

## **Citizenship education in contemporary Russia: federal standards and school practice**

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In the end of the XXth century in Russian education dominated processes of post-Soviet de-ideologization. "Side effect" of that was the formation among young people ideals of individualism, "freedom" from traditional moral values and obligations to society.

Meanwhile, there was the increasing influence of religion (Islam on the 2<sup>nd</sup> position after Orthodoxy). Thus, a partial response to "Westernization" has become the development trend of religious education.

Complex interethnic and inter-religion relations, lack of values, moral relativism has been a serious problem for the government and the educational community. Attempts to solve it led to including (in 2009-2012) to school curricula the special course "Introduction to Religious Cultures and Secular Ethics", explaining basic traditional values. This course provided to children (10-11 of age) and their parents choose one of the "modules" for learning. General data of this choice ("Orthodoxy" - 31.7%; "Islam" - 4%; "Buddhism" and "Judaism" both – less 1%; alternative modules "World Religions" -21.2%, and "Secular Ethics" - 42.7%) will be compared in this paper to different parameters (ethnic, geographical, regional, etc.).

The new federal "Law on Education" (2013) proclaimed citizenship and patriotism as basic principles of education. The new standard adds a synthetic intercultural course "Principles of spiritual and moral culture of the peoples of Russia" (without separation on modules), which will come to Russian schools in 2014, and requires new ways to unite ethnic and Muslim religious traditions with contemporary democratic ideals of education.