



RUSSIAN LANGUAGE IN THE WORLD SPACE РУССКИЙ ЯЗЫК В МИРОВОМ ПРОСТРАНСТВЕ

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Research article

Russian language promotion strategy through the institutions of multilateral diplomacy

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Abstract. The authors state the decline in the number of Russian speakers in the world in the post-Soviet period and show the significant potential of international organisations involving Russia, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (the SCO) in particular, in strengthening the position of the Russian language and culture abroad. The study emphasises that multilateral diplomatic institutions give Russia opportunity to shape a humanitarian agenda for sustainable cooperation and cultural integration. This demonstrates the relevance of the research aimed at revealing the potential of the SCO for promoting the Russian language and culture in the world. The authors use methods of observation, experience generalisation, forecasting scenarios for strengthening the position of the Russian language in the world, as well as methods of quantitative, systematic, chronological, and factual analysis. The research material includes normative acts, data from authoritative analytical agencies, and information resources of official organisations promoting the Russian language and culture abroad. The study summarises the regulatory framework for promoting the Russian language abroad and proposes that Russia's language policy should include conceptual foundations for promoting the Russian language and culture through multilateral diplomatic institutions, primarily the SCO and BRICS+. It describes scientific, scientific-methodological, educational, and cultural activities in the SCO countries and identifies gaps in promoting the Russian language and culture abroad to be filled in the nearest future. The authors formulate recommendations for improving the existing system for developing and promoting the Russian language in the SCO countries and identify the potential for institutionalising the Russian language and spreading it around the world through international organisations.

Keywords: Russian language abroad, language policy, Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

Author's contribution: Dzyuba E.V. — research concept, review of regulatory documents, scientific and educational literature on the topic, writing the text; Mushenko E.V. —

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collecting and processing factual material, review of measures for promoting the Russian language in the SCO countries, writing the text.

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Introduction

By the end of the 20th century, Russian was one of the most spoken languages in the world. According to various sources, it was spoken by 300–350 million people, due to the de facto and legally established in the late 1930s dominance of the Russian language (RL) in all the 15 republics of the USSR. M.A. Arutyunova notes that in the 1940–1950s, “despite the development of national media, Russian was the dominant language and strengthened its position in the republics, which was facilitated by the unified writing systems of the USSR peoples, the translation of the national sign and symbol systems into the Cyrillic alphabet...” (Arutyunova, 2012: 159). The RL was also widespread in Eastern European countries. After the collapse of the Soviet Union and due to changes in the global language balance, the Russian-speaking population began to decline rapidly. According to the *Ethnologue* catalogue¹, today Russian ranks ninth in terms of the number of speakers (253,400 people), while during the Soviet period it ranked fifth.

Being part of Russia’s cultural and historical heritage and the main means of interethnic communication in the post-Soviet space, Russian is facing growing challenges: a decline in the number of native speakers, the dominance of English at the international level, and the expansion of Chinese, especially in Asia. Under the current geopolitical conditions and the intensifying competition in the humanitarian sphere, language policy aimed at promoting the Russian language and culture (RLC) on the world stage is acquiring special, strategic, significance.

It is important that Russian has a high degree of viability; it is used not only at the household, but also at the institutional level, and is currently experiencing a period of “prosperity” in terms of digital support². According to research in Pushkin State Russian Language Institute, Russian ranks fifth in

¹ Ethnologue: Languages of the world (2025). *SIL International*. Retrieved from <https://www.ethnologue.com/insights/ethnologue200/>

² Ibid.

terms of the number of Scopus and Web of Science publications³. In the late 1990s, G. Weber (Weber, 1997) identified the factors of sustainable language development: the number of native and non-native speakers; the economic power of the countries which use the language; the number of major activity areas where the language plays an important role, the number and size of the populations of countries which use the language, the social and literary prestige of the language, and its status as an official language of the UN. Russian meets these requirements, which testifies to its sustainable existence in the world and its active development, but this does not preclude its further spread.

Russian language is promoted as a soft power tool by multilateral diplomatic institutions: BRICS+, SCO, CIS, etc., as well as initiatives of various countries (Belt and Road Initiative, the Greater Eurasian Partnership), which have a serious impact on the linguistic situation in the regions where the initiatives are implemented. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) uniting the countries with a marked desire for political, economic, and cultural interaction is a reliable platform for promoting Russian as a foreign language. Diplomatic formats give Russia the opportunity not only to strengthen the position of Russian as a means of inter-state communication, but also to shape a humanitarian agenda for sustainable cooperation and cultural integration. Studying strategies for promoting Russian language through the SCO identifies the effectiveness of existing mechanisms and potential challenges and proposes specific tools for humanitarian influence in a rapidly changing world. This demonstrates the **relevance** of the study.

The assumption that the SCO has significant potential for implementing the strategy of promoting RLC abroad is based on the fact that the organization has transformed from a regional format to a global one. By 2025, the SCO will include 10 member countries (Belarus, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan), two observer states (Afghanistan, Mongolia), 14 partner countries in the South Caucasus (Azerbaijan, Armenia), Africa and the Middle East (Bahrain, Egypt, Qatar, Kuwait, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Turkey), Southeast and South Asia (Cambodia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka). Eight countries have applied for SCO observer status (Algeria, Bangladesh, East Timor, Vietnam, Israel, Iraq, Syria, Laos). At the same time, Chinese and Russian remain the official languages of the SCO so the expansion of the organization's influence in the world contributes to a significant strengthening of their positions.

The aim of the study is to identify the scientific, methodological, cultural, educational, and socio-political potential of multilateral diplomatic institutions, namely, the SCO, for implementing the strategy of promoting RLC in the world.

³ Pushkin State Russian Language Institute. (2024). *Index of the status of the Russian language in the modern world for 2024*. Retrieved from <https://www.pushkin.institute/index-russkogo-yazyka/>

Methods and materials

The study aims at revealing the potential of the dynamically developing and constantly transforming SCO for promoting RLC in the world. The aim is achieved with the help of methods of observation, experience generalization, forecasting scenarios for strengthening the position of Russian language in the world, as well as methods of quantitative, systematic, chronological, and factual analysis. The research material includes normative acts consolidating Russia's position in the SCO countries, data from global analytical agencies (*Etnologue*, *We Are Social*, *Meltwater*), electronic databases of regulatory documentation (Official Internet Portal for Legal Information⁴, information and legal portal *Garant*⁵, specialized legal service *Consultant Plus*⁶), open resources of official institutions (the websites of the President of the Russian Federation⁷, the Government of the Russian Federation⁸, the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation⁹, the SCO¹⁰, the CIS¹¹, the *Rossotrudnichestvo* agency¹², the *Russkiy Mir* Foundation¹³, *MAPRYAL*¹⁴, etc.).

Results

Based on data from analytical agencies and Russian research centers, there has been a significant decline in the number of Russian language speakers worldwide in the post-Soviet period; according to this criterion, Russian has fallen from fifth to ninth place. However, in terms of its presence in international scientific and institutional discourse, as well as in the digital space, the Russian language demonstrates the highest “viability”.

The regulatory framework for promoting Russian language abroad has been summarized at regional (in the immediate, the CIS, and further environment, the SCO) and global (BRICS+) levels. The absence of a concept for promoting RLC through multilateral diplomatic institutions, in particular the SCO and BRICS+ with their great potential for promoting RLC at the global level has been identified in regulatory documents. It is proposed to include information on activity areas and measures to promote RLC through multilateral diplomatic institutions in the language policy of the Russian Federation and other documents.

⁴ Official Internet Portal of Legal Information. (2025). Retrieved from <http://pravo.gov.ru/>

⁵ Information and legal portal *Garant*. Retrieved from <https://www.garant.ru/>

⁶ Specialized legal service “*ConsultantPlus*”. Retrieved from <https://www.consultant.ru/>

⁷ Official website of the President of the Russian Federation. Retrieved from <http://kremlin.ru/>

⁸ Official website of the Government of the Russian Federation. Retrieved from <http://government.ru/>

⁹ Official website of the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation. Retrieved from <https://edu.gov.ru/>

¹⁰ Official website of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Retrieved from <https://rus.sectsc.org>

¹¹ Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). *CIS internet portal*. Retrieved from <https://e-cis.info/>

¹² Official website of the *Rossotrudnichestvo* agency. Retrieved from <https://rs.gov.ru/>

¹³ Information portal of the *Russkiy Mir* Foundation. Retrieved from <https://russkiymir.ru/>

¹⁴ Official website of the International Association of Teachers of Russian Language and Literature. Retrieved from <https://ru.mapryal.org/>

Scientific, scientific-methodological, cultural, and educational activities in SCO countries aimed at promoting RLC abroad have been characterized. The need to open Russian language and culture centers in SCO member countries and partner states (Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Myanmar, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka) is substantiated.

The high level of methodological and technological support for teaching Russian language and literature (RLL) and Russian as a foreign language (RFL) is noted as evidenced by the available printed and digital teaching materials with diverse objectives and areas of study and their widespread distribution in Russia and abroad.

Recommendations have been formulated to improve the existing system for the development and promotion of Russian language in SCO countries: for legislators, on improving the regulatory framework; for scientists and teachers, on studying the psychological characteristics of different national audiences and pedagogical traditions in SCO member countries; expand tandem systems at school and university levels; promote RLC in the media and messengers most popular in “recipient countries”; place electronic educational content on RLC on national educational platforms; develop educational programs with two training profiles in Russian and the language of the SCO member country / the intermediary language.

The potential of international organizations has been identified, on the one hand, for the institutionalization of Russian (the International Organization of the Russian Language) and, on the other hand, for the spread of Russian in the world.

Discussion

Legal (legislative) framework

Federal Law No. 53-FZ “On the State Language of the Russian Federation” regulates the status of Russian as the state language and its use in Russia and substantiates the need to promote Russian abroad: “In order to protect and support the state language of the Russian Federation, federal government bodies ... promote the study of the Russian language outside the Russian Federation; ... provide support to compatriots living abroad in obtaining and disseminating information, and using information in Russian in the territories of the states where compatriots reside”¹⁵.

The Concept of State Support and Promotion of the Russian Language Abroad defines the goals, objectives, and mechanisms for the dissemination of RLC. The document highlights the key objectives of this strategic direction:

¹⁵ Federal Law No. 53-FZ of June 1, 2005, On the State Language of the Russian Federation. (2005). Consultant Plus. Retrieved from https://www.consultant.ru/document/cons_doc_LAW_53749/

“strengthening the role, significance, and competitiveness of the Russian language in the modern world; supporting the study and teaching of the Russian language; improving the infrastructure used to develop international cultural, humanitarian, scientific, and educational cooperation”¹⁶. It also identifies the main activity areas covering a wide range of large-scale comprehensive campaigns and events in Russia and abroad aimed at supporting the study and teaching of the Russian language, popularizing Russian culture, and promoting Russian science and education in the world; the formation of a multi-level Russian-language educational environment and infrastructure of international standard (institutions, personnel, teaching, methodological and technological support, book distribution networks, and library systems).

The Concept of Foreign Policy of the Russian Federation (approved by Decree of the President of the Russian Federation No. 229 of March 31, 2023) and the Concept of Humanitarian Policy of the Russian Federation Abroad (approved by Decree of the President of the Russian Federation No. 611 of September 5, 2022) postulate the need to counteract increasing attempts to “belittle the significance of Russian culture and Russian humanitarian projects, to spread and impose a distorted interpretation of Russia’s true goals in familiarizing the world community with its cultural heritage and achievements in various humanitarian fields, to discredit the Russian world, its traditions and ideals replacing them with pseudo-values”¹⁷, and affirm the importance of “conveying the image of Russia as a country attractive for living, working, studying, and tourism”¹⁸.

The Concept of Humanitarian Policy emphasizes the high level of development and richness of the Russian language, which allows it to occupy a worthy place among the world’s language systems and ensure communication in international universal and regional organizations (UN, UNESCO, World Health Organization, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, CSTO, EAEU, CIS, SCO, etc.); defines the importance of the Russian language as the most important “instrument of political, economic, cultural, humanitarian, scientific, and educational cooperation between Russia and foreign states”; the existence of a “highly developed educational, scientific, and media digital environment in the Russian Academy of Sciences”¹⁹ is noted. The document describes the main measures for implementing the concept of promoting Russian

¹⁶ Concept of State Support and Promotion of the Russian Language Abroad. (2015). *Consultant Plus*. Retrieved from https://www.consultant.ru/document/cons_doc_LAW_188569/

¹⁷ President of the Russian Federation. (2023). Decree No. 229 *On approval of the Foreign Policy Concept of the Russian Federation*. Official internet portal of legal information. Retrieved from <http://www.kremlin.ru/acts/bank/49090/page/1>

¹⁸ President of the Russian Federation. (2022). Decree No. 747 *On the approval of the Concept of the humanitarian policy of the Russian Federation abroad*. Government of the Russian Federation. Retrieved from https://rs.gov.ru/app/uploads/2023/09/u-611-05_09_2022.pdf

¹⁹ Ibid.

literature: participating in international book fairs and library forums, support for foreign libraries, and translating the works by Russian authors into foreign languages; creating a general cultural and linguistic space for business communication in Russian; opening Russian-language departments in foreign educational institutions, developing dual degree programs, organizing preparatory courses, opening branches of Russian higher education institutions abroad; supporting organizations of compatriots living abroad who play a vital “role in promoting the Russian language, culture, science, education, sports, and tourism, as well as in developing bilateral cooperation in the humanitarian sphere and intercultural dialogue”²⁰. It is also noted that there is a need to develop “multilateral humanitarian cooperation within the framework of international regional organizations and associations such as the SCO, the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, the Russia-ASEAN dialogue partnership, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, etc.”²¹

Institutionalization is very important for strengthening the position of the Russian language. On October 13, 2023, there was a meeting of the CIS Heads of State Council in Bishkek where seven countries (Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan) signed an agreement establishing the International Organization for the Russian Language. The agreement defines the importance of the Russian language as an official language in the UN, SCO, CIS, EAEU, and CSTO and points to its role in ensuring “interethnic communication for the peoples of different states”²². It is an intergovernmental open organisation with international legal personality. The MORYA Charter notes that the organization can interact with CIS countries and other states and international organizations, and defines key goals and objectives, including the development of multilateral intergovernmental cooperation through strengthening the position of Russian as a means of communication at the international level; ensuring access to global knowledge bases on history, culture, and literature with the help of the Russian language; strengthening the status of Russian as an official and/or working language in regional and global international organizations²³.

In April 2024, the Autonomous Non-Commercial Organization for the Promotion of International Cooperation Eurasia (ANO Eurasia) was established. According to Minister of Education S.S. Kravtsov, it ensures cooperation

²⁰ President of the Russian Federation. (2022). Decree No. 747 On the approval of the Concept of the humanitarian policy of the Russian Federation abroad. Government of the Russian Federation. Retrieved from https://rs.gov.ru/app/uploads/2023/09/u-611-05_09_2022.pdf

²¹ Ibid.

²² Agreement on the Establishment of the International Organization for the Russian Language. (2023). *Official Internet Portal of Legal Information*. Retrieved from <http://publication.pravo.gov.ru/document/0001202407020017>

²³ Ibid.

between Russian teacher training universities and “practically every friendly country”²⁴.

Special attention is paid to the scientific, methodological and human resources support of the language policy. The instruction of the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation of May 16, 2019 “On the approval of the departmental target program *Scientific, methodical and human resources support for teaching Russian language and languages of peoples of the Russian Federation*”²⁵ contains target numbers on specialist training, educational, scientific and scientific-methodical activities for promoting RL and their financing in Russia and abroad.

In the context of preserving sovereignty, Russian identity and traditional values of Russia are considered in “National Security Strategy of the Russian Federation” (see Presidential Decree 400 of July 2, 2021)²⁶. The need to strengthen the position of Russian as a language of international communication is postulated in “Decree 394-r of the Government of the Russian Federation” dated February 21, 2025. The decree emphasizes the importance of “cooperation within the framework of international organizations and institutions, expansion of the use of online diplomacy tools”²⁷ in this process.

The Decree of the President of the Russian Federation “On the approval of the Fundamentals of the State Language Policy of the Russian Federation” of June 28, 2025²⁸, which entered into force on July, 2025, shows the necessity “to make coordinated, comprehensive, and large-scale efforts ... on promoting the Russian language in the world and enhancing Russia’s role in the global humanitarian and scientific space”²⁹. The document lists the areas of activity and presents a set of events for promoting and strengthening the positions of RL. Special attention is paid to assistance to public organizations in the relevant fields of activity and translation unions, increase of Russian language specialists

²⁴ Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation. (2024). *Sergey Kravtsov: The creation of the Eurasian Association for Support of the Russian Language will open up new opportunities for the development of a unified educational space of Eurasia* [Press release]. Retrieved from <https://edu.gov.ru/press/9538/sergey-kravcov-sozdanie-evraziyskoy-associacii-podderzhki-russkogo-yazyka-otkroet-novye-vozmozhnosti-dlya-razvitiya-edinogo-obrazovatel'nogo-prostranstva-evrazii/>

²⁵ Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation. (2019). Instruction No. R-60 *On the approval of the departmental target program*. Retrieved from <https://docs.edu.gov.ru/document/945997ac-798972c086b17a4e4ec0e126/download/1512/>

²⁶ President of the Russian Federation. (2021). Decree No. 400 *On the National Security Strategy of the Russian Federation*. Official internet portal of legal information. Retrieved from <http://www.kremlin.ru/acts/bank/47046>

²⁷ Government of the Russian Federation. (2025). Order No. 394-r *On the approval of the Strategy for presenting achievements of the Russian Federation in various branches of economy and culture at key international events*. Garant. Retrieved from <https://base.garant.ru>

²⁸ President of the Russian Federation. (2025). Decree No. XXX *On the approval of the Fundamentals of the State Language Policy of the Russian Federation*. Garant. Retrieved from <https://www.garant.ru/hotlaw/federal/1829972/>

²⁹ Ibid.

and internship programs, establishment of special scholarships and awards, increase of educational and scientific publishing activities, increase of training materials on Russian as a foreign language on the Internet, improvement of the testing system, assessment of the level of RL and the conditions for the adaptation of foreigners in Russia. It indicated territorial priorities for the dissemination of Russian as a language of inter-ethnic communication in the post-Soviet space (paragraphs 22a, 31) and as a language of international communication in the world humanitarian space (paragraphs 31, 38). However, it does not state the importance of international organizations and inter-state associations (SCO, BRICS+) for the promotion of RL.

The crucial role of an effective language policy for strengthening international dialogue and asserting the position of a state in the world is noted in documents of certain organizations, e.g. SCO. Article 10 of the “Agreement between the governments of SCO member states on cooperation in the field of education” sets forth the parties’ standpoints on studying national languages of SCO member countries: “Each of the Parties shall, in accordance with its facilities, encourage the study of languages, history, culture, and literature of other States-Parties in its educational institutions/organizations in the forms that this Party considers most appropriate”³⁰.

The legislation provides a legal basis for promoting RLC abroad, defines mechanisms to support and disseminate PLC, establishes quantitative and financial norms for training and events aimed at strengthening the position of RL in the world. However, the documents do not present the concept of promoting RLC through multilateral diplomacy institutions, especially at a global level (primarily SCO and BRICS+).

The extent of scientific research on the topic

The importance of language for strengthening the position of the state and creating the image of the country in the global information space was emphasized by Russian and foreign researchers (E.V. Ardatova, J. Ahernh, E. Bell, T.M. Balykhina, A.T. Gasparishvili, A. Dolzhikova, S. Zolyan, V. Kostomarov, V. Kostomarov, V. Kuznetsova, K. Noack, D.S. Lesnevskaya, Lu Hun, E. Mitrofanova, S. Myakinen, V. Nikonov, O. Tikhomirova, E. Khamraeva, S. Kamysheva, S. Khusainova, etc.).

The impetus for the dissemination of a certain language in the world or a particular region is the activity of international organizations, which communicate the most popular languages, including Russian. Researchers emphasize the importance of RL as a means of conducting foreign policy in the CIS, Baltic

³⁰ Agreement between the governments of the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization on cooperation in the field of education. (2008). *Bulletin of International Treaties*, (10), 4–7. Retrieved from <https://rus.sectesco.org/20060615/1609353.html>

countries and Eurasia (Bogdanova, 2018; Gorbukhova, Sibiryakova, 2024; Kamysheva, 2023; Khusainova, 2025, etc.).

Speaking of the RL as an instrument of soft power in the post-Soviet space, S. Husainova highlights criteria of favourable conditions for strengthening the positions of the RL in the formation of the multipolar world through the language of the state itself as well. The criteria include the ideological orientation of a post-Soviet state; the official status of the RL in a state; the multidivisional system of Russian-language education in a state, etc. (Husainova, 2025). The spread of RLC in the CIS countries is essential for Eurasian integration in its narrow geographical sense³¹. However, organizations such as SCO and BRICS+ have significant potential to spread RLC both regionally and globally.

The features of teaching RL in China have been recently studied in detail. Researchers note significant changes in the language education system because ‘of the expanded range of subjects studied in Russian-language universities and deepened content of the courses taught, increasing attention to cultural and intercultural aspects of education, improvement of educational infrastructure and teaching technologies, training directions’ (Yang, Dzyuba, 2022). Scientists show the development of digital technologies in RL education (Azimov, 2020; Zhang, Vesnina, 2020; Strelchuk, Kozhevnikova, Borchenko, 2023); some psychological characteristics of Chinese culture representatives conditioned by pedagogical traditions and manifested in learning (Antonova, 2022). Special attention is paid to mutual exchange between Russia and China in the field of international language policy, high technologies, education, culture, and tourism (Sun, Yarovaya, 2024).

European education institutions have gained extensive experience in teaching RL. V. Kuznetsova considers the activity of Russian institutions including state institutions, foundations, public associations, and educational organizations as a tool of “soft power” for science dissemination in Spain. She emphasizes that despite the confrontation between Russia and the collective West, Spain remains interested in studying Russian as a foreign language. This is “due to long-standing historical and cultural ties between the two countries which have not been interrupted even in the most difficult historical periods” (Kuznetsova, 2020). The researcher states that Russia has maintained and, in some respects, expanded its presence in Spain in the humanitarian and information space recently since it has a whole institutional system of diplomatic and state structures, social and professional organizations, and cultural centers with their activities aimed at maintaining interest in Russian as a foreign language.

³¹ Asia TV. (2023). *The III International Congress “Language Policy of the CIS Countries” is taking place in Minsk*. <http://asiatv.kg/2023/11/27/v-minske-prohodit-iii-mezhdunarodnyj-kongress-yazykovaya-politika-stran-sng/>; International Association of CIS Countries. (2025). *The second international conference “Russian as the basis of integration dialogue in the CIS region”*. Retrieved from https://iacis.ru/meropriyatiya/meropriyatiya_mpa_sng/vtoraya_mezhdunarodnaya_konferenciya_russkij_yazik_osnova_integratsionnogo_dialoga_v_regione_sng

T. Yakushkina notes the continued interest of Italians in RL and emphasizes that the Italian national consciousness focuses on the factor of culture which Italians are ready to defend in relations with Russians even without any contacts”. According to the researcher, “awareness of the value of Russian culture will remain the main reason for choosing RL in current adverse for friendly relations period” (Yakushkina, 2022: 212).

The established systems of RL education in European countries should be supported and developed along with activities aimed at struggling with “cultural abolition” of the collective West against Russia (Kupina, 2022) and at creating an objective image of Russia in the global information space.

Since 2022, Russia’s foreign policy has focused on expanding ties with the Global South, including Africa and Southeast Asia. N. Kamarova points out that Africa, especially its non-socialist countries, is not aware of Russia and its opportunities in business, professional, and educational spheres. If Africans learn about Russia, they will form a positive image of Russia, understand its cultural and historical features and develop Russian-African cooperation. N. Kamarova (Kamarova, 2024) and O.I. Stepashkina et al. (Stepashkina et al., 2024) recommend to include RL in educational programs of African schools and universities, use the most popular in Africa Internet resources and messengers (for example, Telegram) to popularize Russian as a foreign language. N.A. Kamarova points out that some African countries opened RL Learning Centers and RL Open Education, but they often face problems informing potential students about their activities (Kamarova, 2024).

Russia aims at forming a “broad integration framework, the Greater Eurasian Partnership, by uniting the capacities of all states, regional organizations, and associations of Eurasia with the support of the Eurasian Economic Union, SCO, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations”³². This strategy involves the countries of South-East Asia in the language policy of the SCO states. The researchers note a high motivation to study RL among citizens of Thailand and Myanmar (Vlasov et al., 2024). The specifics of studying RLC by Filipinos is discussed by D. S. Panarina, who indicates problems of bilateral cooperation between Russia and the Philippines (Panarina, 2023). The peculiarities of teaching RL in Vietnam are considered in the works of T. Fung and S. Kashchuk (Fung, Kashchuk, 2025), E. Zubtsova (Zubtsova, 2024). The experience of promotion RLC in Sri Lanka is characterised by E. Khrisanova and her colleagues (Danilov et al., 2024; Khrisanova, 2023), A. Kirillova (Kirillova, 2023), etc. The authors of these articles emphasize that interest in RL in Southeast Asia is rapidly growing due to the developing economic ties and tourist demand of these countries

³² President of the Russian Federation. (2023). *Foreign Policy Concept of the Russian Federation* (Approved by Decree No. 229). Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. Retrieved from <https://www.mid.ru/ru/detail-material-page/1860586/>

among Russian citizens. However, there are problems related to the insufficient number of training materials and specialists for the specific language audience.

We emphasize that the potential of SCO in promoting science in the world nowadays is not sufficiently disclosed in the scientific literature.

Activities on promoting RL in SCO countries

Since 2008, RL is promoted in the SCO countries by the agency “Rossotrudnichestvo”; since 2021, its offices received an unofficial name “Russian House”. Its goal is to strengthen the humanitarian influence of Russia in the world. According to the Decree 1315 of the President of the Russian Federation dated September 6, 2008, “Rossotrudnichestvo” is intended to ensure popularization and promotion of RL abroad by organizing courses and centers for studying RL, providing methodological assistance to foreign teachers of RL, holding scientific and practical conferences, seminars, creative meetings, national and international competitions and Olympiads on RL³³.

“Russian houses” are an important mechanism for implementing international humanitarian cooperation programs. “Russian houses” are situated in different countries and cities: China (Beijing), Kazakhstan (Astana, offices in Uralsk, Almaty, Ust-Kamenogorsk), India (New Delhi, offices in Calcutta, Mumbai, Chennai, Trivandrum), Kyrgyzstan (Bishkek, an office in Osh), Pakistan (Karachi), Tajikistan (Dushanbe, Khujand), Uzbekistan (Tashkent), Iran (Tehran), and Belarus (Minsk, offices in Brest, Grodno, and Gomel)³⁴. Russian Houses are opened in the SCO partner countries: Azerbaijan (Baku), Armenia (Yerevan, an office in Gyumri), Egypt (Cairo, an office in Alexandria), Cambodia (Phnom Penh), Nepal (Kathmandu), Turkey (Ankara)³⁵.

Rossotrudnichestvo promotes the development of the Russian Houses network to ensure the expansion of Russia’s presence abroad in the cultural and humanitarian sphere. In 2024, agreements were signed to establish relations with Iran (SCO member), Iraq, the UAE, Oman, and Turkey (SCO partners). In June 2025, there were no agency’s representative offices in Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Myanmar, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Sri Lanka³⁶, and this is the prospect for the agency.

Rossotrudnichestvo supported events in the SCO countries in 2022–2024 to achieve the main goals of promoting and strengthening the position of the Russian language abroad. In 2022, despite sanctions and measures to isolate

³³ President of the Russian Federation. (2008). Decree No. 1315 *On certain issues of state administration in the field of international cooperation*. Official internet portal of legal information. Retrieved from <http://www.kremlin.ru/acts/bank/28020>

³⁴ Rossotrudnichestvo. (2025). *Geography of Russian Houses*. Retrieved from <https://rs.gov.ru/kontakty/predstavitelstva-za-rubezhom/represents-with-map>

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Ibid.

Russia and Russian culture, Rossotrudnichestvo provided at its representative offices course training in the Russian language, advanced training courses (ATC) for teachers and preschool teachers of the Russian language; ATC for university teachers of the Russian language and teachers of academic disciplines in the Russian language in the SCO countries and dialogue partners (Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, Egypt, Iran, Qatar, India, Cambodia, and Sri Lanka)³⁷.

A large-scale event in terms of participants' geography is the "International Russian Language Week East-West", which is held annually in Turkey (Istanbul). In October 2023, the event brought together 769 participants from 60 countries; in 2024, 100 participants from 24 European and 6 Asian countries, including SCO members and dialogue partners)^{38,39} The event "Organization of Course Training in Russian as a Foreign Language Abroad" received a wide response; in 2022, there were 514 participants from 84 countries, in 2023, 769 participants from 60 countries, in 2024, more than 800 participants from 99 countries (including SCO member countries and dialogue partners)⁴⁰.

In 2022, the Forum of School Heads and Teachers of Russian Language and School Subjects in Russian was held in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan with the number of participants more than 1,500 people. In 2024, a similar forum in Uzbekistan (Bukhara) was attended by 374 participants, including 92 heads of educational organizations⁴¹. In Tajikistan (Dushanbe), the Forum was attended by 300 teachers and directors of local schools⁴².

³⁷ Rossotrudnichestvo. (2023). *Report on the implementation of the goals and objectives of the Public Declaration of Rossotrudnichestvo in 2022* [Report]. https://rs.gov.ru/app/uploads/2023/04/otchet-o-realizaczii-publichnoj-deklaraczii-czelej-i-zadach-v-2022-g_.pdf

³⁸ International Association of Teachers of Russian Language and Literature (MAPRYAL). (2025). *International Russian Language Week "East-West"*. Retrieved from <https://ru.mapryal.org/news/mezh-dunarodnaya-nedelya-russkogo-yazyka-vostok-zapad>

³⁹ Russkiy Mir Foundation. (2025). *International Russian Language Week "East-West"*. Retrieved from <https://russkiymir.ru/events/329407/>

⁴⁰ International Association of Teachers of Russian Language and Litera (MAPRYAL). (2025). *"I came to get a certificate..."* [News article]. Retrieved from <https://ru.mapryal.org/news/zashla-za-sertifikatom-a-uhozhu-s-chemodanom-znanij-i-umenij-zavershilas-masshtabnaya-programma-metodich-eskih-meropriyatij-dlya-prepodava-telej-russkogo-yazyka-za-rubezhomture>; Rossotrudnichestvo. (2023). *Report on the implementation of the goals and objectives of the Public Declaration of Rossotrudnichestvo in 2022* [Report]. Retrieved from https://rs.gov.ru/app/uploads/2023/04/otchet-o-realizaczii-publichnoj-deklaraczii-czelej-i-zadach-v-2022-g_.pdf; Rossotrudnichestvo. (2024). *Report on the results of Rossotrudnichestvo activities in 2023* [Annual report]. Retrieved from <https://rs.gov.ru/doc/doklad-o-rezultatah-deyatelnosti-rossotrudnichestva-2023-g/>; Rossotrudnichestvo. (2025). *Report on the results of Rossotrudnichestvo activities in 2024* [Annual report]. Retrieved from <https://rs.gov.ru/doc/doklad-o-rezultatah-deyatelnosti-rossotrudnichestva-2024-g/>

⁴¹ Russian House in Tashkent. (2025, May 9). *Results of the Forum of School Directors and Teachers of Russian Language and School Subjects in Russian in Bukhara*. Retrieved from <https://uzbekistan.rs.gov.ru/news/itogi-foruma-rukovoditelej-shkol-prepodavatelej-russkogo-yazyka-i-predmetov-na-russkom-yazyke-v-buhare>

⁴² A forum of Russian teachers has started in Dushanbe. (2025). *TASS*. Retrieved from <https://tass.ru/obschestvo/22313527>

In November 2022, the Russian Humanitarian Mission, the Russian House in Baku, and the Association of Teachers of Russian-Language of Educational Institutions in Azerbaijan organised a training course “Effective Forms of Project-Research Activities for Teaching Russian: from Theory to Practice” in Azerbaijan (Baku). The course was dedicated to Russian methods of teaching Russian language. 34 Azerbaijani teachers completed the course⁴³.

In 2023, a school principals forum (252 participants) implementing education in the Russian language was held in Kyrgyzstan. A series of events “Russian language as the basis for developing the educational space of Russia and Tajikistan” was held in Tajikistan (Dushanbe). The event was dedicated to the Year of the Russian language in the CIS⁴⁴. In November 2024, a teachers’ training course “Innovative methods of teaching Russian as a foreign language in China” was held in China (Beijing, Harbin, Dalian, Tianjin) in a hybrid format with 385 participants⁴⁵.

The Committee for External Relations of the Government of St. Petersburg, the “Russkiy Mir” Foundation, and A.I. Herzen Russian State Pedagogical University annually hold professional training for Russian language teachers “Winter and Summer Schools” in St. Petersburg. In 2022, 95 teachers from 8 countries completed the courses; in 2023, 120 teachers from 11 countries, including SCO member states and dialogue partners; in 2024, 130 teachers from Azerbaijan, Armenia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Belarus, India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan⁴⁶.

In 2023–2024, a series of events were held in Uzbekistan, Armenia and Belarus. They were part of the departmental target program “Scientific, methodological, and personnel support for teaching the Russian language and languages of the peoples of the Russian Federation” of the state program “Education Development” for the period from 2018 to 2025. The program is

⁴³ Russian Humanitarian Mission. (2025). *Teachers from Azerbaijan took part in the training course of the Russian Humanitarian Mission*. Retrieved from <https://rhm.agency/news-rhm/pedagogi-iz-azerba-jdzhana-prinyali-uchastie-v-obruchayushhem-kurse-russkoj-gumanitarnoj-missii/>

⁴⁴ A forum of heads of Russian-language schools has begun in Kyrgyzstan. (2025). *TASS*. Retrieved from <https://tass.ru/obschestvo/19168123>; MAPRYAL. (2025). *The forum “Russian language as the basis for developing the educational space of Russia and Tajikistan” was held in Dushanbe*. Retrieved from <https://ru.mapryal.org/news/forum-russkij-yazik-osnova-razvitiya-obrazovatelno-go-prostranstva-rossii-i-tadzhikistana-proshel-v-dushanbe>

⁴⁵ Rossotrudnichestvo and SUSU will help Chinese teachers master innovative methods of teaching Russian. (2025). *RG.RU*. Retrieved from <https://rg.ru/2024/10/21/rossotrudnichestvo-i-iuurgu-pomogut-kitajskim-pedagogam-osvoit-innovacionnye-metody-obucheniia-russkomu-iazyku.html>

⁴⁶ Rossotrudnichestvo. (2025). *Report on the implementation of the goals and objectives of the Public Declaration of Rossotrudnichestvo in 2022*. Retrieved from https://rs.gov.ru/app/uploads/2023/04/otchet-o-realizaczii-publichnoj-deklaraczii-czelej-i-zadach-v-2022-g_.pdf; Rossotrudnichestvo. (2025). *Report on the results of Rossotrudnichestvo activities in 2023*. Retrieved from <https://rs.gov.ru/doc/doklad-o-rezultatah-deyatelnosti-rossotrudnichestva-2023-g/>; Rossotrudnichestvo. (2025). *Report on the results of Rossotrudnichestvo activities in 2024*. Retrieved from <https://rs.gov.ru/doc/doklad-o-rezultatah-deyatelnosti-rossotrudnichestva-2024-g/>

aimed at increasing teaching staff who have completed the training courses and professional retraining, disseminating and strengthening the position of the Russian language in the countries of the near and far abroad, and promoting the Russian language through cultural, educational, scientific, and methodological events⁴⁷.

In order to expand access to educational resources in the Russian language abroad, Rossotrudnichestvo is consolidating efforts to create a digital educational space giving free access to electronic books in the Russian language. Thus, the electronic educational resource “Russian as a Foreign Language” got more than 3,100 book requests in 2022. In 2022, the Education Development program delivered more than 156 thousand copies in different countries, including to the SCO member countries (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan); in 2023, more than 128 thousand copies; in 2024, more than 130 thousand copies⁴⁸. “Russian Humanitarian Mission” delivered more than 51 thousand copies of educational literature to 50 schools in Armenia in 2023. In 2023–2024, more than 23 thousand copies of fiction, educational, and children’s literature were delivered to centers of additional education teaching Russian in near and far abroad countries, including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Egypt, India^{49,50}.

The youth events include the project activity school “My Formula for Success” for students of philological and pedagogical faculties from Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan with 40 participants in 2022. School is held on the initiative of the North Caucasus Federal University⁵¹.

Since 2018, the “Masters of the Russian Language” project has been implemented with the support of Pushkin State Russian Language Institute. The project is aimed at creating a personnel reserve of teachers of Russian as

⁴⁷ Judicial and Regulatory Acts of the Russian Federation. (2025). Order No. R-120 of June 4, 2021 *On approval of the departmental target program ‘Scientific, methodological, and personnel support for teaching the Russian language and languages of the peoples of the Russian Federation’*. Retrieved from <https://sudact.ru/law/rasporiazhenie-minprosveshcheniia-rossii-ot-04062021-n-r-120/>

⁴⁸ Rossotrudnichestvo. (2025). *Report on the implementation of the goals and objectives of the Public Declaration of Rossotrudnichestvo in 2022*. Retrieved from https://rs.gov.ru/app/uploads/2023/04/otchet-o-realizaczii-publichnoj-deklaraczii-czelej-i-zadach-v-2022-g_.pdf; Rossotrudnichestvo. (2025). *Report on the results of Rossotrudnichestvo activities in 2023*. Retrieved from <https://rs.gov.ru/doc/doklad-o-rezultatah-deyatelnosti-rossotrudnichestva-2023-g/>; Rossotrudnichestvo. (2025). *Report on the results of Rossotrudnichestvo activities in 2024*. Retrieved from <https://rs.gov.ru/doc/doklad-o-rezultatah-deyatelnosti-rossotrudnichestva-2024-g/>

⁴⁹ Russian Humanitarian Mission. (2025). *Russian Humanitarian Mission to donate Russian-language textbooks to 50 Armenian schools*. Retrieved from <https://rhm.agency/news-rhm/russkaya-gumanitarnaya-missiya-peredast-50-shkolam-armenii-uchebniki-na-russkom-yazyke/>

⁵⁰ Rossotrudnichestvo to open 25 centers for additional education in 15 countries. (2025). TASS. Retrieved from <https://tass.ru/obschestvo/21452135>

⁵¹ Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation. (2025). *My formula for Success...* Retrieved from <https://minobrnauki.gov.ru/press-center/news/novosti-podvedomstvennykh-uchrezhdeniy/62651/>

a foreign language and at promoting Russian as a foreign language among young people. In 2022, the project was implemented in Armenia and Egypt; in 2023, in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey. In 2024, 30 winners and finalists of the competition completed internships in Armenia, Egypt, India, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, and Sri Lanka⁵².

One of the most important means for strengthening the position of the Russian Federation and promoting Russian education is quotas for education in Russian universities. The quota increases every year; in the 2022–2023 academic year, Russian Federation Government Resolution No. 2150 of December 18, 2020 “On establishing a quota for the education of foreign citizens and stateless persons in the Russian Federation” increased the number of places from 18 to 23 thousand; since 2023, to 30 thousand places. The information portal “Education in the Russian Federation for Foreigners” created by Rossotrudnichestvo is a transparent mechanism for optimizing the selection process for foreigners who want to study in Russia⁵³. The “Russian School Abroad” Concept characterizes actions to attract foreign citizens to Russian universities and strengthen the image of Russian-language education; over 250 various events were held in 2023⁵⁴.

Popularization of the Russian education system plays a major role in promoting the Russian language. In February 2023, the representative office in China (Beijing) assisted the annual educational exhibition “China Education Expo – 2023”⁵⁵; in November 2023, the educational exhibition “Russian Education. Tashkent – 2023”, where leading Russian universities were represented, was held in Uzbekistan⁵⁶. In 2024, Rossotrudnichestvo organized 27 educational exhibitions in 18 countries, including Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus (Education in Russia. Your Key to Success, brought together about 2,000 participants⁵⁷), India (the exhibition of Russian universities in New Delhi

⁵² Rossotrudnichestvo. (2025). *Report on the implementation of the goals and objectives of the Public Declaration of Rossotrudnichestvo in 2022*. Retrieved from https://rs.gov.ru/app/uploads/2023/04/otchet-o-realizaczii-publichnoj-deklaraczii-czelej-i-zadach-v-2022-g_.pdf; Rossotrudnichestvo. (2025). *Report on the results of Rossotrudnichestvo activities in 2023*. Retrieved from <https://rs.gov.ru/doc/doklad-o-rezultatah-deyatelnosti-rossotrudnichestva-2023-g/>; Rossotrudnichestvo. (2025). *Report on the results of Rossotrudnichestvo activities in 2024*. Retrieved from <https://rs.gov.ru/doc/doklad-o-rezultatah-deyatelnosti-rossotrudnichestva-2024-g/>

⁵³ Government of Russia. (2025). *Resolution No. 2150 of the Government of the Russian Federation of December 18, 2020 “On establishing a quota for education of foreign citizens and stateless persons in the Russian Federation”*. Retrieved from <http://government.ru/docs/all/131611/>

⁵⁴ Rossotrudnichestvo. (2025). *Report on the results of Rossotrudnichestvo activities in 2023*. Retrieved from <https://rs.gov.ru/doc/doklad-o-rezultatah-deyatelnosti-rossotrudnichestva-2023-g/>

⁵⁵ Rossotrudnichestvo. (2025). The advantages of Russian education were presented at the largest exhibition in China. Retrieved from <https://rs.gov.ru/news/vozmozhnosti-rossijskogo-obrazovaniya-predstavili-na-krupnejshej-vystavke-v-kitae/>

⁵⁶ TASS. (2025). The exhibition “Russian Education. Tashkent-2023” opened in the capital of Uzbekistan. Retrieved June from <https://tass.ru/obschestvo/18815183>

⁵⁷ Rossotrudnichestvo. (2025). *Report on the results of Rossotrudnichestvo activities in 2024*. Retrieved from <https://rs.gov.ru/doc/doklad-o-rezultatah-deyatelnosti-rossotrudnichestva-2024-g/>

as part of the first Russian-Indian Educational Summit presented about 60 Russian universities⁵⁸), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and China (Education Culture in Beijing, Qingdao, Jining, etc. brought together more than 6,000 in-person and more than 100,000 online participants⁵⁹). We should also note the pilot project “For Russian!” in 2024 aimed at forming a volunteer movement to disseminate Russian abroad, including in the SCO member countries and dialogue partner states: Armenia, Egypt, India, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, and Sri Lanka⁶⁰.

Numerous events are held annually in the SCO countries as part of the celebration of Russian Language Day. The events include thematic conferences, round tables, musical and literary readings, exhibitions, festivals, competitions, open lessons of Russian Language, etc. In 2023, more than 100 events of various formats were held in more than 50 countries, including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan. In 2024, the Russian Cultural Center in Beijing hosted an annual open lesson for potential students of Russian Language courses. Over 10 years, the open lesson has brought together more than 4 thousand participants⁶¹.

Festivals of Russian language were held in the SCO countries, China (2024), Tajikistan (2023), Sri Lanka (2023): International Competition for Teachers of Russian Language and Literature “Russian Language in Kazakhstan — New Horizons” (2022), Russian Language and Literature Week in Turkey (2022; 320 participants from 33 countries), Russian Language Week in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan, 2024), Festival “Russian Language is the Language of Friendship” in Dushanbe (Tajikistan, 2023), “Russian Seasons” in Uzbekistan (2023, 2024)⁶², etc.

Events aimed at promoting Russian language abroad include the Total Dictation, Literary Dictation, and Victory Dictation. They are regularly held with the support of Russian Houses in Kazakhstan (since 2013), Belarus (since 2019), Tajikistan (since 2018), Uzbekistan (since 2019), China (since 2017), Iran (2023, 2024), and India (2022, 2023, 2024).

⁵⁸ Rossotrudnichestvo. (2025). About 60 Russian universities presented at the education exhibition in New Delhi. Retrieved from <https://rs.gov.ru/news/okolo-60-rossijskih-universitetov-predstavili-na-vystavke-obrazovaniya-v-nyu-deli/>

⁵⁹ Volunteer movement “For Russian!” (2025). Retrieved from <https://zarusskiy.unn.ru/>

⁶⁰ Russian Cultural Center in Beijing. (2025). Forum “Culture of Education”. Retrieved from <https://clck.ru/3MeiKv>

⁶¹ Russian House in Beijing. (2025). Open lesson of Russian language courses. Retrieved from <https://china.rs.gov.ru/news/otkrytyj-urok-kursov-russkogo-yazyka/>

⁶² Russkiy Mir. (2025). Russian Language and Literature Week in Turkey. Retrieved from <https://russkiymir.ru/events/306969/>; Russkiy Mir. (2025). The 18th Russian Language and Culture Festival opened in Beijing. Retrieved from <https://russkiymir.ru/news/324821/>; MAPRYAL. (2025). The winners of the competition “Russian language in Kazakhstan — New horizons” have been determined. Retrieved from <https://ru.mapryal.org/news/opredeleni-imena-pobeditelej-konkursa-russkij-yazik-v-kazahstane-novie-gorizonti>

The most important tool for strengthening the position of the Russian language abroad and consolidating teachers of Russian language and literature are international associations of teachers of Russian language and literature, such as INDAPRYAL (Indian Association of Teachers of Russian Language and Literature), MAPRYAL (International Association of Teachers of Russian Language and Literature), ROPRYAL (Russian Society of Teachers of Russian Language and Literature), TOPRYAL (Tashkent Association of Teachers of Russian Language and Literature), etc. The associations and communities are aimed at providing methodological support to teachers of Russian language and literature and Russian as a foreign language, exchanging experience, supporting research activities in the field of theory and methods of teaching Russian language, organizing conferences and training sessions, and popularizing Russian culture.

Educational, scientific and methodological base

The events for promoting Russian as a foreign language are based on a huge experience in teaching Russian as a foreign language in different national groups. A 6-level system of Russian as a foreign language proficiency has been developed. The Order No. 255 of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation of April 1, 2014 “On approval of levels of proficiency in Russian as a foreign language and requirements for them” established standards and requirements for knowledge, skills and abilities at each level; training programs, which describe in detail the content of training at each level, have been developed; a series of standard tests (“Open Test Versions”) have been created for passing certification exams to determine the level of Russian as a foreign language proficiency; vocabulary minimums have been compiled for elementary, basic and 1st certification levels; large-scale work has been carried out to create comprehensive and aspectual Russian as a foreign language textbooks (education levels, proficiency levels, types of speech activity, ad professional focus). The largest publishing houses specializing in writing, publishing and distribution of educational literature on Russian as a foreign language in the world are Zlatoust, Russky Yazyk. Kursy, Flinta. Nauka. The extensive scientific, methodological, and educational base created by Russian language specialists substantiates readiness to promote Russian as a foreign language in the countries of the gradually transforming SCO.

Further work of scientists, teachers and methodologists aimed at promoting Russian as a foreign language in the SCO countries may be associated with an in-depth study of the psychological characteristics of different national audiences and pedagogical traditions in a particular country in order to adapt the methods of teaching Russian as a foreign language; building and expanding existing educational tandem systems at the level of partner schools and universities;

developing a digital educational environment, especially at the level of pre-university education for better preparation of future foreign students entering Russian universities to receive professional education in Russian; active use of the media and messengers that are popular in the “recipient countries”⁶³ to popularize Russian as a foreign language; posting electronic educational content on Russian as a foreign language on national educational platforms adopted in a particular country; developing educational programs in pedagogical universities with two training profiles aimed at mastering the Russian language, different areas of Russian studies and methods of teaching Russian as a foreign language, mastering the language and culture (traditions, customs, morals, and national behavior) of a specific SCO country or intermediary language; expansion of the SCO University network⁶⁴.

To form the regulatory framework, the content of the language policy should include the conceptual foundations, areas of activity and events for promoting RLC through the institutions of multilateral diplomacy, primarily the SCO and BRICS+. It is necessary to improve and expand the activities of organizations promoting Russian Language and Culture (MORYA, “Eurasia”) towards more active and transparent interaction in terms of information and finance with government agencies, educational institutions, international organizations, and interstate associations (SCO, BRICS+, ASEAN). This will contribute to the spread of RL in the world.

Conclusion

In the post-Soviet period, the policy of promoting Russian Language and Culture abroad actually experienced a period of stagnation; the Rossotrudnichestvo as the successor to the All-Union Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries (1925), the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries (1958), and Roszarubezhsentr (1994) resumed its activities only in 2008; the Russkiy Mir Foundation was founded in 2007. Meanwhile, other countries (Great Britain, Germany, France, etc.) were actively developing cultural diplomacy. In the period from 2015 to the present, a solid legal framework has been created in Russia which defines a system of mechanisms for supporting and disseminating RLC abroad, sets quantitative and financial standards for training personnel and holding events aimed at strengthening the position and promoting RL in the world. We are ready for cooperation with multilateral diplomacy institutions (SCO, BRICS, CIS, APEC, ASEAN, etc.), primarily through MORYA and “Eurasia”. A set of large-scale and multifunctional events aimed at teaching Russian and popularizing Russian culture among

⁶³ We Are Social & Meltwater. (2025). *Digital 2025: Top social platforms*. Retrieved from <https://datareportal.com/reports/digital-2025-sub-section-top-social-platforms>

⁶⁴ SCO University. (2025). Official website. Retrieved from <https://uni-sco.ru/>

foreign students is being implemented in Russia and abroad. The work can be adjusted depending on various factors: the evolving geopolitical situation, the transformation of international organizations and associations where Russia is a member country, changes in the digital environment affecting the education system, etc. However, the prepared scientific and educational-methodical base, the electronic resources for teaching Russian as a foreign language ensure high viability and competitiveness of Russian among other languages of the world, counteract to the growing discrediting of Russia, its culture and history, and contribute to the creation of a positive image of Russia in the global information space.

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Научная статья

Стратегия продвижения русского языка через институты многосторонней дипломатии

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Аннотация. Поставлена проблема сокращения количества носителей русского языка в мире в постсоветский период. Отмечен значительный потенциал международных организаций с участием России (в частности — Шанхайской организации сотрудничества) в укреплении позиций русского языка и культуры за рубежом. Подчеркнуто, что через институты многосторонней дипломатии Россия получает возможность формировать гуманитарную повестку, способствующую устойчивому сотрудничеству и культурной интеграции. Указанное свидетельствует об актуальности исследования, которое состоит в раскрытии потенциала ШОС для продвижения русского языка и культуры в мире. Использованы методы наблюдения, обобщения опыта, прогнозирования сценариев укрепления позиций русского языка в мире, а также количественного, системного, хронологического и фактологического анализа. Материалом исследования являются нормативные акты, закрепляющие позиции русского языка в странах ШОС, данные авторитетных аналитических агентств, информационные ресурсы официальных организаций по продвижению русского языка и культуры за рубежом. Обобщена нормативно-правовая база, сформулировано предложение о включении в содержание языковой политики России концептуальных основ продвижения русского языка и культуры через институты многосторонней дипломатии, прежде всего — ШОС и БРИКС+. Охарактеризован комплекс научных, научно-методических, просветительских и культурных мероприятий в странах ШОС. Выявлены некоторые лакуны в деятельности по продвижению русского языка и культуры за рубежом, восполнение которых необходимо в ближайшее время. Сформулированы рекомендации по совершенствованию разработанной системы развития и продвижения русского языка в странах ШОС. Определено значение институционализации русского языка, выявлен потенциал международных организаций для его распространения в мире.

Ключевые слова: русский язык за рубежом, языковая политика, страны ШОС

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