

They are established based on considerations of state security, protection of public order, morality of the population, human life and health, protection of the historical and archaeological heritage of the peoples of Belarus and foreign countries, including intellectual property, protection of the interests of Belarusian consumers of imported goods.

Conclusion. Foreign economic activity is becoming an increasingly important factor in the development of the national economy and economic stabilization of the Republic of Belarus as an independent entity in the international political and economic arena. Now there is practically no industry in industrialized countries that would not be involved in the sphere of foreign economic activity. Despite the wider distribution and constant use of customs import and export duties, non-tariff methods of regulation are considered to be more effective in the implementation of the state's foreign trade policy, since they are not bound by any international obligations; more convenient in achieving the desired result in foreign economic policy. This has resulted in the choice of this topic.

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BILINGUISM AS A CONSTITUTIONAL LEGAL PHENOMENON IN THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

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Intensive and long-term contacts between peoples often lead to bilingualism (or bilinguism from Latin *bi-* “two, lingu language”). It has been established that about half of the world's population is either bilingual or multilingual, and in many countries of the world bilingualism is the norm (compare, for example, the situation in Russia, on the territory of which, along with Russian, there are such languages as Tatar, Bashkir, Yakut, Buryat, Ossetia and many others). This phenomenon is typical for India, West Africa, New Guinea and others, where residents usually speak the local, regional version of the language and the state (usually in the past colonial language). The purpose of this study is to characterize the features of the constitutional regulation of bilingualism in the Republic of Belarus.

Material and methods. The material of the work is the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus, the Law “On Languages in the Republic of Belarus”, etc. When analyzing the normative material, the formal legal method and the method of specific legal analysis were used.

Findings and their discussion. In accordance with the Constitution, the state languages in the Republic of Belarus are Belarusian and Russian (Article 17). The movement towards state multilingualism (bilingualism) in Belarus has a long history and is predetermined by the peculiarities of the national composition of the population, the majority of which are Belarusians and Russians. Russian-Belarusian bilingualism is considered by many researchers as a unique phenomenon, not only because it is fixed by law, but also due to the closely related and mental ties of citizens, their common historical past. Among the former Soviet republics one can hardly find a people closer to the Belarusian, which is reflected even in the name of our country. This linguistic situation is undoubtedly explained by the cultural and historical heritage of the long stay of Belarus in the Russian Empire and the USSR, where Russian played the role of the language of intercultural communication, a means of introducing scientific and cultural achievements.

On January 26, 1990, the Supreme Council of the BSSR adopted the Law “On languages in the Republic of Belarus”. For its time, it was progressive, took into account new trends in the development of the Belarusian society and allowed a wider use of the Belarusian language. It allowed an alternative use of Russian or Belarusian languages, its implementation entirely depended on the language choice of the person. Later, after the collapse of the USSR and the receipt of state independence by the Republic of Belarus, there were numerous changes in the attitude towards the Belarusian language, reflected in different versions of the draft Constitution. So, in the 1st draft of 1991 in Art. 36 it was indicated that the only state language is Belarusian. In the last version of the Constitution, on the eve of its final adoption, the draft indicated the role of the Russian language as a means of intercultural communication [1, p. 104-105]. However, the assignment of the status of the only state language to the Belarusian language revealed a number of problems, since the Belarusian language, previously little used in the process of communication, had a clearly insufficient degree of communicative adequacy [2, p. 79].

Taking into account the negative historical experience of radical changes in the linguistic sphere of other countries, the growing discontent and the maturation of the ethno-linguistic conflict, on May 14, 1995, the issue of languages was put to a nationwide referendum, during which 88.3% of voters spoke in favor of assigning the Russian language a status equal to Belarusian. It can be considered that bilingualism enshrined at the constitutional level (statehood of the Belarusian and Russian languages) is a positive phenomenon for the development of the state and society. In 1998, bilingualism was

officially confirmed in the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus, where Russian is recognized as the state language along with Belarusian.

However, according to N.B. Mechkovskaya, the legal equality of languages is not always a sufficient condition for their actual balance [3, p. 103]. This is clearly confirmed by the linguistic situation of modern Belarus, where, despite the identical legislative status of the two state languages, there is a stable closely related bilingualism, characterized by the dominance of the Russian language in all spheres of people's life – in everyday communication, science, public administration, education, office work, the mass media.

According to the 2009 census, about 140 nationalities live in the Republic of Belarus, but the titular nation is dominant in numbers, 83.7% of the republic's residents identify themselves as Belarusians. 53.2% of the respondents named Belarusian as their native language. However, the overwhelming majority of those participating in the survey (70.2%) indicated Russian as the language of everyday communication [4]. This indicates that Belarusian citizens have actualized the cultural and symbolic meaning of the Belarusian language, its association with their ethnicity. The results of the census indicate that the absolute majority of Belarusians, regardless of their ethnic origin, acquire Russian as their first language, which supports its predominant role in society. The Belarusian language acts as a second language, since proficiency in it is developed not during communication in a natural environment from an early age, but through specialized training [5, p. 40]. The real picture of proficiency in 2 languages is largely predetermined by educational institutions, where today 98% of Belarusian schoolchildren study in Russian. The linguistic imbalance is also obvious when choosing a subject for passing the obligatory exam at the centralized language testing. In 2020, according to the RIVSH, the exam was written in the Belarusian language by 19 thousand applicants, in Russian - 53 thousand.

Conclusion. Thus, it seems to us that the low percentage of the use of the Belarusian language in the sphere of everyday communication is due to the absence of the requirement for proficiency in both state languages at the level of legislation. Knowledge of both state languages is required only from employees of public administration bodies to carry out the required scope of official duties and is a kind of addition to qualification requirements. For the rest of the citizens not employed in this industry, fluency in Russian and White-Russian is not required. Moreover, Art. 14 of the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Citizenship" obliges anyone who wants to obtain citizenship of our country to know only one of the state languages [6, p. 68–69]. In 2010, the expansion of the use of the Belarusian language was declared the most important task. The government approved an action plan to popularize and expand the scope of its use in society. For example, recently they began to write the names of streets in Belarusian, make announcements in transport, billboards promoting the beauty of the Belarusian word have been installed in cities, and Belarusian speech is

increasingly heard from TV screens. It seems to us that the measures taken can be supplemented by the introduction of a proportional balance for the use of both state languages in the media, the mandatory publication of all legal documents, and description of goods and services in two languages.

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THE SCOPE OF THE CRIMINAL OFFENSE “HUMAN TRAFFICKING” IN REPUBLIC OF LATVIA

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There has never been a more important moment to engage the fight for freedom. Now, more than ever, we must collectively commit to stopping human traffickers and protecting victims. We will not be deterred from dismantling this crime down to its very foundations and ensuring the protection of future generations [11]. Human trafficking¹ has become a global problem worldwide, and it doesn't matter where you are. That is why it is important to understand the scope of the criminal offense human trafficking in legislation of Latvia. The EU covers over 4 million km² and has 446 million inhabitants [4], but at the same time the population of Latvia is only 1,907 million [4] what makes 0,428% from all EU countries. A significant number is still registered in Latvia on trafficking in person cases.

Material and methods. This research is based on international and supranational understanding what trafficking in person is, that is why the main approach is based on comparative research methods. For analysing criminal offenses in Latvia, is used qualitative empirical approaches (qualitative

¹ In some sources the legislator is using the concept “trafficking in person” or “trafficking of human beings”. So in this research for the sake of uniformity authors are using concept “human trafficking”, reserving rights to refer and extend it to the other concepts mentioned above.