The Chukotka saga*. Leningrad: Detgiz Publ.; 1957. (In Russ.).

<sup>3</sup> All-Union population census of December 17, 1926: summary reports: in 10 volumes. *Center. Statistical Department of the USSR, Department of the Census*. Moscow: Central Committee of the USSR; 1927–1929. Issue 7: Age and literacy of the USSR population. 1928. (In Russ.).

<sup>4</sup> Draft memorandum of the Minister of State Security of the USSR S.D. Ignatiev on the situation of nomadic gypsies and the state of crime among them [1951]. *The State Archive of the Russian Federation (GA RF)*. F.R-9415. Op. 3.D.1439:5-8. (In Russ.).

Russian Federation is very heterogeneous. The most socialized groups in society are Gypsies: Russka Roma, Sarva, Krymore, Kishinevtsy, Lovare and Lotva. The Vlachs and Kotliare are the least socialized, coming from Romania and Moldova. It is worth noting that Gypsies of different ethnic groups often do not communicate with each other<sup>5</sup>, their disunity is a great obstacle to interaction, making them socially vulnerable. Returning to the historical experience of the early Soviet government, it can be stated that not all Gypsies in the 1920s had Soviet citizenship, and there were also migrants from Hungary and Romania. Most of them were engaged in contract work and trade. So the Kotlyars traveled all over the country in search of work: to factories in Vladivostok, to mines in the taiga, and created workers' artels in cities [11]. And the authorities went to meet them in this. Old-time Gypsies who lived in large cities also joined together in artels. The plans of the artels were set high, but, according to the reports of the Central Election Commission, they successfully coped with them [12]. Rural and nomadic gypsies united into collective farms<sup>6</sup>. Collective farm movements were particularly successful in the Krasnodar Territory and in the Smolensk Region, where collective farms were led by Romani communist activists I.P. Tokmakov and M. Bezlyudsky. There were also failed projects. The main reason for the failures, Roma activists pointed out: the formal attitude of local authorities and even the sabotage of directives from the center, which manifested themselves in the allocation of land unsuitable for agriculture for the Roma, the lack of housing and assistance in its construction, the allocation of broken equipment and sick livestock, and most importantly the lack of mentoring in a new type of activity for the Roma population [13]. The successful experience was those farms where the local authorities approached citizens who wanted to embark on a new life path with understanding, responsibility and care. Historical experience shows that Gypsies flocked en masse to where government agencies dealt with them, rather than being abandoned to their fate. By the beginning of the Second World War, there were more than 50 Gypsy collective farms in the USSR. The leader was the Smolensk Region, with 25 collective farms, 9 of which were advanced<sup>7</sup>. The production activities of the Roma population, who worked on most Soviet construction projects and participated in the construction

<sup>5</sup> Oglà Andrey Montievich, born in 1963. Anfimova A.Y., 1980, Tula.

<sup>6</sup> Reply of the head of the GURKKA to the Chairman of the All-Russian Union of Gypsies. Reply to Taranov on the formation of the Gypsy cavalry regiment. *The State Archive of the Russian Federation (GARF)*. F.3316. Op.20. D. 653:22-24. Publ.: Electronic Library of Historical Documents. URL: <https://docs.historyrussia.org/ru/indexes/values/195499> (accessed: 12.04.2025). (In Russ.).

<sup>7</sup> A letter to the All-Russian Central Executive Committee, Department of Nationalities, from a camp of nomadic Gypsies near the city of Ivanovo about their desire to be settled, have a certain place of residence and their own territory in the form of a Gypsy district. *State Archive of the Russian Federation (GARF)*. F.1235.Op.123.d.28:368-369. Publ.: Electronic Library of Historical documents. URL: <https://docs.historyrussia.org/ru/indexes/values/195499> (accessed: 12.04.2025). (In Russ.).

of the Moscow Metro, were no less successful. In Moscow, more than 200 Gypsies worked in factories, and 30% of them were women [12]. It is noteworthy that many workers who had no housing lived in their tents right in the squares next to their place of work. Later, they were allocated barracks to live in. Gypsies worked in national artels, procurement offices, repair shops, and other enterprises. By the beginning of the Second World War, most of the old-time Gypsy population was a patriotic, well-educated part of Soviet society, which, together with all the citizens of USSR, stood up for the defense of their Homeland.

The author notes several important mechanisms of public administration in the early Soviet period. First, the young Soviet government did not consider the Gypsies as marginals and treated Gypsies as people who required empathy and understanding to help them change their lives for the better.

The Soviet government used the following socialization mechanisms: *prohibitive* measures (it was forbidden to have horses on the farm<sup>8</sup>); *stimulating* (loans, housing, rural allocation of land<sup>9</sup>, equipment and livestock); *agitation and propaganda*<sup>10</sup> (*explanation of a better quality of life, permanent earnings and other benefits*); *motivational* (incentives, awards, status enhancement); *cultural and educational*<sup>11</sup> (*involvement in creative activities, education*); *upbringing of children* (*children were sent to boarding schools and taught literacy and work*).

*First*, the success consisted in the interest of the authorities to socialize the Roma communities. For this purpose, not only goals and objectives were set, controlled by the party organs, but also *budgetary funds* were allocated.

*The second* important condition is the formation of national public cadres and movements. There was massive propaganda work among the Gypsies about getting involved in a better life. Gypsies were also involved in political organizations such as the VKPb and the Komsomol.

*Thirdly*, there was a struggle against nationalist manifestations on the ground, which also took place. Manifestations of discrimination and chauvinism were sharply suppressed, and criminal cases were initiated.

<sup>8</sup> Resolution of the Central Executive Committee of October 1, 1926 “On the registration of Gypsies wishing to engage in agriculture”. *Collection of laws and orders of the Workers’ and Peasants’ Government of the USSR*. Ed. 1. 1926. No. 67. 27 Oct. 508:1225. (In Russ.).

<sup>9</sup> Resolution of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee and the Council of People’s Commissars. On the allocation of land to Gypsies who are moving to a settled working lifestyle. February 20, 1928. *News of the Central Executive Committee of the USSR and the All-Russian Central Executive Committee*. 1928;61. March 11. (In Russ.).

<sup>10</sup> *Resolution of the Central Executive Committee and the Council of People’s Commissars. On measures to facilitate the transition of nomadic Gypsies to a settled working lifestyle*. October 1, 1926. (In Russ.).

<sup>11</sup> Resolution of the Central Executive Committee of April 1, 1932 “On the state of work on servicing Roma workers”. *Collection of laws and orders of the Workers’ and Peasants’ Government of the RSFSR*. April 1, 1932, No. 28, art. 203:352. (In Russ.).

*Fourth*, great attention was paid to education. During the period of Korenization, a Gypsy dictionary was created, printed publications and textbooks in the Gypsy language were published. This fact contributed to the fact that many Roma began to send their children to schools. Teachers at these schools were also trained from among young Roma activists. Therefore, the issue of personnel was in an important place — and this is the *fifth condition*.

As a result of the policy pursued by the Soviet government in the 1920–1930s, each district center had not only Gypsy production enterprises, but also schools, boarding schools, orphanages, clubs, theaters, and creative houses. By the early 1940s, the majority of Gypsies living in cities and rural areas had incomplete secondary education. Many had secondary specialized and technical education. Some are higher education. And most importantly, the former nomads began to feel like full-fledged and full-fledged members of Soviet society. These people and their children, whom they also tried to educate, created a solid industrial base for the country's Gypsy population after the Second World War, as well as the foundation of the creative Gypsy intelligentsia.

The Second World War destroyed much of what had been achieved in terms of the socialization of the Roma population. The western part of the USSR and the Roma population of these regions suffered the most. Roma survivors of the genocide, many lost their homes and jobs and were forced to travel the country again in search of earnings. In the Smolensk region, part of the collective farms was restored. The Gypsies who returned from the front worked in enterprises, agriculture, and labor camps. In large cities, the employment situation after the war was stable, as there were not enough workers, and most Roma were employed. However, the situation was complicated by the fact that people lost their homes, and as mentioned above, they were forced to lead a nomadic lifestyle, engaging, as before the revolution, mainly in contract work, trade and crafts<sup>12</sup>. To these war-deprived Soviet citizens, immigrants from abroad were added, and by the 1950s the situation began to spiral out of control. The impoverishment of any segment of the population contributes to its rapid marginalization and criminalization, which was noted in the reports of the Ministry of Internal Affairs<sup>13</sup>. Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR No. 5–1 of October 5, 1956 “On the initiation of Gypsies engaged in vagrancy”<sup>14</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Reference to the letter of Baranovsky, N. Kondenko and A. Svetlov. August 27, 1948. *The State Archive of the Russian Federation (GARF)*. F.R-7523.Op.40.D.144:319-320. Publ.: Electronic Library of Historical documents. URL: <https://docs.historyrussia.org/ru/indexes/values/195499> (accessed: 12.04.2025). (In Russ.).

<sup>13</sup> Draft memorandum of the Minister of State Security of the USSR S.D. Ignatiev on the situation of nomadic gypsies and the state of crime among them. [1951]. *The State Archive of the Russian Federation (GARF)*. F.R-9415.Op.3.D.1439:5-8. Publ.: Electronic Library of Historical documents. URL: <https://docs.historyrussia.org/ru/indexes/values/195499> (accessed: 12.04.2025). (In Russ.).

<sup>14</sup> Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR on the introduction of gypsies

It was decided to forcibly lay siege to the wandering Gypsies, and in those places where the decree found them. The law did not just oblige Gypsies to settle on the land. Local authorities were ordered to provide housing, loans for the construction of houses, land and jobs for the Roma. In those cities where local leaders approached the issue responsibly, the transition to settlement took place normally. The Gypsy elders of the *Kotlyarov* group gratefully recalled that they were given contracts and helped to build houses. In Tula, for example, where 4 camps settled, 4 blacksmithing artels were created, which received a state order for the manufacture of forged fences for the Central Military District<sup>15</sup>. Many Gypsies worked on state farms. The Central Asian Gypsies of *Lyuli*, who are in another country, longingly recall Soviet times: they all worked on collective farms, lived well, received regular salaries, had cars, and now they beg and collect metal [14].

By the end of the 1980s, the majority of Gypsies in the USSR had almost completely assimilated into Soviet society. There was a high level of education among the Soviet Gypsies. Many had specialized secondary humanitarian and technical education in a wide variety of fields. There were scientists among the Gypsies, not to mention cultural figures. Soviet Gypsies worked in all areas of the economy and were practically indistinguishable from other citizens. All this was facilitated by the policy of great-power internationalism pursued by the Soviet government [15]. The majority of Soviet citizens did not try to self-define themselves on the basis of nationality, but considered themselves to be a single Soviet people. All the above facts refute the prevailing stereotypes that all Gypsies are completely marginalized, parasites, dependents, and even drug traffickers. On the contrary, historical facts show that the majority of Gypsies in the USSR were hard workers.

This achievement of Soviet power was destroyed with the collapse of the USSR. The new state has withdrawn from solving many social problems. In the 1990s, there were so many problems in the country that the authorities were not interested in Roma minorities. The entire economy was collapsing, collective farms, state farms, and enterprises where many Soviet citizens, including Gypsies, worked, were closed. In the Smolensk region, veterans said that when staff was cut, Gypsies were the first to be fired, even despite their hard work<sup>16</sup>. In other words, discrimination processes have begun. Left behind by the economy, people were left on their own. The economic stratification of the masses has intensified the process of marginalization and criminalization of the population. Gypsies were no exception [16]. Moreover, they were not always well versed in the new laws, and they became the ones who could be blamed for almost any crime. Youth movements ceased to exist in the 1990s. Teenagers

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engaged in vagrancy to labor. October 5, 1956. *Leningradskaya Pravda*. October 7, 1956. (In Russ.).

<sup>15</sup> Bukur Vladimirovich Mihai, born in 1959. Anfimova A.Yu., 1979, Tula.

<sup>16</sup> Egorov Matvey Vlasovich, born in 1915. Anfimova A.Yu., 1994, Smolensk.

joined criminal groups and gypsies as well. In large cities, the situation was more manageable. But irreversible processes have begun in the regions and in rural areas [17]. People who are used to the fact that the authorities take care of them have lost confidence in the authorities, and Gypsies, too. Even though the majority of Gypsies in the Russian Federation still continued to work at various enterprises and began to develop their businesses, in the early 2000s a generally negative image of Gypsies has emerged in the Russian information field. This did not contribute to the socialization of densely populated communities, whose population, given the traditionally high birth rate, was rapidly increasing and becoming impoverished. During this period, a huge stratum of the country's Roma population simply dropped out of the field of public administration. There were entire villages of residents who did not even have birth certificates and passports<sup>17</sup>. The general situation with interethnic relations began to deteriorate. Since the local government authorities practically did not deal with the Roma population, the situation was catastrophic in some areas of compact residence, which was repeatedly covered in the media. It was only when the nationalist clashes began that the authorities noticed their shortcomings and began to take emergency measures to remedy the situation.

In recent years, the following mechanisms have been implemented in the public administration system in the field of national policy in relation to densely populated Roma communities:

- In 2013, a comprehensive action plan for the socio-economic and ethno-cultural development of Russian Gypsies was approved. It included a program for the education of Roma children. However, it had a limited duration and ended in 2015. The main problem with the implementation of the plan was the lack of budget financing.
- In 2019, the Federal Agency for Nationalities Affairs has approved a Comprehensive action Plan for the socio-economic and Ethno-cultural development of the Roma in the Russian Federation (No. 2738p-P44 dated March 27, 2019). The document defines the key areas of socio-economic and cultural development of the Roma communities, as well as their socialization into Russian society. In general, the implementation of this plan continues.

However, *the targets are not defined by the plan*. There is not enough statistical data. Most statistics are available from the Interior Ministry and are encouraging. According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, only 3% of Russian Gypsies are involved in crime<sup>18</sup>. According to the Federal

<sup>17</sup> A film about “invisible people” was shot in the Novozybkovsky village of Trostan. URL: <https://novozybkov.su/в-новозыбковском-селе-тростань-сняли/?ysclid=lnn0etgpqj898155712> (accessed: 20.05.2025). (In Russ.).

<sup>18</sup> Order No. 78 of the Federal Agency for Ethnic Affairs (FADN of Russia) dated 08.09.2019

National Cultural Autonomy of the Roma of the Russian Federation, at least 26 Roma public organizations operate in 23 regions of the country. All of them interact with the authorities. However, this is not enough yet, as the Ministry of Internal Affairs has identified 7,129 compact places of residence for Gypsies in the Russian Federation<sup>19</sup>. Consequently, the existing public associations are not able to reach the entire mass of the Roma population. There is no unity and complete interaction between these public organizations either. There are also no complete statistics on how many Gypsies live on the territory of the Russian Federation<sup>20</sup>. The 2020 census data is imprecise, because due to the negative image of Gypsies, many of them began to hide their nationality. There are also no statistics on the sectors where Roma work and on their level of education. There are separate scientific papers in this area [18]. But the biggest problem remains education. There are no statistics on the number of schools where Roma children study and the number of Roma children enrolled in them. Partial FADN studies have shown that the educational situation of Roma children in compact settlements continues to deteriorate<sup>21</sup>. This problem is being solved today mainly by charitable organizations and individual teachers<sup>22</sup>. However, the experience of their successful activities is not transferred to other educational institutions where Roma children study. According to the author, the problems are related to the lack of consistency in public administration in this area. Grant-based project financing mechanisms are mainly used, but systematic work and the allocation of appropriate budgetary funds are required. The national policy of the state should include not only goals and objectives, but also a set of interrelated mechanisms to achieve these goals.

The main objectives of socialization of the country's population are:

- improving the educational and cultural level of citizens;

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(as amended on 18.10.2019) “On Approval of Methodological Recommendations for Executive Authorities of the Subjects of the Russian Federation and local governments on working with the Roma population”. URL: <https://fadm.gov.ru/documents/osnovopolagayushchie-dokumenty/ normacts/file-download/96f1ctjxqyucq1rh8hmnpzxxyeunzx0q> (accessed: 22.05.2025). (In Russ.).

<sup>19</sup> The results of the study “Socio-economic, ethnocultural and legal problems of Gypsies in Russia”. Federal Agency for Nationalities Affairs. 07.04.2016. URL: <https://fadm.gov.ru/press-cen/tr/news/itogi-issledovaniya-%C2%ABsoczialno-ekonomicheskie%2C-etnokulturnye-i-pravovye-problemyi-czyigan-v-rossii%C2%BB> (accessed: 22.05.2025) (In Russ.).

<sup>20</sup> National composition of Russia 2024 (2020 census). URL: <https://web.archive.org/web/20241207102313/https://www.statdata.ru/nacionalnyj-sostav-rossii> (accessed: 22.05.2025). (In Russ.).

<sup>21</sup> Less than 1% of Roma children graduated from eleven grades last academic year. URL: [https://dumatv.ru/news/v-proshlom-uchebnom-godu-odinnadtsat-klassov-okonchili-menshe-1--deteitsigan?utm\\_source=rnews](https://dumatv.ru/news/v-proshlom-uchebnom-godu-odinnadtsat-klassov-okonchili-menshe-1--deteitsigan?utm_source=rnews) (accessed: 22.05.2025). (In Russ.).

<sup>22</sup> The Maloyaroslavets school has created special classes for Roma children. Kaluga provincial news. 14.12.2021. URL: <https://kgvinfo.ru/novosti/sotsialnaya-sfera/nasledniki-solntsa-i-vetra/?ysclid=mb1808d1119523540> (accessed: 22.05.2025). (In Russ.).

- legal employment and payment of all taxes;
- Participation in the public life of the country or the local community;
- full integration into modern Russian society.

The socialization of any member of society implies: equal rights for all members of society; equal level of education and employment; equal status of all citizens, respect for their personality and dignity; ensuring a decent standard of living [5]. In many respects, the current situation with the compact Roma population in the country is unsatisfactory. According to the author, in order to change the current situation, it is necessary to carefully study the experience of the Soviet management system for working with small nations and introduce them into modern practice.

1. The main goal is to solve the problem of children's education. In the early years of Soviet rule, boarding schools and orphanages were established, where Roma children were taught literacy and labor, and new citizens were raised. It is necessary to return the system of compulsory lower secondary education for Gypsies, possibly boarding schools. Payments of benefits to citizens with many children should be linked to these responsibilities — it is mandatory to send children to schools. On the other hand, children from poor families need to be provided with everything necessary for education at the expense of the state: uniforms and clothes. There are many different charitable organizations in the country that can help in solving these problems.

2. An important condition is personnel. The great educational success of the USSR was that in a short time the national pedagogical staff was trained. Children are better able to trust their teachers, especially if they have already experienced harassment or discrimination based on nationality. There is more trust in national teachers. This is important for elementary schools. During the Soviet era, a Gypsy pedagogical college was opened in Moscow and pedagogical colleges in other cities that trained teachers for national schools and classrooms. There is a human resource potential among educated Roma youth in Russia, which can be used to train primary school teachers for those schools where many Roma children study. There are teachers of other nationalities who have specially studied the Gypsy language to teach children. But there are few of them. Pedagogical courses should be organized for educated Roma youth and specialists should be trained for primary schools. It is also important to motivate them: to provide housing, to provide decent salaries. But first, it is necessary to study the needs for the number of such specialists. In other words, there should be statistics not only on compact Roma settlements, but also on the number of children in these settlements of different age groups. To date, there are no such statistics.

3. Professional training and employment are the final stage of socialization. And if the first part of it is partially solved, then the second part lies entirely in the

plane of public administration. Many enterprises and organizations categorically refuse to employ citizens of the Roma nationality<sup>23</sup>. This is discrimination based on nationality. Public authorities should tighten measures of responsibility for violations of citizens' rights to employment. There is a shortage of workers in various professions in the country. Working Gypsies work in agriculture and other industries no worse than all other citizens. Once upon a time, Gypsies were organized into artels, invited to factories to repair equipment. Today, it would also be possible to use their collective labor, for example, in construction and manufacturing. There are many welders among the Gypsies, who are so lacking in factories. In any case, an administrative resource is required to solve employment problems.

4. The main problems in the implementation of the program for the adaptation of the Roma population are that the socialization targets do not contain specific figures. Local administrations should report not only on the number of cultural and patriotic events that are successfully implemented. But also in terms of the number of children enrolled in schools and graduating from it, at least incomplete secondary education, because not all children graduate from school with a certificate; in terms of the number of those who have received secondary and specialized secondary education, various professions; according to the number of employed citizens of Gypsy nationality, etc.

5. An important direction in the socialization of compact settlements is the unbundling of ethnic enclaves. During the Soviet period, large families were provided with apartments and even separate houses. Today, the Russian Federation has mechanisms for providing housing for large families. There are separate projects for the provision of land plots and individual houses. In some regions, they began to provide housing to Roma families with many children, which caused a wave of indignation among residents. It is necessary to work with residents to clarify that certificates are issued to large families, regardless of nationality. And having many children is the main criterion in this case. But it is necessary to introduce a reverse responsibility for the upbringing of these children. As mentioned above. It is important to prevent manipulation of social assistance and introduce strict control mechanisms.

6. An important task is to overcome the stereotypes prevailing in society regarding the Roma. Meanwhile, many public Roma organizations are actively helping the participants of SVO, regularly collecting humanitarian aid. Among the Gypsies, there are both combatants and KIA. Not only art festivals are held, but also patriotic events dedicated to the Great Patriotic War. All this needs to be popularized to overcome the negative image of Gypsies. It is necessary to work with the local population to stop discriminatory attacks, especially nationalistic ones, to foster

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<sup>23</sup> Is it possible to get rid of gypsy phobia in Russia? Dialogue of cultures: materials of the round table, August 10, 2016. *Moscow House of Nationalities, FNK Gypsies of the Russian Federation, with the support of FADN*. Moscow; 2016. (In Russ.).

mutual respect among citizens. For this goal, it is justified to organize various joint events. Then the trust of the small people in both the government and the surrounding population will be restored, and more Roma citizens will become full-fledged and responsible members of the society.

## Conclusion

After analyzing the historical experience and modern policy of socialization of the Roma communities, the author came to the following conclusions:

- the majority of Gypsies of the Russian Federation, contrary to the prevailing stereotype, have not led a parasitic lifestyle for a long time, but were constantly looking for a living, hiring themselves for a variety of jobs;
- the early Soviet experience showed the willingness and ability of various Roma groups to work collectively and strive for a normal lifestyle;
- the mechanisms of state management of the socialization of national minorities of the Soviet period should be used as an example of successful historical experience in the implementation of current problems with compact Roma settlements.

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