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Providing a creative youth environment at the Taurida Forum in the context of Russia's youth policy

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Abstract

The article points out that the Taurida Forum held in Crimea is one of the ways to implement the state youth policy in the Russian Federation. The research is devoted to the issues of providing a creative youth environment at this forum in the context of Russia's cultural policy. The Taurida Forum grants funding and contributes to the implementation of socially oriented ideas. On the one hand, the multitasking of the forum sets hard goals; on the other hand, it indicates some vagueness of the tasks set. The organization of the Taurida-ART Festival and art residence in 2019 marked a creative turn in the concept of the forum. The experience of the Taurida Forum is generally positive; the forum actively influences the formation of a cultural creative community. The author of the article pays attention to the fact that the Taurida Forum can be viewed as a social elevator. At the same time, the forum has a number of drawbacks that limit its action. They include a difficult competitive selection of applications, insufficient information, the perception of the forum as open only to certain groups of young people and a low level of understanding of how to grasp available opportunities and apply the acquired knowledge.

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Keywords

Taurida Forum, Taurida, Taurida-ART, youth art, cultural policy, Federal Agency for Youth Affairs.

Introduction

The Taurida Forum is one of the ways to implement the state youth policy, and, as indicated in the report of the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration “Russia’s youth 2000-2025: the development of human capital”, commissioned by the Federal Agency for Youth Affairs in 2013, it is not quantitative, but qualitative growth, i. e., the fostering of the human capital of young people, that is especially important.

The Taurida Forum is one of the large-scale federal youth forums (along with the Territory of Meanings on the Klyazma, the Iturup National Youth Educational Forum, the Baltic Artek International Youth Forum, the iVolga Youth Forum), which grants funding and contributes to the implementation of socially oriented ideas. Such forums really work differently than the conventional areas of youth education (military-patriotic clubs, search teams, sports clubs, volunteer organizations, etc.).

According to the former head of the Federal Agency for Youth Affairs Sergey Pospelov, the main indicators of the implementation of the youth policy include the quality and number of young people who join the region's human resources after their participation in the forum: the task of the forums is to “create a success story of young people so that everyone is tied to the professional community” [Qtd. in: Gallyamova, 2017, 233].

Research results

The Taurida Forum has been in existence since 2014 and is held annually in Crimea. It was created to strengthen the creative and patriotic sentiments of Crimean and Russian youth. The Taurida Forum meets the requirements of mass participation and involvement, takes up a large space and distributes a large number of grants; the number of grants awarded is growing [Goncharova, Rukina, 2017].

As indicated at the official site of the Taurida Forum, 17,000 participants and 2,000 experts have visited it over five years; grants worth more than ₹160,000,000 have been awarded. If there were about 2,500 forum participants in 2016 [Ibidem, 48], the forum was held for 5 months, and 5,000 people participated in it in 2019 [Forum..., www].

The most important tasks of the forum include the following: patriotic education; the involvement of young people in a healthy lifestyle and sports; the formation of traditional family values among young people; the formation of Russian identity, the unity of the Russian nation, the promotion of intercultural and interfaith dialogue; the involvement of young people in creative activities. These tasks correspond to almost all 15 areas of PR activities of the youth policy of our country (patriotism, public organizations, international cooperation, volunteerism, a healthy lifestyle, entrepreneurship, youth media, self-government, career development, tolerance, creativity, social adaptation, young families, and personnel) [Guseva, 2017, 75]. On the one hand, the multitasking of the forum sets hard goals; on the other hand, it indicates some vagueness of the tasks set. The beginning of the Regulations on the 2016 forum says that the forum “builds a community of talented young people,” but the set of tasks, oddly enough, does not correspond to this formulation.

As indicated in the Regulations on the forum, the forum was established by the Federal Agency for Youth Affairs (Rosmolodezh). It is held in several sessions; it took place in the Razdolnoe district of Crimea until 2019, and then moved to a valley near the town of Sudak. There is an analogy here with a summer camp because the forum consists of a sequence of creative sessions; the emphasis was placed at first on the educational function of the forum (with an unjustifiably broad range of tasks), then—on the creative one.

Changes in the names of the sessions indicate the desire of the organizers for more creative names. For example, here is a list of creative sessions in 2015: “Writers, poets, and journalists focusing on cultural topics”, “Artists and sculptors”, and “Musicians and composers”. The sessions were named quite differently in 2019: “Contemporary art session. Between the past and the future”, “RAP session”, and “Stand-up comedy” [Forum..., www].

The organization of the Taurida-ART Festival and art residence, i. e., the expansion of the creative direction in the work of this art cluster, in 2019 marked a creative turn in the concept of the forum. They created 8 art quarters. The Taurida ART quarter united architects, urbanists, designers, “art object creators”, sculptors, and art historians; 500 people lived in each quarter [Timkova, 2019, 89]. As one of the participants notes, “the event is intended for useful acquaintances, training, creativity, idea exchange, and the Taurida Forum provided many people with tremendous opportunities for starting a career: auditions, contests, portfolio analysis, a chance for creative collaborations, a grant competition” [Ibidem, 87].

Conclusion

The experience of the Taurida Forum is generally positive; the forum actively influences the formation of a cultural creative community [Netreba, 2017; Pal'tsev, 2018; Zharkov, 2019]. According to the researchers, the Taurida Forum can be called a social elevator: the participants of the past forum “had the opportunity to express themselves on the stage of the Vakhtangov Theater, make it to the final of the prestigious New Wave International Music Competition, get a job at the NTV channel and receive recommendations for getting a state scholarship for outstanding figures of culture and art, as well as talented young authors of literary, musical and artistic works” [Men'shikova, Melkova, 2018, 268]. At the same time, the Taurida Forum has a number of drawbacks that limit its action, including a difficult competitive selection of applications, insufficient information, the perception of the forum as open only to certain groups of young people and a low level of understanding of how to grasp available opportunities and apply the acquired knowledge.

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Создание молодежной креативной среды на форуме «Таврида» в контексте молодежной политики России

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Аннотация

Форум «Таврида» является одним из способов осуществления государственной молодежной политики. Статья посвящена вопросам создания молодежной креативной среды на данном форуме в контексте культурной политики России. Форум «Таврида» он обладает грантовым фондом и способствует реализации идей социальной направленности. С одной стороны, многозадачность форума ставит перед ним непростые цели; с другой стороны, она говорит о некоторой расплывчатости поставленных задач. Свидетельством креативного «поворота» в концепции форума стала организация в 2019 г. фестиваля «Таврида-АРТ» и арт-резиденции. В целом опыт «Тавриды» оценивается как позитивный, активно влияющий на формирование культурного творческого сообщества. По мнению исследователей, «Таврида» достаточно хорошо работает как социальный лифт. Вместе с тем «Таврида» не лишена недостатков, которые ограничивают его действие. Это непростой конкурсный отбор заявок, низкое информирование, восприятие форума как открытого только для отдельных групп молодежи и низкий уровень понимания, каким образом можно применять полученные возможности и знания.

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Ключевые слова

Форум «Таврида», Таврида, Таврида-АРТ, молодежное искусство, культурная политика, Росмолодежь.

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