## Contents:

1. Issues of Cooperation Between Russian Federation and European Union Member States in Frames of the 1980 Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction  
   by Aslan Khuseinovich Abashidze, Denis Andreевич Gugunskiy, Kristina OtarovaNekubia, Aleksandra Evgen’evna Koneva, and Alexander Mikhailovich Solntsev ... 333

2. The Concepts of Commercial (Trade) Law in The Legal Doctrine of Russia and Foreign Countries  
   by Olga Nikolaevna Amvrosiova, Gayane Yuryevna Atayan, Ekaterina Viktorovna Kasevich, Galina Viktorovna Stankevich, and Polina Nikolaevna Durneva ... 342

3. The Social Aspects of Pension System Modernization in Modern Russia  
   by Sergei V. Babakaev, Olga V. Kaurova, Olga S. Kulyamina, Alexandr N. Maloletko, and Marina V. Vinogradova ... 352

4. Strategic and Legal Alternatives in Case of Adverse Organizational Crisis Results. The Bulgarian Case  
   by Margarita St. Bachvarova, and Tzveta J. Zafirova ... 357

5. Novice Voters Politics Culture (The Study About the Orientation of Novice Voters Politics on the Election of the Mayor and Vice Mayor in Kendari in Year 2017)  
   by Unhalu Bahtiar ... 369

6. Assessment of Competitive Advantages of the Pavlodar Region and its Economic Strength  
   by Marat Asilbekovitsh Bayandin, Aina Serikovna Narynbayeva, Zulfiya Amangeldinovna Arynova, Gulmira Duisenbayevna Bayandin, and Roza Kenzheevna Alimkhanova, ... 380

7. Increase in Economic Efficiency of Irrigated Lands in Kazakhstan  
   by B. Bekbenbetova, B. Turebekova, Z. Rakhmetulina, I. Sembieva, and I. Gumilyev ... 397

8. Concept and Different Types of Restrictive Business Practices in the Legal Orders of BRICS Countries (the Case of China, India, Russia and South Africa)  
   by Ksenia Michailovna Belikova, Natalia Vladimirovna Badaeva, Evgenia Evgenyevna Frolova, and Mihail Nikolaevich Dudin ... 404

9. Localization of Subjective Assessment Risks in the Public Procurement System Based on Fuzzy Logic  
   by Kirill Anatolievich Belokrylov, and Lidiya Pavlovna Runova ... 411

10. Newly Discovered Circumstances in Administrative Legal Proceedings of Ukraine  
   by Olena Bielova, Yevgeniy Romanenko, and Roman Kaydashev ... 418

11. Improving Competitiveness of the Wheat Production within the Siberian Region (in Terms of the Omsk region)  
   by Igor Aleksandrovich Bobrenko, Oksana Viktorovna Shumakova, Natalya Viktorovna Goman, Yuriy Ivanovich Novikov, Valentina Ivanonvna Popova, and Oleg Anatolievich Blinov ... 426
Re-Industrialization and Innovative Development of Russia
by Ivan P. Danilov, Ekaterina A. Ilyina, Tatiana I. Ladykova, Natalia V. Morozova, Yuri G. Nikiforov ... 437

Self-organization and Self-development as Key Factors in Improving Productivity
by Lyutsiya Muktabarovna Gaisina, Marina Lvovna Belonozhko, Stepan Mikhailovich Kirichuk, Ekaterina Alexandrovna Sultanova, and Aleksandrina Yurievna Tumanova ... 444

The Organization as a Social Self-governing System
by Lyutsiya Muktabarovna Gaisina, Marina Lvovna Belonozhko, Andrey Viktorovich Artyukhov, Ekaterina Alexandrovna Sultanova, and Galiya Rashidovna Dallakan ... 454

Russian Regions in the System of International Cooperation
by Marat Zufarovich Gibadullin, Aigul Rustamovna Nurieva, Asiya Mirgasimovna Iljasova, and Farida Fargatovna Gatina ... 463

Territorial Imperatives of Industrial Production Development
by Natalia Nikolaevna Kiseleva, Anna Aleksandrovna Orlyanskaya, Azamat Borisovich Tlisov, Arsen Azidovich Tatuev, and Nina Rafaelovna Gukasova ... 469

The Problems of Economical Safety During the Formation of the Creative Cluster for a Region
by Alyona Sergeevna Koksharova, Elena Nikolaevna Vanchikova, Vladimir Alekseevich Ruban, Viktorya Matveevna Baginova, and Irina Arkhipovna Sharaldava ... 477

Some Aspects of the Formation and Development of the Jury in Foreign Countries and in Kazakhstan
by Galym Kozhakhmetov, and Manshuk Rakhimgulova ... 485

Provisions for Effective Development of Regional Agricultural Systems in Russia’s Economy
by Nikolai Ivanovich Kuznetsov, Nadezhda Viktorovna Ukolova, Sergey Vladimirovich Monakhov, and Juliya Anatolyevna Shikhanova ... 490

Information Flows Balance and Price of Real Estate
by Konstantin L. Lidin, Mark G. Meerovich, Elena A. Bulgakova, and Svetlana A. Zabelina ... 496

The Concept of Common Heritage of Mankind in the Advisory Opinion of 1 February 2011 by the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
by Siavash Mirzaee, Aslan Khuseinovich Abashidze, and Alexander Mikhailovich Solntsev ... 505

Applying Methods of Estimating Indefiniteness Conditions in the Context of Ensuring Economic Safety of Regions
by Anna Viktorovna Orlova, and Julia Vladimirovna Lyshchikova ... 511
Influence of Marketing and Advertising on Efficiency of the Pharmaceutical Distribution Services
by Nikolay V. Mordovchenkov, Larisa N. Mitroshkina, Gennady A. Tikhomirov, and Elena V. Panina ... 520

Assessment of Risks of Investment and Construction Activities: Russian Practice
by N.A. Osadchaya, A.D. Murzin, and E.E. Torgayan ... 529

Social and Political Processes, Socialization Institutions and Youth Policy Subjects of Modern Russia
by Nadezhda G. Osipova, Sergey O. Elishev, Gennadi B. Pronchev, and Danila N. Monakhov ... 545

Transformation of Traditional Competitive Advantages of Companies Within Ensuring the Economic Security
by Tatyana A. Polovova, Irina P. Gladilina, Yuri V. Gusev, Marina Yu. Pogudaeva, and Vladimir V. Kolesnik ... 559

Modern Russian and Foreign Approaches to Strategic Planning of the Regional Socio-Economic Development
by Vladimir Grigorievich Prudskiy, Grigoriy Alekseevich Demin, Andrei Mihailovich Oshchepkov, and Aleksandr Aleksandrovich Gershanok ... 570

Modern Russian and Foreign Approaches to Strategic Planning
by Vladimir Grigorievich Prudskiy, Grigoriy Alekseevich Demin, Andrei Mihailovich Oshchepkov, and Aleksandr Aleksandrovich Gershanok ... 570

Impact of External Labor Migration on Labor Market Development
by Maryia Igorevna Seredina, Galina Viktorovna Tretjakova, Tatyana Viktorovna Oberemko, Veronika Olegovna Kozhina, and Kostyantyn Anatol'evich Lebedev ... 596

Investment Valuation of Energy Efficiency Measures Within Mining Companies
by Igor Sergeev, Anna Mineeva, and Olesia Lebedeva ... 601

The Use of Special Knowledge in View of Investigation of the Crimes of an Extremist Nature
by Azamat Garifullaevich Shidemov ... 612

Dynamics Factors and Slow-Response Characteristics of Russian Trade Ties
by Natalya Yuryevna Sopilko, Natalia Anatol'evna Navrotskaia, Ekaterina Alexandrovna Kovaleva, Angelika Feliksowna Orlova, and Anna Vladimirovna Grigoryeva ... 625
Efficient Model of Economic Growth in the Conditions of Post-Crisis Development of the Society in the Republic of Kazakhstan
by Assel T. Uskelenova, Kairatbek K. Shadiyev, and Aidar A. Tatygulov

Crisis Management of Regional Development: Cluster Initiatives in Russia and their Efficiency
by Sergey L. Vasenev, Natalya M. Ovanesyan, Marina V. Rossinskaya, Svetlana V. Volgina, Violetta V. Rokotyanskaya

Current Trends Influencing the Competitiveness of International Tourism
by Svetlana V. Veretekhin, Alla V. Medvedeva, Mikhail V. Vinichenko, Tatiana S. Demchenko, Tatyana V. Karyagina, and Sergey A. Makushkin

Analysis and Prospects of Developing Higher Education as a Key Factor of Economy Development (Comparative Analysis)
by E. Yeralina

The Role of the Prosecutor in the System of Criminal Prosecution in Russia
by Magomedgadzhii Yu Yusupov, Bagavdin M. Magomedov, Bika B. Dzhamalova, Guseyn B. Magomedov, and Rasul M. Akutaev

Methodological Basis for the Strategic Analysis of Development of International Hotel Chains in Russia
by Natalia A. Zaitseva, Anna A. Larionova, Olga V. Skrobotova, Raisa M. Ivanova, and Oksana I. Radina
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Social and Political Processes, Socialization Institutions and Youth Policy Subjects of Modern Russia

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Abstract:
The relevance of the study is determined by the importance of modern Russian youth’s valuable orientations formation from the perspective of the state and public youth policy in the Russian Federation. Therefore, this article analyzes the implementation of the state youth policy in modern Russia. Students’ perception of youth social and political processes, social institutions and subjects of youth policy are estimated on the basis of original monitoring results. Questionnaire was a key method chosen for the case study. Presented results indicate that recent socio-political events have significantly changed the perception of social and political processes by the youth. Consolidation of Russian students occurred, a certain politisation was revealed, the growth of the youth national identity was detected. The need to active promotion of youth’s patriotic impulse and existing potential implementation is indicated. The article materials are of practical value for the specialists engaged with the socio-political and legal implementation aspects of youth policy in the Russian Federation.

Keywords: young people; students; youth policy; social and political processes; Crimean spring; patriotism; sociological research.

JEL Classifications: I28; O15; Z13; Z18.

Introduction
The most important social objective of any transformations initiated by the state is consolidation of the society, its individual social groups on the basis of forming the stable and socially significant value reference points. It is the young people who are one of such groups.
Classical sociology treats youth as a large social group having particular social and psychological traits, the existence of which is determined both by the age features of the young people and by their social and economic, social and political position, their spiritual world is still under rise, formation. Usually, the young people aged 16 – 30 are referred to the youth (in statistics, in sociology) (Filippov 1998). A relatively uniform part of youth, both in age and in social characteristics, is composed by students of vocational education institutions and higher education institution students, studies being their main activity, which determines all the essential features of their way of life (Bayborodova et al. 2016).

The total of individuals designated by the notion ‘youth’ and particularly the young students have social and mental qualities that promote a continuous active reappraisal by them of any values existing in the society (Elishev 2013) as well as their active participation in various political processes (Coleman 1992).

In its turn, a complicated and controversial character of the process of the young people entering an independent life generates various forms of youth protest, asocial ones included. So, the research has shown that under the influence of ideological vacuum emerging in the years of political liberalization a certain part of the Russian youth accept not only the ideas and principles of progressive political trends of today, e.g. social democratic movement or human rights one, but also the postulates of such deeply reactionary ideologies as Neo-Nazism and Zionism (Levashov 2004). Thus, the youth becomes a sure target of various manipulations (Roszak 1969, Elishev 2015b).

With regard to this, a focused forming of value reference points in youth gains a special importance; it occurs during socialization – the process of an individual learning the behavior patterns and mechanisms, social standards and values required for the individual to function in this society successfully (Goncharova and Pronchev 2015). ‘Socialization includes both socially controllable processes of deliberate action on personality (upbringing) and random spontaneous processes influencing its formation’ (Philosophical encyclopedic dictionary 1983).

The political and moral culture of the young people is known to only grow then when the state does not leave it for complete control of the grassroots ‘unleashed’ political passions but when it creates conditions for the said culture to express itself within an efficient social practice in a correct and precise manner while forming social values and attitudes which are relevant to its needs (Osipova 1985a, Osipova 1985b). Meanwhile, the range of these social values and attitudes is fairly wide, including the moral, esthetic, economic, religious, ideological and political ones etc.

It should be pointed out that the values largely depend on the social and economic condition (Sushko, Pronchev, Shisharina and Zenkina 2016, Pronchev, Monakhov, and Kovalchuk 2016), region (Sushko and Pronchev 2014), gender identity (Eagley and Johnson 1990, Mikhailova and Kaminskaya 2016), upbringing and religious identity of the youth (Elishev 2012, Elishev 2015a).

Forming the values (value reference points) in today's Russian youth, especially in the young students, is one of the major and priority directions of fulfillment of both state and social youth policy in the Russian Federation. So, the document approved by a special resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation ‘Foundations of the state youth policy of the Russian Federation for the period of up to 2025’ lays down a system of principles, priority tasks and mechanisms that ensure bringing the state youth policy intro life (Consultant Plus 2015).

In particular, this document provides for ‘creating the conditions for upbringing and development of the young people for them to be aware of and to exercise their constitutional rights and liabilities in a responsible manner, to possess a humanist view of the world, a stable system of moral and civic values, to show the knowledge of their cultural, historical, national heritage and respect for its diversity, as well as to develop the constructive interethnic relations among the young people’ (Consultant Plus 2015).

Thus, it implies a full-scale process of spiritual and moral, national and patriotic, civic, labor upbringing and socialization of the Russian youth. For the process to succeed, the values of the young people have to be continuously monitored, particularities of their perception of transformation processes taking place in the Russian society have to be identified as well as their assessment of activity of various socialization institutions and youth policy fulfillment subjects. This is going to be especially relevant within the context of the young people’s studying and evaluating the activity of various socialization institutions and youth policy fulfillment subjects after the events of the Crimean spring of 2014 (Diakov 2016).

1. Materials and Methods

Researchers at the faculty of sociology of Lomonosov Moscow State University periodically conduct sociological monitoring of the young students' perception of social and political processes, socialization institutions and youth
policy subjects in today's Russia. The results obtained by such monitoring surveys allow them not only to judge about the efficiency of activity of this or that institution or subjects of fulfillment of the RF youth policy but also to adjust the forms and mechanisms of fulfillment of the latter.

Another stage of the monitoring took place in March – April 2015 (Osipova et al. 2015, Osipova et al. 2016), with the monitoring object being the young students of years I through III of 35 higher education institutions of Moscow.

In the study, proportional sampling according to the type of the higher education institution and faculty type was used. The sample multitude was representative within the minimum permissible sampling error.

The sample multitude included 815 students of 50 faculties of 'arts' and 50 faculties of 'sciences' of the following higher education institutions: Lomonosov MSU, RANEPA, M.A. Sholokhov MSUH, MSTUCA, CDA of EMERCOM of Russia, RUDN University, MSUC, N.E. Bauman MSTU, Gnesin RAM, S.G. Stroganov MSAIA, K.I. Skryabin MSAVMBT, MSLU, Financial University under the Government of the Russian Federation, Academy of the FSS of Russia, BHSAD, I.M. Sechenov Medical Academy, IJLW, MGIMO, MESI, MEPhi (NRNU), MAI, MIIT (MSURE), I.M. Gubkin RSUOG, K.A. Timiryazev RSAU (MTAA), MIPT, SAU, V.Ya. Kikotya MU of the MIA of Russia, St Tikhon's OU, D.I. Mendeleev USTR, RCA, G.V. Plekhanov RUE, K.E. Tsiolkovsky MATI-RSTU, RFTA, and NRU HSE.

The research technique was based on polling, with questionnaire survey selected as the research method. The questionnaire contained questions aimed at finding out the students' political, ideological and moral values, their attitude to the current institutions of power, mass information media, religious denominations and public organizations. The students also answered to questions about the condition of the Russian state and society, any positive and negative phenomena present among the young people, they evaluated the security of Russia and the efficiency of the state youth policy.

In computer processing of the data, the authors used the technique having a strict mathematic probability justification, with sample estimation methods applied too.

2. Results and Discussions

The students' answers to the first questions of the questionnaire have shown that on balance the students of Moscow evaluate the condition of today's Russian society and state sensibly, with criticism and understanding the causes of crisis phenomena with which they associate the condition.

So, the survey has shown that over half of the students (57.1%) agree with the statement that ‘the modern Russian society is under a systemic crisis’ while about a quarter of the respondents (26.6%) deny the fact of crisis existing in today's Russian society. Meanwhile, 14.4% of the questioned ones said it was difficult for them to answer and 2.3% opted for the 'other' variant (see Figure 1).

![Figure 1. Proportion of the answers given by students to the question 'Do you agree with the statement that the modern Russian society is under a systemic crisis?'](image)

The answers of students to the question 'Do you agree with the statement that the modern Russian society is under a systemic crisis?' have demonstrated almost the same proportion as the one given on Figure 2.
Here, over a half (55.7%) of Moscow students agreed with the statement that ‘the modern Russian state is under a systemic crisis’ while about one third (29.1%) of the young people voiced the opposite viewpoint. 14.2% found it difficult to answer the question, and it was only 1% who marked the ‘other’ option.

**Figure 2.** Proportion of the answers given by students to the question ‘Do you agree with the statement that the modern Russian state is under a systemic crisis?’

The results obtained were compared to the results of previous surveys conducted among Moscow higher education students under the supervision of S.O. Elishev in November 2013 (Elishev and Talanova 2014).

The comparison enabled the authors to come to the following conclusions:

1. Just like in 2013, the majority of Moscow students (69.9%) agreed with the fact of a systemic crisis existing in today's Russian society and/or state. Meanwhile, the quantity of the respondents agreeing with the statement about the modern Russian society and/or state being in a systemic crisis condition changed little – increased by 2.7% (from 67.2% in 2013 up to 69.9% in 2015).

2. Quite a significant percentage of Moscow students (30.1%) disagreed with the fact of a systemic crisis existing in today's Russian society and/or state, which is in a sharp contrast to the similar answers obtained in 2013 (10.8%) (see Figure 3).

**Figure 3.** Proportion of the answers given by students of Moscow higher education institutions to the question about the presence/absence of a systemic crisis in the modern Russian society and state

The research has shown that Moscow students agreeing that there is a systemic crisis in today's Russian state and/or society think seriously about its causes. So, the first place among the said systemic crisis causes is occupied by ‘the mass media imposing standards of consumer society, American way of life, cult of money and violence’ (59.6% of answers). A slightly smaller quantity of students mentioned ‘lack of spirituality and departure from cultural traditions’ (52.1% of answers). Such cause as ‘a global crisis of political, social and economic, cultural spheres of life of the world community’ ranks third among the students' answers (46.2%), while ‘crisis phenomena in the economic sphere of public management’ – fourth (44.6% of answers). A bit over a quarter (28%) of students of Moscow higher education institutions believe ‘the destructive actions of ‘the fifth column’
(internal enemies, traitors) within Russia’ to be the cause of the crisis of today's Russian society and/or state. 9.4% of the young people gave other causes and 4.9% found it difficult to answer the question (see Table 1).

Table 1. Proportion of the answers given by students of Moscow higher education institutions to the question ‘What do you think are the causes of such a crisis?’

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer options</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The mass media imposing standards of consumer society, ‘American way of life’, cult of money and violence</td>
<td>59.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of spirituality and departure from cultural traditions</td>
<td>52.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A global crisis of political, social and economic, cultural spheres of life of the world community</td>
<td>46.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crisis phenomena in the economic sphere of public management</td>
<td>44.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The destructive actions of ‘the fifth column’ (internal enemies, traitors) within Russia</td>
<td>28.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other causes</td>
<td>9.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is difficult for me to answer</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The comparison with 2013 data has shown that the quantity of the respondents associating the systemic crisis of today's Russian society and/or state with the mass media imposing standards of consumer society, ‘American way of life’, cult of money and violence got 3% higher, with the cause still leading among the suggested answer options.

Just like in 2013, the cause associated with lack of spirituality and departure from cultural traditions ranks second (according to the incidence of answers). In particular, the quantity of the young people selecting the cause as the main one increased by 18.8% (from 33.3% in 2013 up to 52.1% in 2015).

On the whole, it is 19.7% (from 8.3% in 2013 up to 28% in 2015) that was the growth of the quantity of students believing the destructive actions of ‘the fifth column’ (internal enemies, traitors) within Russia to be a cause of the systemic crisis of today’s Russian society and/or state.

As for the young people having difficulty answering this question, their percentage decreased by over 10% (from 15% in 2013 up to 4.9% in 2015), while there was a 3% increase in the quantity of the young people giving other answers to the set question (from 6.4% in 2013 up to 9.4% in 2015).

The students' answers to the questions ‘What do you consider to pose the greatest threat for the security of Russia?’ were distributed as follows. About two thirds (59%) of the young people named corruption at various levels of the government as the main threat for the security of Russia. 21.5% said it was stratification of the society into the rich and the poor. 19.6% believed it was the ‘fifth column’ acting and 16.6% of the students gave their own answer variants.

Figure 4. Proportion of the answers given by students of Moscow higher education institutions to the question ‘What do you consider to pose the greatest threat for the security of Russia?’

Sociological studies conducted at the beginning of the 21st century have shown that the Russian society has constantly suffered from a lack of moral reference points, values and behavior patterns rather than social,
economic and political ones (Levashov 2004). To a great extent, this was associated with devaluation of functional role of the traditional institutions that had to influence forming of the society's value reference points. This research has shown that nowadays the role of various social institutions and mechanisms acting on forming of the modern Russian young people's value reference points has increased considerably. With regard to this, the leading position is occupied by the mass media (78% of the answers). The institution of family ranks second in the quantity of answers (74.7%), with the education system ranking third (55.3%). According to the students, quite a high role in the process is played by public associations and organizations (30.1% of the answers), by traditional religious denominations (Orthodox Christianity, Islam, Buddhism and Judaism) and organizations (21.2% of the answers), as well as by state authorities and local self-government bodies (16.6% of the answers). Large business organizations and corporations were singled out by 9.9% of the respondents, with 7.7% mentioning the army. (See Figure 5).

**Figure 5.** Proportion of the answers given by students to the question 'What institutions of today's society influence the forming of value reference points in the modern Russian youth the most efficiently?'

As compared to the results of the 2013 study, the hierarchy of the said institutions remained almost the same in the students' public opinion: it is only the large business organizations and corporations and the army that have swapped places. However, the percentage of students considering mass media to exercise the most efficient action on the forming of value reference points in today's Russian youth grew up significantly, by 16.1%. Quite a serious increase – 19.7% – was demonstrated by the quantity of students believing it to be the institution of family that influences the forming of value reference points in the modern Russian youth the most efficiently. Similarly (by 19.2%), the attitude to the role of the education system changed, by 8.7% – of public associations and organizations, by 5% – of traditional religious denominations (Orthodox Christianity, Islam, Buddhism and Judaism) and organizations, by 5.5% – to the role of the state authorities and local self-government bodies, and by 4.5% – to that of the large business organizations and corporations. The attitude to the army as an institution influencing the forming of value reference points in the modern Russian youth the most efficiently remained virtually the same.

In fact, the contemporary realia confirm the increasing role of the mass media in forming of not only the public opinion but also some deeper elements of people's view of the world, their value reference points. With regard to this, Moscow students were asked the question: ‘What value reference points do you think the federal mass information media are trying to form?’. Their answers to the question were distributed as follows.

According to the students of Moscow higher education institutions, the federal mass media are currently forming the following value reference points:

- patriotism (58.7% of the answers);
- consumerism (47.7% of the answers);
- the cult of money (47.2% of the answers);
- healthy lifestyle (33.6% of the answers);
- adoption of Western lifestyles (31.5% of the answers);
- sexual promiscuity (25.7% of the answers);
- family welfare (20.8% of the answers) (see Figure 6).
When comparing the figures to the results of the study conducted in 2013, it is notable that the students’ appraisal of the federal mass media activity changed to a positive side in a number of aspects. So, among the value reference points formed by the federal mass media, the students also place patriotism (58.7% of the answers) in the first place, which is 38.4% higher than in 2013 (20.3%). The second place is occupied by consumerism (47.7% of the answers) but this is 10.8% lower than in 2013 (58.5% of the answers). The third place is given to the cult of money (47.2% of the answers), which again is 22.3% lower than in 2013 (69.5% of the answers). Healthy lifestyle ranks fourth (33.6% of the answers), being 10.6% higher than the 2013 figure (health — 23% of the answers). Adoption of Western lifestyles got the fifth place (31.5% of the answers), i.e. 20.5% lower than in 2013 (52% of the answers).

**Figure 6.** Proportion of the answers given by students of Moscow higher education institutions to the question ‘What value reference points are the mass media trying to form in today’s Russian youth?’

The students rank sexual promiscuity to be the sixth (25.7% of the answers), i.e. 35.6% lower (sex — 61.3% of the answers), family welfare — the seventh (20.8% of the answers), which is 3.8% higher (family — 17% of the answers), and the propensity to violence occupies the eighth place (20.3% of the answers), that is, 23.2% lower (violence — 43.5% of the answers) than in 2013.

Egoism ranks ninth (19.3%), which is 27% lower than in 2013 (46.3%). Diligence won the tenth place (18.1% of the answers) getting up by 4.3% as compared to 2013 (work — 13.8%). Faith occupies the eleventh place (18.1% of the answers), being 8.1% more (10% of the answers). Kindness ranks twelfth (13.4% of the answers), being 2.9% higher than in 2013 (10.5% of the answers). The thirteenth place is occupied by agape (11.6% of the answers), by contrast to 2013 (charity — 21% of the answers), going 9.4% down. 2.1% of students (which is 1.1% more than in 2013 — 1% of the answers) were at a loss to answer while 5% of the young people, i.e. 3.2% higher than in 2013 (1.8%) gave other answers.

A special place in this research was given to the students’ evaluation of any socially positive and negative phenomena among the young people. Patriotism was selected as the socially positive phenomenon. In fact, as this survey has shown, the vast majority of Moscow students (85.5%) have a positive attitude to patriotism. This
is 6.6% higher than in 2013 (78.9%). 5.3% of the respondents expressed their negative attitude to patriotism, which is 3.3% lower than in 2013 (8.6%). For 9.2% of the respondents (3.3% fewer than in 2013 (12.5%)) it was difficult to voice their attitude to patriotism. Therefore, there is a positive dynamics in perception of this phenomenon, which can be explained by the events of 2014 – 2015 as well as by the aggressive policy of a number of the Western powers towards Russia.

Such dynamics seems especially valuable, because it is very often that national and state, social and political values go to the background in the people’s consciousness yielding to some focused pecuniary interests. This happens due to a nosedive of the citizens’ trust for the state and its policy – the trust, which used to be there in the years of radical liberal reforms, as reduction of the state involvement into political consciousness and patriotism of the Russian population proceeded violently. According to the researchers, in the early 20\textsuperscript{th} century, ‘the society and its experts had a formed and quite determined viewpoint on who it was whose interests were expressed and protected by the Russian state’ (Levashov 2006). Patriotism as a social and political phenomenon expresses the people’s attitude to the country, states, its leaders, to the power and the society as a whole. Patriotism is also understood as a social and moral principle characterizing the citizens’ attitude to their country. In life, the attitude manifests itself in a complex set of feelings, knowledge, value reference points, attitudes, and actions, usually voiced as love for one’s Motherland. In its turn, love for the Motherland is deemed to be ‘care for the interests and the historical destiny of one’s own country, pride of its achievements and criticism of its disadvantages, compassion with the people’s sufferings and social needs, respect for the historical past and traditions of one’s Motherland; affection for the place of birth, residence – the so-called love for one’s home and hearth; readiness for self-sacrifice, for fighting the Motherland’s enemies, defense of its interests’ (Levashov 2006).

It is these values that make up the core of patriotism in today’s Russian society. It is them that the students most likely mean when ticking off the ‘patriotism’ box.

Meanwhile, the answers characterizing the students’ attitude to socially negative phenomena among the young people raise a serious concern. This is the positive evaluation given by Moscow higher education institution students to such traditionally negative phenomena as:

- careerism (58.1% of the answers), although this is 6.1% fewer than in 2013 (64.2% of the answers);
- conformism (41.9% of the answers), although this is 4.7% fewer than in 2013 (46.6% of the answers);
- extramarital sex (33.6% of the answers) – almost the same as in 2013 (33.8%). Idle lifestyle (25%) and consumerism (23.6%) are not particularly rejected by the students, with a rather high percentage of ones finding it difficult to evaluate these and other negative phenomena (see Figure 7).

Evidently, a great part of today’s young people do not understand the negative semantic load of such categories as careerism and conformism believing them to be just a way of getting a job promotion and perceiving them positively.
This research also revealed the students’ attitude to the activity of various state and political figures. The answers given by students of Moscow higher education institutions to the question ‘Do you approve of the activity of the following state and political figures?’ were distributed as follows.

Among the state and political figures, the RF President (V.V. Putin) wins the greatest trust with the young people. He got 81.2% of the positive answers, i.e. 17 more than in 2013 (64.2% of the answers). 7.5% of the students disapprove of the RF President’s activity and this is 11.4% lower than in 2013 (18.9% of the answers). Meanwhile, 11.3% had difficulty answering the set question, which is 5.6% lower than in 2013 (16.9%).

The Minister of the Foreign Affairs of the RF, S.V. Lavrov, is the second popular with the students (67.4% of the answers) among the Russian state and political figures, with the Minister of Defense of the RF (S.K. Shoigu) ranking third (64.9% of the answers). According to the questioned students, the fourth place (53.3%) was given to the Mayor of Moscow (S.S. Sobyanin).

The Prime Minister (Chairman of the RF Government), D.A. Medvedev, occupies the fifth place according to his popularity with students among the Russian state and political figures (38.5% of the answers). The sixth place with 38.3% of the answers belongs to the Minister of Culture of the RF (V.R. Medinsky). Finally, the Minister of Education and Science of the RF (D.V. Livanov) rank seventh and the last according to the quantity of positive answers, 20%.

While analyzing the results of answering this question, it can be suggested that the trust rating of the RF President (V.V. Putin) has grown considerably against the background of the 2014 – 2015 events (reunion of the
Crimea and Sevastopol with Russia, aggravation of geopolitical situation, media and economic war against Russia). The same holds true about the ministers taking the most active part in solving a wide scope of problems (the Minister of the Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Defense) related to the said events.

Figure 8. Proportion of the answers given by students of Moscow higher education institutions to the question ‘Do you approve of the activity of the following state and political figures?’

The ratings of the Chairman of the Government, Minister of Culture, Minister of Education and Science of the RF are essentially lower as their role in the said events is considerably lower too, and so is the mass media attention to their activity. On balance, a positive attitude to the work of the Mayor of Moscow can be viewed as a result of his positive actions for improvement of the city (see Figure 8).

A consistent socialization of youth is impossible without the state, religious, social and political institutions participating in the process, which is embodied in the activity of the law enforcement authorities, trade unions, political parties and movements etc. The analysis of the students’ answers to the question ‘Do you approve of the activity of the following state, religious, social and political institutions?’ has allowed the authors to state the following. Among the state, religious, social and political institutions, the greatest trust in the young people is raised by the traditional for Russia religious denominations (Orthodox Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Judaism) and their organizations. For instance, the activity of the institutions is approved by 59.8% of Moscow students, which is 1.7% more than in 2013 (58.1% of the answers). 20.7%, of the respondents, i.e. 2.1% more than in 2013 (18.6%), disapprove of their activity; and for 19.6% of the questioned ones – 3.7% fewer than in 2013 (23.3%) – it was difficult to answer.

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As compared to the results of the study conducted in 2013, notably, the religious institutions ranked second in popularity in 2013, only yielding to the president power institution. However, with a clear personification of the RF President's institution associated with the person of V.V. Putin taking place in the said year, this answer option was excluded from the set of answers in 2015, so the traditional for Russia religious denominations and their organizations won the first place in the quantity of liking on the part of Moscow students.

56.7% of the young people approve of the institution of state, getting to the second place according to the total of the students’ answers. Nevertheless, 14% of the students disapprove of the activity of the state and almost one third of them — 29.3% — cannot determine their standpoint.
Occupying the fourth place in 2013, the army institution ranks third according to the quantity of answers (56.7%, which is 7.4% higher than in 2013 (49.3%)). Law enforcement authorities (ranking nine in 2013) occupy the fourth place with 42.3% of the answers, making 9.2% more than in 2013 (33.1% of the answers).

Just like they used to, large economic entities (corporations) get the fifth place with students (40.2% of the answers, which is 3.7% lower than in 2013, 43.9% of the answers). Similarly to 2013, the questioned ones put the trade unions to the sixth place (39.7% of the answers). Courts occupy the seventh place (36.2% of the answers), i.e. 7% higher than in 2013 (29.2% - twelfth). The respondents ranked the political parties and organizations eighth (33.5%, getting 1.6% more than in 2013 (31.9%), when they went to the ninth place) and the mass media – ninth (31.2% of the answers), with their doing 2.6% less than in 2013 (33.8% of the answers). The last place (tenth) belongs to the non-traditional for Russia religious associations and organizations (sects). In particular, 81.8% of the young people disapprove of their activity in Russia and it is only 7% of Moscow students who approve their being active in Russia (see Figure 9).

Trust of the young people for the traditional for Russia religious denominations and organizations, for the state, the army, law enforcement authorities, other basic institutions of today's Russian society is a major factor in the process of socialization of the modern Russian youth. The factor gives indirect evidence about a certain political engagement of the Russian young students as well as about the growth of their national self-consciousness. However, the same is confirmed by their mistrust for the non-traditional for Russia religious associations and organizations (sects).

The consistent socialization of youth and efficient youth policy are impossible without the state, religious, social and political institutions participating in the process, which is embodied in the activity of the law enforcement authorities, trade unions, political parties and movements etc. The young people's trust for the activity of such institutions is an important indicator of their performance in this direction. And, as the questionnaire survey results show, many institutions have yet to win this trust, with others having to justify it completely.

Figure 9. Proportion of the answers given by students to the question 'Do you approve of the activity of the following state, religious, social and political institutions?'
Despite the very patriotic and optimistic moods of the young students (that were confirmed by the surveys of 2013 and 2015), it is crucial to understand how socially active the youth is and whether they want to contribute to the revival of Russia. This research has shown forecasts concerning this may well be positive.

So, by contrast to 2013, the quantity of the young people thinking that today's Russian youth can contribute to the revival of Russia went 27.3% higher (from 44.1% of answers in 2013 up to 71.4% in 2015). At the same time, the percentage of the young people saying the modern youth of Russia cannot do this decreased by 14.4% (from 28.7% in 2013 up to 14.3% in 2015). So did the quantity of students finding it difficult to answer the question – by 9.8% (from 19.9% in 2013 up to 10.1% in 2015). A reduction of 3.3% (from 7.4% in 2013 up to 4.1% in 2015) was seen in the share of students marking the ‘other’ option (See Figure 10).

Figure 10. Proportion of the answers given by students of Moscow higher education institutions to the question ‘Do you think the modern Russian youth can contribute to the revival of Russia?’

Conclusion

On balance, it can be stated with confidence that the events which took place in 2014 – 2015 (coup d'état in the Ukraine, reunion of the Crimea and Sevastopol with the Russian Federation, aggravation of geopolitical situation, media and economic war against Russia) have consolidated the nation, have boosted the growth of national self-consciousness and a patriotic upturn among the young people, in particular, among the students of Moscow higher education institutions.

In particular, a positive behavior of evaluation of various phenomena and institutions found during the research gives evidence about a certain political engagement of the Russian young students and growth of their national self-consciousness. The dynamics and the positive trends mentioned above could be a result of successful youth outreach conducted by various state, religious and social institutions. Preliminary studies conducted in 2016 showed that the trends noted above remain among students and even have a tendency to reinforcement. Thus, the authors are planning to fulfill a full-scale case study on this subject in the late 2017.

Nevertheless, the necessity to actively assist youth in the fulfillment of their patriotic impulse and capacity available remains quite urgent. Success of the youth policy being brought into life in Russia will much depend not only on the relevance of methods and means using which the policy is going to be conducted but also on the course of the entire state aimed at consolidation of the society.

References


