IDENTITY PRESERVATION ISSUES IN AN ALIEN SOCIETY

Preservation of one’s identity in an alien society which has a centuries-old tradition is a difficult task. It is not easy to be a German for a group of people whose ancestors several settled in Russia centuries ago, whose historical memory does not contain such concepts as the Kaiser's Reich, the Weimar Republic, the opposition of the GDR and the FRG, and is closely linked to the Russian Empire, the October Revolution, the Soviet Union, restructuring CIS. But the Russian-speaking Germans have always been striving for self-identification and isolation in the boundaries of an autonomy. They have a strong desire to speak the German language, to know the German customs and the German culture associated to their historical roots. But did this feeling arise as a result of persecution, deportations and ethnic discrimination?

Thus, the integration is a necessary condition for the acquisition of the national culture knowledge, which is obligatory to understand the structure of the social, economic and political spheres of the country. But, first of all, immigrants are required to achieve a sufficiently high level of knowledge of the language spoken in the new society, ensuring the exchange of information. Weak language competence threatens inevitable isolation from other members of the society: the Russian-speaking Germans are not allowed into the political sphere and big business, their employment in large medical institutions and universities is largely limited.

In Russia the Russian-speaking Germans were secured with all the minimal required conditions of life, however, they preferred leaving Russia and the CIS, risking to be in a less favorable social conditions. In general, the chances for a successful integration of the majority of the older and the younger generation of Russian speaking Germans are quite negligible. A positive result is directly related to the age of each person and the personal motivation.

References: