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## The Observatory of Finno-Ugric Indigenous Peoples in the Republic of Karelia \*

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**Abstract.** The article deals with the potential rights implementation assessment for the Karelians, the Vepsians, and the Finns — indigenous minorities and ethnic (national) minorities in the Republic of Karelia. The purpose of the article is to form an observational passport of the indigenous small-numbered peoples of the Republic of Karelia (i.e., the Vepsians, the Karelians, and the Finns), which would record the varying degrees of satisfaction of the indigenous small-numbered population of the Republic with the results of the policy pursued. The subject of this article is the peculiarities of the potential rights implementation Karelians, Vepsians, and Finns - indigenous peoples and ethnic (national) minorities of Karelia. As part of the study, a tool was developed to assess the potential rights implementation in the Republic of Karelia - an observational passport of indigenous peoples. The presented material is based on the results of a survey organized in the fall of 2017 in all municipalities of the Republic of Karelia. The authors substantiate the differentiation of potential rights implementation of the indigenous peoples of the Republic in 4 sectors (economic, social, cultural, and religious), according to 3 levels (low, medium, and high). It was found that the low potential rights implementation in almost every sector of the study is typical of the Vepsians, the Karelians, and the Finns are generally characterized by the potential rights implementation of the average level.

**Keywords:** *indigenous peoples, ethnic (national) minorities, observatory, Republic of Karelia, Vepsians, Karelians, Finns, ethnocultural development, national identity, implementation of rights.*

### Introduction

A peculiar and rather accurate indicator of the development of democracy in a state is the degree to which the rights of indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities are realized in it. Indigenous small-numbered peoples are peoples living in the territories of traditional settlement of their ancestors, preserving their characteristic way of life, the specifics of economic management and crafts, and are aware of themselves as independent ethnic communities. At the same time, these characteristics are not constants: the intensively developing processes of globalization, acculturation, assimilation, urbanization, economic activity of organizations of all forms of ownership, as well as individuals, damage the original habitat of indigenous peoples and transform their traditional way of life.

In accordance with the Unified List of Indigenous Minorities of the Russian Federation, approved by the Government of the Russian Federation of March 24, 2000 No. 255 (as amended on

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August 25, 2015), the Vepsians are classified as representatives of such peoples in the Republic of Karelia<sup>1</sup>. Note here that in the Republic of Karelia itself, not only Vepsians are considered indigenous peoples. Thus, the State Program of the Republic of Karelia "Ethnosocial and ethnocultural development of territories of traditional residence of indigenous peoples", approved by the Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Karelia No. 22-P of January 24, 2018, states that "indigenous peoples live in Karelia: Karelians and Vepsians, as well as ethnocultural groups of the indigenous Russian population - Zaonezhans, Pudojans and Pomors" and notes that unfavorable socio-economic and demographic circumstances have developed for them in modern conditions<sup>2</sup>.

Let's pay attention to the fact that the Program focuses only on "indigenous peoples", national minorities remain outside its field. The historical validity of classifying the Karelians as the indigenous peoples of the Republic stems from ancient times: it is known that Finno-Ugric tribes lived on the territory of Karelia: Lapps (Sami), Korela (Karelians) and all (Vepsians). At the beginning of the 2nd millennium A.D. here appeared the Slavs-Novgorodians, mastering the northern lands. The Russian population initially settled on the shores of the White Sea and Lake Onega (in Pomorie and Zaonezhie), and then spread throughout Karelia. The predominance of the Karelian population was also recorded in the 20th century - since the formation of the Karelian Labor Commune, the Karelian autonomy within the RSFSR (June 8, 1920). Its population was 147.3 thousand people, of which about 60% were Karelians and 37% were Russians. Finnish diaspora was formed at the expense of immigrants from Finland.

Let us remind you that the Constitution of the Republic of Karelia, adopted on February 7, 2001, declared that in the republic "measures are being taken to revive, preserve and develop the Karelians, Vepsians and Finns living on its territory"<sup>3</sup>. It is obvious that the Finns are precisely such an ethnic (national) minority. However, the existing legal and categorical ambiguity allows today activists of opposition organizations in the republic to consider Finns as another "indigenous" people of Karelia.

The aim of the article is to form an observational passport of the indigenous small-numbered peoples of the Republic of Karelia (for Vepsians, Karelians, and Finns), which would record different degrees of satisfaction of the representatives of the indigenous small-numbered population of the Republic with the results of the policy pursued.

The subject of this article is the peculiarities of the potential for the realization of the rights of Karelians, Vepsians and Finns - representatives of indigenous peoples and ethnic (national) minorities of Karelia.

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation of March 24, 2000 No. 255. URL: <http://base.garant.ru/181870/> (accessed 23 March 2020).

<sup>2</sup> Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Karelia dated 24.01.2018 No. 22-P. URL: <http://publication.pravo.gov.ru/Document/View/1000201801260004> (accessed 23 March 2020).

<sup>3</sup> Constitution of the Republic of Karelia, 2001. URL: <http://docs.cntd.ru/document/919001576> (accessed 23 March 2020).

### *Fundamental foundations of the potential for the realization of the rights of indigenous peoples*

The Constitution is a guarantee for the realization of the rights of indigenous peoples in Russia. The Constitution of the Russian Federation (Art. 69) establishes that “the Russian Federation guarantees the rights of indigenous peoples in accordance with the generally recognized principles and norms of international law and international treaties of the Russian Federation”. Complementing this provision with the norms that enshrine the population's right to self-government, to participate in the management of local affairs, the Constitution forms the primary, highest level of protection of the rights of small peoples.

At the same time, real opportunities for the implementation of the declared rights of indigenous peoples are created by a number of specific circumstances: the degree of development of national legislation related to the regulation of life and the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples at the federal, regional and local levels; the complexity of solving problems of the social, political, economic and cultural plan not only in the territories of traditional residence of small peoples, but also throughout the territory of Russia; the effectiveness of the activities of local self-government bodies, Commissioners for Human Rights in the regions to create conditions for the realization of the rights of these peoples, to protect the original habitat, traditional way of life, management and fishing of small peoples. These circumstances are set by the policy of the state in relation to small peoples. The Russian state in relations with small peoples has evolved from imperative methods, a policy of protectionism to a policy of partnership.

The specificity of the legal status of the indigenous small-numbered peoples of the Russian Federation lies in the fact that along with the fullness of their rights and freedoms as citizens of the Russian Federation, they are additionally endowed with collective individual rights: in the economic sphere - preferential conditions for the development of traditional economic activities; in the socio-cultural sphere - support in the development of the native language and literature, ethnic media, benefits for admission to educational institutions, the right to replace military service with alternative civilian service; in the political sphere - by granting the right of legislative initiative to ethnic associations, some preferences regarding the formation of electoral districts in places of compact residence of small indigenous peoples. If, as a general rule, when forming electoral districts, approximate equality in the number of voters should be observed and a deviation of no more than 10% is considered permissible, then in places of compact residence of indigenous minorities, a deviation of no more than 40% is considered permissible (Part 4, Art. 18)<sup>4</sup>. The practice of allocating quotas to government bodies for small peoples in Russia did not take root.

For almost a quarter of a century, since the proclamation of the International Decade of Indigenous Peoples by the UN General Assembly on December 21, 1993, the problem of the rights and freedoms of indigenous peoples and ethnic (national) minorities has been actualized. The most comprehensive international reference document for the rights of indigenous peoples is to-

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<sup>4</sup> Federal Law of 12.06.2002 No. 67-FZ. URL: [http://www.consultant.ru/document/cons\\_doc\\_LAW\\_37119/](http://www.consultant.ru/document/cons_doc_LAW_37119/) (accessed 23 March 2020).

day the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted by the UN General Assembly on 13 September 2007. The 45 articles of the Declaration define minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of the world's indigenous peoples, including rights on identity, language, health care, education, preservation of the way of life of indigenous peoples, their traditions, culture<sup>5</sup>.

Over the decade since the adoption of the Declaration, the international community and many states have made a significant step forward in the formation of legal and institutional mechanisms to ensure the rights of indigenous peoples.

So, within the framework of the UN Human Rights Council in 2007, it was created and successfully operates "UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples", consisting of seven independent experts appointed on a three-year term. The Expert Mechanism provides the Human Rights Council with expertise and advice on the rights of indigenous peoples, and assists Member States, upon request, in achieving the goals of the Declaration. At the epicenter of the Expert Mechanism are the implementation of the right of indigenous peoples to participate in the decision-making process, the role of languages and culture in promoting and protecting the rights and identity of indigenous peoples. At the eighth session of the Expert Mechanism, the representative of the Republic of Karelia A.V. Tsykarev became its Chairman.

The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, created in 2002, continued its work. It is a subsidiary organ of the Economic and Social Council. Its mandate is to discuss indigenous issues related to economic and social development, culture, environmental protection, education, health, and human rights. Among the 16 independent experts of the Permanent Forum, acting in their personal capacity, there are two representatives of Russia: D. Harakka-Zaitsev and A. Mukabnova.

The First World Conference on Indigenous Peoples was held from 22 to 23 September 2014, where participants exchanged best practices on the implementation of the rights of indigenous peoples. The conference reaffirmed the significant role that indigenous peoples can play in socio-economic development and environmental protection by practicing traditional sustainable agricultural practices, including traditional seed supply systems, and having access to credit and other financial services, and legally protected markets. land tenure, health care, social services, education, training, knowledge, and related low-cost technologies, including irrigation technology, and water harvesting and storage<sup>6</sup> [4, UN Resolution].

We also note the First World Games of Indigenous Peoples, held in Brazil, where about 2,200 athletes were represented, representatives of the oldest and most endangered peoples in the world.

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<sup>5</sup>2007 UN Declaration of Indigenous Peoples. URL: [http://www.un.org/ru/documents/decl\\_conv/declarations/indigenous\\_rights](http://www.un.org/ru/documents/decl_conv/declarations/indigenous_rights) (accessed 23 March 2020).

<sup>6</sup> Final Resolution of the UN World Conference on Indigenous Issues of 22 September 2014. URL: <https://www.un.org/ru/ga/69/meetings/indigenous/documents.shtml> (accessed 23 March 2020).

Finally, we point out that the UN General Assembly declared 2019 the International Year of Indigenous Languages. This decision is not accidental. There are about 7 thousand languages in the world today, one of them dies every two weeks. 96% of linguistic diversity is indigenous languages, spoken by only 4% of the world's population. According to the Atlas of the World's Languages, 90% of the languages of these peoples are endangered.

This problem is also relevant in Russia. Currently, there are 28 regions in the country where indigenous peoples live. According to the 2010 census, it was recorded that Russians lived on the territory of the Republic of Karelia - 82.2% (507 654 people), Karelians - 7.4% (45 570 people), Belarusians - 3.8% (23 345 people), Ukrainians - 2% (12,677 people), Finns - 1.4% (8,577 people), Vepsians - 0.5% (3,423 people), representatives of other nationalities - 2.7% (16 422 people)<sup>7</sup> [2, VPN]. At present, in the Republic of Karelia, there are 3 municipalities with a high concentration of Karelians - Olonetsky MR (Livviks 58%), Pryazhinsky MR (people 37%) and Kalevala MR (36%).

Based on the documents adopted by the UN in order to implement the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, a set of measures has been carried out in Russia over the past decade. At the federal level, the Unified List of Indigenous Minorities of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation was approved; The concept of sustainable development of the indigenous peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation; Rules for the distribution and provision of subsidies from the federal budget to the budgets of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation to support the economic and social development of the indigenous peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation; List of places of traditional residence and traditional economic activity of the indigenous peoples of the Russian Federation. It is planned to create a Register of Indigenous Minorities. Its adoption should make it easier for representatives of the indigenous minorities to receive preferences related to land use and fishing. The register will include all citizens who live in places of traditional residence, carry out traditional economic activities and lead a traditional way of life. The pilot region for compiling such a register will be the Republic of Karelia.

An extensive program has been implemented in the regions where indigenous peoples live. For example, in the Republic of Karelia regional target programs have been developed and implemented: "State support of the Karelian, Vepsian and Finnish languages in the Republic of Karelia for 2006–2010"; "Harmonization of national and confessional relations, formation of civil accord in the Republic of Karelia for 2007–2011." ("Karelia is the territory of consent"); "Preservation of the unity of peoples and ethnic communities of Karelia for 2012–2016" ("Karjala is our home"); "Development of education in the Republic of Karelia in 2011–2015"; "Development of the sphere of culture of the Republic of Karelia for the period up to 2013"; "Youth of Karelia" for 2012–2015 Let us especially note the importance of holding the Year of Vepsian culture in 2012, and the Year of the Karelian language and national culture in 2013.

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<sup>7</sup> All-Russian Population Census 2010. URL: [http://www.gks.ru/free\\_doc/new\\_site/perepis2010/croc/perepis\\_itogi1612.htm](http://www.gks.ru/free_doc/new_site/perepis2010/croc/perepis_itogi1612.htm) (accessed 23 March 2020).

During this period, special works were published devoted to the problem of realizing the rights of small peoples. Among the authors in Russia we will name A.N. Averin, A.F. Maly, N.A. Novikova; Kryazhkova V.A.; Strogalshchikov Z.I. [1, pp. 70-75; 2, pp. 44-55; 3, pp. 5-15; 5; 7, pp. 54–55]. The monograph of NARFU in 2017, entitled “Ethnonational Processes in the Arctic: Trends, Problems and Prospects”, prepared within the framework of the RSF project “The Russian Arctic: From Conceptualization to an Effective Model of State Ethnonational Policy in the Conditions of Stable Development of Regions”. A significant part of the monograph is devoted to the analysis of a potential conflict between peoples on the territory of various regions that are part of the AZRF, which is extremely important in the conditions of both the multinational composition of Russia, and the remoteness of the Arctic itself, and social tension generated by the work of enterprises in the studied macroregion [8, Ethnic processes in Arctic]. It is in connection with the above-mentioned problems that polls of the inhabitants of Russia from among the indigenous minorities acquire particular importance; it becomes apparent that such surveys are rare. In this regard, the appearance of the “Observational passport of the indigenous small-numbered peoples of the Republic of Karelia” was due to the conduct of a pilot survey simultaneously of three Finno-Ugric peoples living on the territory of the Republic of Karelia on the eve of the 100th anniversary of the region.

Among foreign authors, we note the work of the anthropologist P. Schweitzer from the University of Vienna on the impact of large infrastructure projects in the Arctic on the life of indigenous peoples; T. Koivurova from the University of Lapland with the idea of “transnational indigenous peoples” – the Sami who live on the Kola Peninsula in Russia, Finland, Norway. With regard to the Republic of Karelia in this “transnational indigenous people” are the Finns and Karelians living in Finland and Russia [9, Koivurova T., 10, Schweitzer P., Povoroznyuk O.].

Information about the implementation of the rights of indigenous peoples living in Karelia, in particular, to education, is provided by the data of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Karelia (Table 1), which provides information on the teaching of the Karelian, Vepsian and Finnish languages in schools of Karelia<sup>8</sup>.

*Table 1*  
*Data on the teaching of the Karelian, Vepsian and Finnish languages in schools of Karelia, 2014–2015*

School year	Karelian language		Veps language		Finish language	
	Number of schools	Number of students	Number of schools	Number of students	Number of schools	Number of students
2014/15	25	2311	4	235	31	4433
2015/16	26	2128	4	256	32	4393
2016/17	25	2243	4	267	28	4330

From table 1 the conclusions follow:

<sup>8</sup> Ministry of Education of the Republic of Karelia, statistical data on schools in Karelia. URL: <http://minedu.karelia.pro/structure> (accessed 23 March 2020).

- The number of schools in Karelia that teach Finnish and Karelian is gradually decreasing.
- The number of schools teaching the Karelian language (25 schools) and the Veps language (4 schools) is negligible, and is not able to effectively ensure the task of preserving and protecting the identity, culture, languages and traditions of the indigenous peoples inhabiting the Republic. This is confirmed by quantitative data in comparison with another region of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation, where small indigenous peoples also live, for example, with the Chukotka Autonomous Okrug (Table 2). Data on Chukotka are presented in the Report of the Department of Education of the Chukotka Autonomous Okrug<sup>9</sup>.

Table 2

*Data on the teaching of the Chukchi, Even and Eskimo languages in schools in Chukotka, 2014–2015*

School year	Chukchi language		Evenk language		Escimos language	
	Number of schools	Number of students	Number of schools	Number of students	Number of schools	Number of students
2014/15	28	1 602	2	107	3	98

So, in 2015 in schools of Karelia, according to Rosstat data<sup>10</sup>, 65,243 schoolchildren studied, in the Chukotka Autonomous Okrug - 7,258 schoolchildren. Accordingly, the percentage of children in Chukotka studying the languages of the indigenous minorities of the North is 25%, and in the Republic of Karelia - 10.7%, which is an extremely small number.

It is also noted that in Karelia the method of “language nests” is used in relation to the Karelian and Vepsian languages [6, Russian Arctic: indigenous peoples and industrial development, p. 222]. A child who has learned to speak only the language of the national majority in the family comes to the kindergarten group, where the staff from the very beginning and in all situations speaks to him only in the language of the national minority. The child begins to understand a new language very quickly. Despite the effectiveness of the methodology, the Ministry of Regional Development of the Russian Federation opposed its introduction in Russia, noting that the method is not suitable for Russia, since it “leads to ethnic segregation”.

### ***What is the potential for the realization of the rights of indigenous peoples in the Republic of Karelia?***

Based on fundamental principles, let us analyze how the constitutional declaration on the implementation of measures for the revival, preservation, and free development of Karelians, Vepsians and Finns living in its territory is being implemented in the Republic of Karelia.

<sup>9</sup> Department of Education of the Chukotka Autonomous Okrug, statistical data on schools of the ChAO. URL: <https://www.edu87.ru/index.php/departament/otchety> (accessed: 23 March 2020).

<sup>10</sup> Form FSN No. 76-RIK “With reference to institutions implementing general education programs”. URL: <https://www.gks.ru/> (accessed: 23 March 2020).

The methodology of this analysis involves monitoring the indigenous minorities in four sectors, conducting a survey of representatives of these peoples, creating an infographic tool “Observational passport of indigenous minorities of the Republic of Karelia.”

Observational passport of the indigenous peoples of the Republic of Karelia is an infographic toolkit that presents the results of monitoring and analysis to assess the potential for realizing the rights of indigenous peoples living in the Republic of Karelia.

The monitoring area includes 4 information sectors: social, economic, cultural, and religious. Within the sectors, various indicators are determined (at least two for each sector and aggregating).

The technology for the development of the Observational Passport of the Indigenous Peoples of the Republic of Karelia includes three stages:

1) a preliminary stage, including an analysis of the regional context in 4 sectors of study - social, economic, cultural, religious; collection of data from open sources of information; identification of factors and measures to develop the capacity of indigenous peoples.

2) a theoretical stage, involving the substantive development of a methodology for the formation of the "Observational passport of the indigenous peoples of the Republic of Karelia", compilation of a list of 5 qualitative indicators, including:

1. national identity of indigenous peoples;
2. small indigenous peoples in the labor market;
3. cross-cultural communication of small indigenous peoples,
4. immersion in religious practices,
5. morbidity of small indigenous peoples.

More detailed 5 indicators are presented in table. 3 in relation to the sectors of study - social, economic, cultural, religious.

Table 3

*Sectors for studying the indigenous peoples of Karelia and the corresponding indicators*

Social sector	Economic sector	Cultural sector	Religious sector
a list of indigenous diseases, access to medicine,	indigenous unemployment rate	assessment of the right to ethnocultural development (everyday use of language, presence of traditions)	creed
benefits of indigenous peoples in the field of education (upon admission to educational institutions)	what profession do they work in	national identity of indigenous peoples (costumes, cuisine)	participation in religious rites
indigenous legal literacy		cross-cultural communication (interaction with other peoples)	
the level of education		development of traditional trade (kyukkä, fishing, reindeer husbandry)	

3) the main stage, covering conducting a survey of indigenous peoples in the Republic of Karelia, processing the data obtained on 5 declared indicators and creating an infographic tool "Observational passport of indigenous peoples of the Republic of Karelia", presenting the results of monitoring and analysis to assess the implementation of the rights of indigenous Finno-Ugric peoples.

### *Results of the survey of indigenous peoples of Karelia*

As of December 1, 2017, 250 respondents from all municipalities of the Republic of Karelia took part in the survey. Among them, 67.2% are Karelians, 23.7% are Vepsians, 8.3% are Finns. The respondent's profile is a man with a higher education. The age of the respondents taking part in the survey is average - 16.2% - 36–40 years old; 14.2% - 31–35 years old; 10.7% - 41–45 years old; 9.5% - 46-50 years old. Half of the respondents live in Petrozavodsk, 14.6% in the Olonetsky district, 10.3% in the Prionezhsky district.

The total population of the Republic of Karelia as of January 1, 2017 is 627.1 thousand people. The core of the population of the territory of the Republic of Karelia is made up of peoples - Karelians (7.4%), Vepsians (0.7%), Finns (1.4%) (according to the 2010 All-Russian Population Census.)<sup>11</sup>.

Table 4 shows the number of Karelians, Vepsians and Finns as a general population for the study.

*Table 4*

*The number of Karelians, Vepsians and Finns as a general population for the study*

Name of nationalities	Share of nationality in the total population of the Republic, %	Population size, people	Specific gravity	Sample structure
Karels	7,4%	55 570	79,5%	168
Veps	0,4%	3 423	5,8%	61
Finns	1,4%	8 577	14,7%	21
Total	9,2%	67 570	100%	250

The objectives of this study do not imply the distribution of the sample by municipalities, gender and age of respondents. The main feature of interest for the general population is nationality. The selection criterion is permanent residence on the territory of the Republic of Karelia. This research is conceptual and refers to the pilot type of sociological research, which involves obtaining primary indicative information about the object under study. The size of the sample population in accordance with the theory of the sampling method is calculated depending on the requirements of the reliability and accuracy of the survey.

With a poll reliability of 95%, the minimum required number of ethnic groups (Karelians, Vepsians and Finns) is 250 people when polled with an error (0.5%).

<sup>11</sup> Main Results of the 2010 All-Russian Population Census for the Republic of Karelia, Volume 3. Kareliastat. Petrozavodsk, 2012, 175p. URL: [http://krl.old.gks.ru/wps/wcm/connect/rosstat\\_ts/krl/ru/census\\_and\\_researching/census/national\\_census\\_2010/score\\_2010/](http://krl.old.gks.ru/wps/wcm/connect/rosstat_ts/krl/ru/census_and_researching/census/national_census_2010/score_2010/) (accessed 23 March 2020).

The sample size of the survey of indigenous peoples of the Republic of Karelia was calculated using the formula:

$$n = \frac{z^2 * 0,25}{\Delta^2}$$

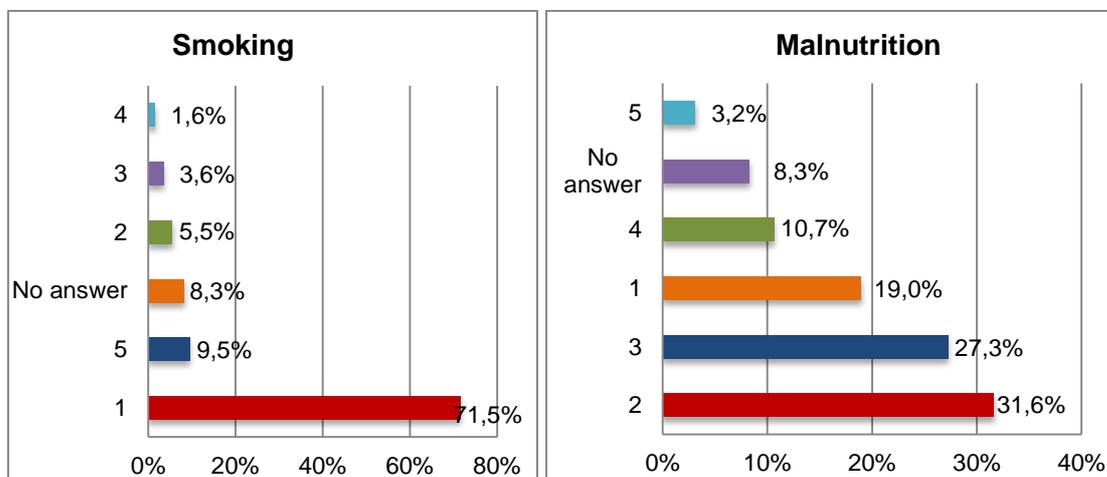
here n is the sample size,  $\Delta$  is the confidence interval, z is the value of the normal distribution function for a given probability of deviation (for a probability of 5%, this value is 1.96).

The total number of nationalities is distributed according to their types in accordance with their structure of the general population (Table 4).

The survey results were grouped into the following blocks - social, economic, cultural, and religious.

**Social block of the survey.** It was found that the respondents know practically nothing about the benefits for small indigenous peoples; of all the respondents, only 4.3% enjoyed benefits in the field of education.

Half of the respondents (41.5%) assess their health as satisfactory, 41% as good. Perhaps this is due to the fact that not only young respondents took part in the survey (the majority of respondents are over 35 years old). Most of the interviewed respondents lead an unhealthy lifestyle: 71.5% smoke, 52.6% take alcohol; 80.6% cannot tolerate protein, 74.3% cannot tolerate milk and dairy products, 33.2% have chronic diseases (Fig. 1).



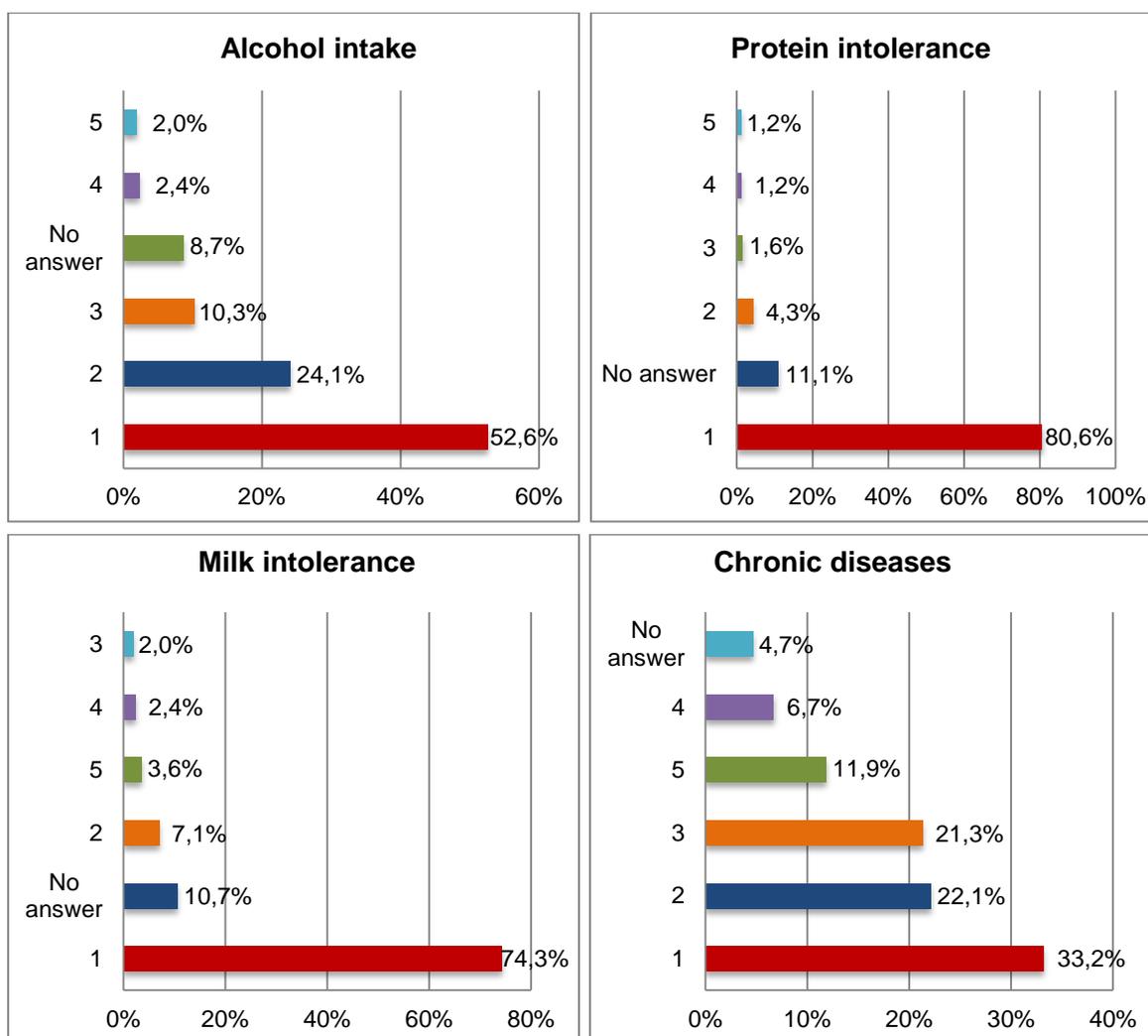


Fig. 1. Health risk factors for indigenous people of Karelia.

**The economic block** of the survey. In the economic block, data were obtained on the economic situation of the indigenous peoples of the Republic of Karelia. It was revealed that 38.7% of respondents are employed in a budgetary organization, 17% are employed in a private company, 13.8% are retired. 65.3% of respondents are absolutely dissatisfied with wages and only 22.5% expressed their satisfaction with it. The respondents characterize the financial situation of the family as minimal (“there is enough money for food and utilities” (46.6%), acceptable (“enough for everything except expensive things” (42.3%) (Fig. 2).

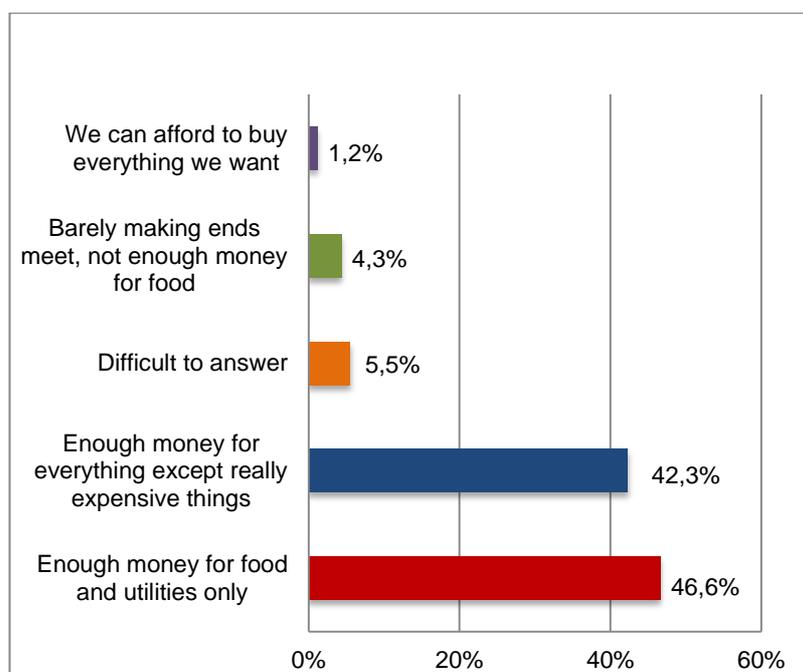


Fig. 2. Financial situation of the respondent.

A survey of indigenous minorities showed that, despite the difficult economic situation, 64.8% would not want to leave the Republic of Karelia in search of a better life. Among those who expressed a desire to leave the region - 31.6% - would like to leave for another country (not Finland) or another region of Russia, 3.2% - are ready to move to another region of the Republic of Karelia.

Cultural block of the survey. As a result of the survey in this block, the following picture was formed: the indigenous minorities living in Karelia, for the most part, consider Russian as their native language (66%), Karelian as their native language was noted by 30.8%, and 2.4% of respondents noted, that their native language is Finnish, and 0.8% is Vepsian. 48.2% speak their native language on a daily basis, 15.8% speak several times a week, 6.7% speak once a month. Basically, most respondents (44.7%) communicate in their native language at home, 17.8% at work, and 19% at cultural events (Fig. 3).

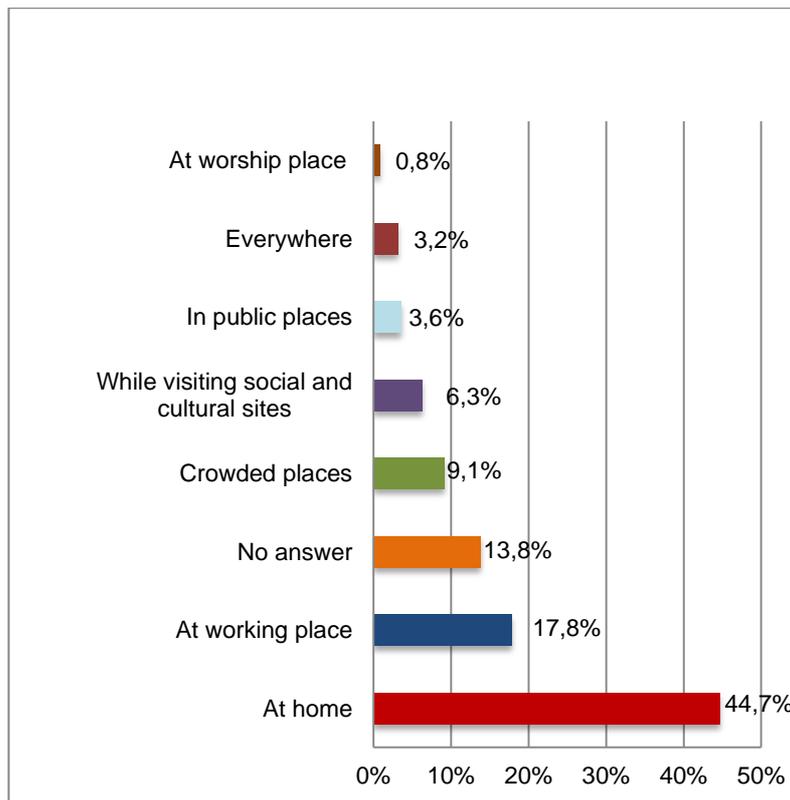


Fig. 3. Frequency of use of the native language by the respondent.

An important attribute of national identity is the specificity of the preparation of national dishes. The results of the poll showed that the opinions of the indigenous small-numbered peoples living in Karelia on the peculiarities of the national diet were divided. Thus, about half of the respondents regularly prepare national dishes (36% several times a month, 15.8% several times a week). At the same time, the other half of the respondents - 33.6% cook less than once a month, and 8.3% - never (Fig. 4).

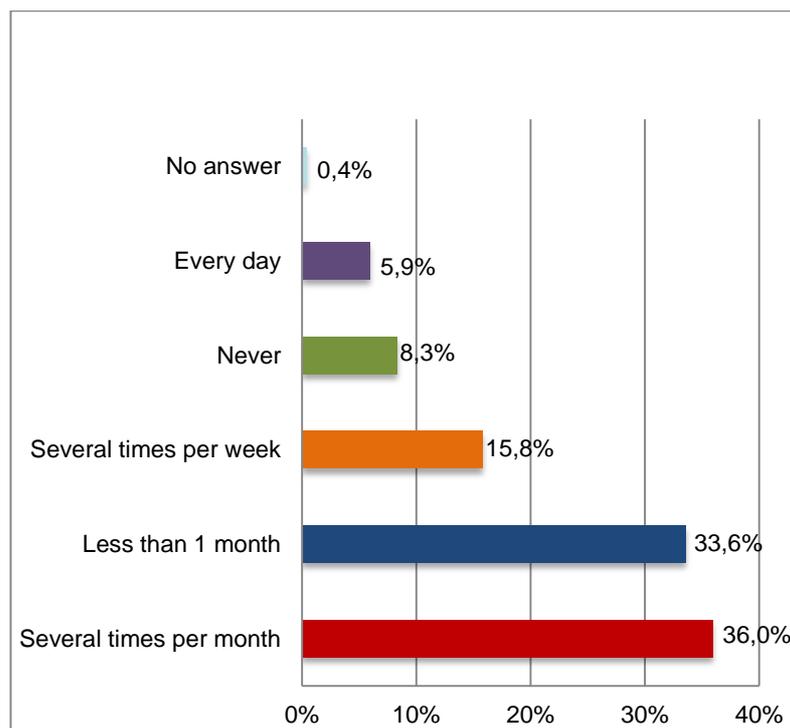


Fig. 4. Cooking of national cuisine by the respondent.

It is recorded that the majority of the indigenous small peoples of Karelia have a wide assortment of traditional household items - 35.2% have costumes, almost 50% have kept kitchen utensils, 53.4% have decorative items (Fig. 5).

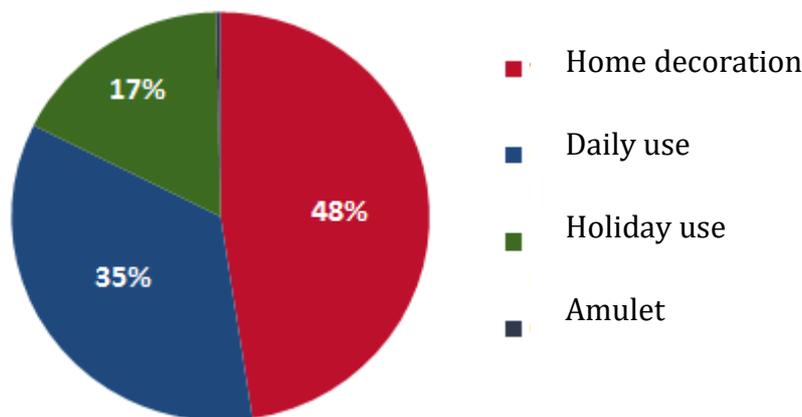


Fig. 5. The role of traditional household items in the life of the indigenous peoples of Karelia.

**Religious survey block.** The majority of the indigenous small-numbered peoples of Karelia who took part in the survey (70.8%) consider themselves Orthodox. 20.2% do not profess any religion, 4.3% are Lutherans, 1.2% are pagans. At the same time, 35% of the respondents take part in the religious rituals of their ethnic groups, in particular, at weddings.

**Observational passport of the indigenous peoples of Karelia**

All the data obtained for four sectors of the study were ranged using points from 1 to 3, where 1 point would correspond to a low potential for the realization of the rights of indigenous peoples, 2 points - an average potential, 3 points - a high potential. The ranking was based on the answers of Karelians, Vepsians, Finns to all questions.

Due to the point ranking, it is possible to identify low / medium / high potential for the implementation of the rights of indigenous peoples in the Republic of Karelia in four blocks (cultural, social, economic, religious).

Table 5  
Ball ranking of the assessment of the potential for the realization of the rights of indigenous peoples in the Republic of Karelia

Question in the questionnaire	Karelians / points		Vepsians / points		Finns / points	
No1	-	-	-	-	-	-
No. 2 (social block)	56.5%	2	41.7%	1	81%	3
No. 3 (social block)	55.4%	2	64.8	3	35.5%	2
No. 4 (social block)	1.8	1	0%	0	0%	0
No. 5 (social block)	5.9%	3	1.7%	2	0%	0
No. 6 (cultural block)	35.9%	2	38.3%	3	33.3%	1
No. 7 (cultural block)	44.1%	3	3.3%	1	nineteen%	2
No. 8 (cultural block)	69.4	2	45%	1	71.4%	3
No. 9 (cultural block)	46.5%	2	39.7%	1	47.6%	3
No. 10 (cultural block)	25.9%	3	ten%	1	nineteen%	2
No. 11 (cultural block)	26,%	1	29.7%	2	33.3%	3
No. 12 (cultural block)	42.9%	3	36.1%	2	42.9%	3

No. 13 (cultural block)	58.2%	3	56.7%	2	42.9%	1
No. 14 (cultural block)	22.4%	3	16.7%	1	nineteen%	2
No. 15	-	-	-	-	-	-
No. 16 (religious block)	36.5%	2	28.3%	1	52.4%	3
No. 17 (economic block)	20%	1	23.3%	2	38.1%	3
No. 18 (economic block)	57.6%	2	56.7%	1	66.7%	3
No. 19 (economic block)	1.8%	3	0%	0	0%	0
No. 20 (economic block)	60%	1	68.3%	3	66.7%	2
<b>Total points</b>		<b>39</b>		<b>27</b>		<b>35</b>

As a result of the ball ranking, it became obvious that in the Republic of Karelia the rights of Karelians and Finns are realized more fully, these nationalities in total scored 39 and 35 points, respectively. Vepsians scored only 27 points in the ranking. Based on the answers of the Veps to the questions, it became obvious that they are not very satisfied with the implemented policy of the Republic of Karelia towards indigenous peoples.

As a result, Table 6 was formed, demonstrating low / medium / high potential for the implementation of the rights of indigenous peoples (Veps, Karels, Finns) in the Republic of Karelia separately by research sector.

Table 6

Assessment of the implementation potential of indigenous small-numbered peoples in the Republic of Karelia by sector

Indigenous people	Economic sector	Social sector	Religious sector	Cultural sector
Karels	moderate	high	moderate	high
Veps	low	moderate	low	low
Finns	high	low	high	moderate

It is obvious that the Veps demonstrate a low potential for the realization of their rights in almost every sector of the study, the Karels and Finns are generally characterized by the potential for the realization of an average level.

As a result of the study, a summarizing diagram of monitoring and analysis of the potential for the realization of the rights of indigenous peoples in the Republic of Karelia was formed (Fig. 6).

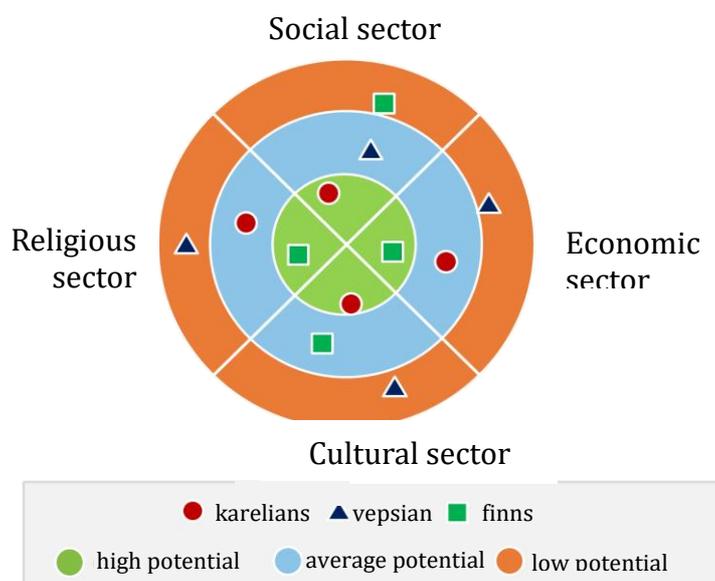


Fig. 6. Observational passport of the indigenous peoples of the Republic of Karelia.

It seems reasonable to differentiate the potential for the realization of the rights of indigenous peoples (Karelians, Vepsians, Finns) in the context of 4 sectors at 3 levels – low/moderate/high.

### **Conclusion**

1. June 8, 2020 will mark the 100th anniversary of the Republic of Karelia. The small peoples inhabiting Karelia, like most of the small peoples of Russia, have experienced different state policies during this century. The Russian state in relations with small peoples has evolved from imperative methods, a policy of protectionism to a policy of partnership.

2. The post-Soviet period of development of the Republic of Karelia is characterized by a noticeable improvement in opportunities for the implementation of the rights of indigenous peoples. Regional target programs aimed at the development of these peoples are being successfully implemented in the Republic. Substantial funds are allocated from the federal budget to support economic and social development, including the activities of non-profit organizations. A program to promote the traditional economic activities of the indigenous minorities is being implemented. However, the educational policy towards these peoples is by no means improved.

3. At the same time, intensively developing, including in the Republic of Karelia, processes of globalization, acculturation, assimilation, urbanization, economic activities of organizations of all forms of ownership, as well as individuals, damage the original habitat of indigenous small peoples, transform their traditional way of life. These objective and subjective circumstances hinder the possibility of realizing the rights of small peoples guaranteed by the Constitution.

4. The conducted research allowed forming the Observational passport of the indigenous peoples of the Republic of Karelia, which recorded different degrees of satisfaction of the representatives of the indigenous population of the Republic with the results of the policy pursued. In particular, as a result of the scoring of the survey results, it was revealed that the low potential for the realization of their rights in almost every sector of the study is characteristic of the Veps, the Karelians and Finns are generally characterized by the potential for the implementation of the average level.

5. The low degree of satisfaction of Veps with the current policy established as a result of the study (taking into account the targeted federal budget funds allocated over the past decade to support their economic and social development, as well as with co-financing from the budget of the Republic of Karelia and the Prionezhsky municipal district) requires improvement of regional policy local authorities.

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