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## Tatar Virtual Institute of Kayum Nasyri

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### Abstract

The article is devoted to the study of structure and activity of the network of centers of Tatar virtual Institute of Kayum Nasyri, created on the basis of Institute of Philology and Intercultural Communication after Leo Tolstoy of Kazan Federal University. The aim of the Institute of Kayum Nasyri is the desire to become a world brand in its field. In this context, the Institute relies on the experience of such world-known educational centers as the British Council, the Institute named after Goethe, Cervantes Institute, Confucius Institute and Institute by Yunus Emre. The Institute's activities are associated with the development of collaboration in the field of education, support, promotion and development of the Tatar language and culture in the regions of the Russian Federation, countries of near and far abroad. There are 7 educational-cultural centers in the Institute at this moment. Each center is supplied with educational, informative literature and fiction, as well as the video-conferencing system for training, conferences and events online. The Institute of Kayum Nasyri is named after the famous Tatar educator. As a fervent supporter of friendship between Russian and Tatar people, he was the first of the educators to acquaint the Tatars with the Russian history and culture in their native language, translated into the Tatar language many textbooks on geography, physics, mathematics, etc. Kayum Nasyri at the time, made the Russian-Tatar dictionary, was the author of a textbook of Russian grammar for the Tatars, as well as of the significant works in the field of the Tatar linguistics.

**Keywords:** Virtual Institute, Tatars, Tatar diaspora, Tatar language, Preservation and development of languages.

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## **Introduction**

Ethno-cultural development of the Republic of Tatarstan cannot be separated from the development of national culture of the entire Tatar people. The specificity of the development of the Tatar people caused such of its specifics, as territorial dispersion. Of 7 million Tatars, over 5 million live outside of Tatarstan, in different regions of the Russian Federation, in countries of the CIS and far abroad, i.e. cut off from their roots, from the national culture. Increasing globalization in conditions of the formation of informational society causes even greater strengthening of the processes of cultural assimilation of Tatars both in Russia and around the world, national identity of the Tatars and their ancient traditions are lost. The threat of the loss by the Tatar people of the native language and ethnic culture detects a highly relevant and a major problem of preservation, development and wide dissemination of the Tatar language, literature and culture.

A considerable number of problems, associated with the spread of the Tatar language, literature and culture, especially among residents of other nationalities, present in the Republic of Tatarstan. The complex of measures, implemented in this sphere does not give the desired result and many people in the country, including the indigenous Tatars, almost do not speak the Tatar language and only superficially familiar with the Tatar national traditions and cultural monuments.

On the territory of the Russian Federation the Tatars live compactly in Samara, Ulyanovsk, Chelyabinsk and Moscow regions, in the Republic of Bashkortostan, Udmurtia, etc. In these regions, the centers of studying of the Tatar language and regional cultural-educational societies, Sunday schools, national-cultural autonomy, groups and clubs function. They often have not enough or weak relationship among themselves, their mutual activities is lack of coherence and consistency. The integration of the efforts of all those native speakers of the Tatar language, literature and culture is extremely important. There is a need for a single coordinating and organizing center, accumulating all the existing resources in this sphere.

The largest Tatar Diasporas abroad are concentrated in such countries as Turkey, Finland, Australia, China, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, etc. The problems of the compatriots in the near abroad are in the fact, that the number of the new states, formed after the collapse of the Soviet Union, are developing as the nation-states which provide the privileged position for the titular nations. As a result, socio-political and ethnic tension in these countries is increasing. In far-away foreign countries the national-ethnic processes do not reach such a severity, however there also exists a threat of cultural assimilation of Tatars. In supporting the aspirations of the Tatars living abroad to preserve their national and cultural identity, the leading role remains with the Republic of Tatarstan, where the abovementioned united coordinating and organizing center may act as the basic institution of the implementation of transformational-cultural support of compatriots.

As world experience shows, many countries have established special centers, which are named in honor of the national enlighteners, writers, scientists (Goethe Institute, Confucius Institute, Institute of Cervantes, Institute of Yunus Emre) and their goal is the glorification of the language and culture of the people, as the preservation of native language and its active promotion is a necessity for any self-respecting ethnic group.

## **Research methods**

In this study such methods as observation, description, comparison and statistical analysis are used.

## Results

The Institute of Kayum Nasyri (scientific and educational center "Kayum Nasyri's Institute") is an international institution, operating in the sphere of the development of cooperation in the field of education, support, promotion and development of the Tatar language and culture in the regions of the Russian Federation, of the Tatar and Russian languages and cultures in the countries of near and far abroad.

The Institute of Kayum Nasyri was established on the basis of the decision of the Academic Council of the Federal state independent educational institution of higher education "Kazan Federal University" on February 07, 2014 in the framework of the State program of the Republic of Tatarstan on preservation, studying and development of state languages of the Republic of Tatarstan and other languages of the Republic of Tatarstan for 2014 - 2020. This project is a fundamentally new for Tatarstan and Russia in general. Its main task is to maximize the realization of the goal of the abovementioned State Program, first of all, the creation of a unified and integrated system of teaching the Tatar language and in the Tatar language in Tatarstan, Russia and the world.

The Institute of Kayum Nasyri is the basic structural unit of the Institute of Philology and Intercultural Communication named of Leo Tolstoy (Volga region) Federal University.

The Institute is named after the prominent Tatar educator and scientist of Kayum Nasyri (Kayyum Nasiri) (1825-1902). It should be noted that the essence of his activities was based on the idea of pure humanism, which transcends linguistic national and cultural boundaries and stereotypes that divide the nations. That time many of his countrymen did not understand and did not share his ideas, and now – in the era of cultural globalization, the ideas of Kayum Nasyri are more than relevant (Khusnutdinov, 2015).

Kayum Nasyri has always supported the friendly bonds between the Russian and the Tatar people, he was a pioneer in the field of methodology of teaching Russian language for the Tatar children, based on their native language. His ideas evolved in the same coordinate system as the ideas of Jaleddine Rumi, Yunus Emre, Abay Kunanbayev, Yubray Altyinsarin, Ahmed Midhat, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, and others.

## Discussion

In 2014, two centers of the Institute of Kayum Nasyri were created: 1) 17 Dec 2014, in Moscow, the Center of the Institute of Kayum Nasyri was opened on the basis of school № 1186 named after Musa Jalil with ethnic-cultural Tatar component; 2) 19 December 2014 in Astana (Kazakhstan) a Center of the Institute of Kayum Nasyri was opened on the basis of the Eurasian national University named after L. N. Gumilev.

These centers were equipped with a high-quality equipment - videoconferencing systems, desktop computers, laptops, multifunctional devices "scanner/printer/copier". In addition, the centers were provided with educational literature and fiction. In these centers, up to 2 events were held in each, which were attended by about 400 people. The events were attended by the Chairman of the State Council of the Republic of Tatarstan F. Kh. Mukhametshin, Deputy Prime Minister of the RT – the Minister of education and science of Tatarstan E. N. Fattakhov, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Tatarstan – Plenipotentiary representative of the Republic of Tatarstan in the Russian Federation R. K. Akhmetshin, Permanent representative of the Republic of Tatarstan in the Republic of Kazakhstan E. R. Temirgaliev, professors of KFU and others.

In 2015, we created 3 new Centers of the Institute of Kayum Nasyri: 1) in Saint-Petersburg – on the basis of the permanent mission of the Republic of Tatarstan in Saint-Petersburg; 2) in Bishkek - based on the Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University named after the First President of the Russian Federation Boris Yeltsin; 3)

in Yekaterinburg - on the basis of the permanent mission of the Republic of Tatarstan in the Sverdlovsk region. These centers were also equipped with high-quality equipment – video conferencing systems. In addition, the Centers were provided with educational literature and fiction.

In the Center of the Institute of Kayum Nasyri on the basis of the Eurasian national University named after L. N. Gumilev (Astana) the international scientific-practical conference "Creative heritage of educators of the Turkic world" was held on February 26-27, 2015, dedicated to the 190th anniversary since the birth of K. Nasyri and the 170th anniversary of the birth of A. Kunanbayev, which was attended by about 150 people.

In all the Centers of about 7 events were held, which were attended by about 900 people. The events were attended by the Plenipotentiary representative of the Republic of Tatarstan in the Russian Federation R. K. Akhmetshin, Plenipotentiary representative of the Republic of Tatarstan in the Sverdlovsk region R. R. Sadriev, the Plenipotentiary representative of the Republic of Tatarstan in St. Petersburg and Leningrad region R.N. Valiullin, Deputy permanent representative of the Republic of Tatarstan in the Republic of Kazakhstan O. K. Ulyanova, head of the Representative office of Rossotrudnichestvo in the Kyrgyz Republic E. F. Krustkain, President of the Tatar-Bashkir public center "Tugan tel" G. H. Ulmasova, professors of the Kazan Federal University.

In 2016 at existing Centers of the Institute of Kayum Nasyri in the cities of Moscow, Astana, St. Petersburg, Bishkek, Yekaterinburg 42 cultural and educational activities were organized and conducted, that were attended by 1480 participants. The events were attended by the Plenipotentiary representative of the Republic of Tatarstan in the Russian Federation R. K. Akhmetshin, Plenipotentiary representative of the Republic of Tatarstan in St. Petersburg and Leningrad region R.N. Valiullin, Deputy permanent representative of the Republic of Tatarstan in the Republic of Kazakhstan O. K. Ulyanova, Deputy permanent representative of the Republic of Tatarstan in the Republic of Kazakhstan O. K. Ulyanova, President of the Tatar-Bashkir public center "Tugan tel" G. H. Ulmasova, professors of the Kazan Federal University.

For the population of above mentioned cities were also organized and held the spring and autumn Tatar language courses, visited by 343 students, they issued certificates with an indication of the level of acquired knowledge.

In the period from 19 September to 22 December 2016 at the Centers of the Institute of Kayum Nasyri through the videoconferencing systems 36 online classes were organized and held for which we developed a special mental maps.

During the period from 5 to 11 December 2016 at the Centers of the Institute of Kumar Nasiri the competition "Мин – татарнын газиз баласы" was organized and held, the winners of the event were awarded with diplomas and memorable prizes.

On 23 December 2016 the training webinar for the methodologists of the Centers of the Institute of Kayum Nasyri on the teaching of the Tatar language as native and non-native was held.

During the year, in the Centers of the Institute of Kayum Nasyri in the cities of Moscow, Astana, St. Petersburg, Bishkek, Yekaterinburg video lectures of leading professors of Kazan Federal University on topical issues of the Tatar Philology were shown. The lectures were delivered by A. M. Shakirzyanov, F. G. Galimullin, A. Sh. Yusupova, G. R. Galiullina and S. F. Nureyev.

On October 29, 2016 in the Centers of the Institute of Kayum Nasyri the all-Russian educational action the "Tatar dictation" was held, organized by Kazan Federal University and the world Congress of Tatars. An action was simultaneously held in 10 cities of Russia.

On February 22, 2017, in the Center of the Institute of Kayum Nasyri international scientific-methodical online seminar "Improvement of methods of teaching languages: a platform of exchange of progressive practices" was held, in cooperation with the faculty of Philology of the Eurasian national University named after L. N. Gumilev (Kazakhstan) and Aegean University (Turkey), as well as with participation of the scientists of the Bashkir state pedagogical University named after M. Akmulla and Chuvash state University named after I. N. Ulyanov. The event was broadcasted in all the Centers of the Institute of Kayum Nasyri.

For the population of the above cities the spring and autumn Tatar language courses are organized and held every year, which are attended by about 600 students.

### **Conclusions**

The Institute of Kayum Nasyri aims to become a world brand in its field. According to this the specialists of the Institute study and use the experience of world-famous and well-known educational institutions– British Council, Goethe Institute, Cervantes Institute, Confucius Institute and Institute of Yunus Emre. The network of these institutions includes for several decades not only the language Centers and private schools outside of their borders. The above Centers have their own methods and structure of management and financing. Noteworthy is the fact that the implementation of foreign cultural relations of the above countries is the task of non-governmental, non-profit organizations operating under the patronage of the of department culture of Ministry of foreign affairs.

Educational and cultural segment is a very important link in international relation; it supports establishing and strengthening of friendly relations of states and peoples. Currently, in the era of globalization, international educational and cultural ties are of particularly important, and countries are interested in the developing of cooperation in this field.

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