

The 2020 census in Russia from a Uralic (Finno-Ugric) perspective

Even though the data of the censuses must be viewed with some reservations, for reasons of statistical and census methodology and due to differences in the applied methodologies (which will be subject to analysis by the experts), they still provide good opportunity for the analysis of the current situation and the identification of certain changes. According to the results of the 2020 Russian census, the status of Finno-Ugric languages spoken in the Russian Federation worsened further (with a few exceptions). Titular peoples remain in a minority everywhere in their ethnic home countries, and the proportion of non-titular indigenous peoples is even worse. Except for the Nenets, Khantys and Mansis, the population has decreased in all Uralic peoples compared to 2010. As opposed to the period between 1989 and 2002, the population growth in the three mentioned peoples seems to be real and not a consequence of choice for the Northern allowances.

As regards acknowledgement of one's mother tongue, the proportion has decreased in the case of all languages, besides the Maris, Nenets and Selkups. This fact is of crucial importance as far as the survival of these peoples and languages is concerned.

Keywords: Uralic people in Russia, the 2020 census, demography, acknowledgement of one's mother tongue

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