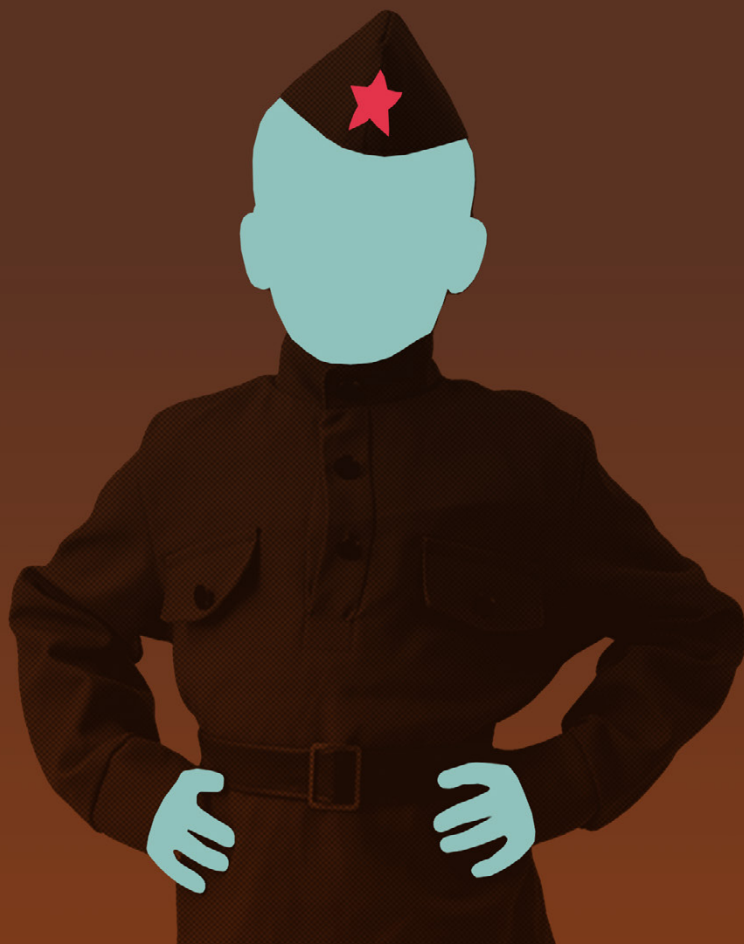


Monitoring report

"UNIVERSAL SOLDIER"

or

**education as a weapon of Russia in
the occupied south of Ukraine**



Kyiv, June 2022

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The views expressed in this material are those of the authors and do not reflect the official position of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic.



The Centre of Civic Education “Almenda” (CCE “Almenda”) is a non-governmental organization registered in Yalta in 2011. Until 2014, the organization’s priority was an education in the field of human rights. In 2014, due to the occupation of Crimea, the organization was forced to move to Kyiv. Today, the organization’s priorities are to ensure the systematic collection of accurate, timely, verified data on brutal violations committed against children in situations of armed conflict.

The CCE “Almenda” is guided by the principles of objectivity, reliability and timeliness in the preparation of its monitoring reports.

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SUMMARY

In the occupied territories, the Russian Federation continues to use education to destroy Ukrainian identity, militarize the youth, and justify military actions on the territory of Ukraine.

In June 2022, a number of events aimed at forming Russian identity among young people took place in occupied Crimea, in particular the “Great Russian Word” festival and summer camps for children. The Russian Federation continues to use school education to promote the “Russian World” concept. For example, it is planned to include the topic “Recognition of the DPR and LPR by Russia” in the history program for the 9th grade. In addition, the “Zemsky Teacher” program continues to be implemented, through which ideologically motivated teachers from various regions of the Russian Federation come to the territory of the peninsula. Such transfer of teachers to the territory of Crimea is part of the colonial policy of the Russian Federation.

The militarization of the youth of occupied Crimea does not stop either. In June, the occupation authorities of the peninsula continued to hold thematic actions, training, parades and other types of events in which children who are participants of youth movements, such as Yunarmiya, and students of cadet and other specialized classes were involved.

In the occupied territories of the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions, the Russian authorities are trying to implement the “Crimean scenario” of imposing Russian identity. They remove Ukrainian textbooks and books from schools and libraries, and given instead Russian books with a “politically correct” interpretation of history. They force the administration and teachers of educational institutions to switch to Russian standards, using various methods, including intimidation and threats. The occupation authorities appoint loyal people to the senior positions and issue Russian-style documents to students of schools and institutions of higher education.

Taken as a whole, these actions of the occupation authorities are aimed at destroying the Ukrainian nation in the occupied territories as such and creating motivation for the population of the occupied territories to to serve in the armed forces of the Russian Federation voluntarily.

These actions of Russia violate the following international norms:

- Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which establishes that education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups;¹
- Article 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which also raises the issue of education;²
- Article 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which stipulates that any propaganda for war must be prohibited by law;³

1 [source](#)

2 [source](#)

3 [source](#)

Article 29 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which indicates that the education of the child shall be directed to the preparation of the child for responsible life in a free society, in the spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, equality of sexes, and friendship among all peoples, ethnic, national and religious groups and persons of indigenous origin;⁴

4 [source](#)

5 [source](#)

Articles 38 and 39 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which are aimed at protecting children in wartime;⁵

Article 50 of the Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Geneva Convention), which prohibits the occupying power, in particular, from enlisting children in the formations or organizations subordinate to it, as well as Article 51, which prohibits propaganda for service in the army of the country which has occupied the territory.⁶

6 [source](#)

METHODOLOGY

This monitoring report covers the period from 1 June to 30 June 2022.

Fields of research are the following: the militarization of children in the occupied territories, involvement of children in actions aimed at supporting the so-called special operation in Ukraine, destruction of Ukrainian identity, assimilation of the population of the occupied territories, destruction of the Ukrainian education system.

Geography: temporarily occupied territories of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions.

Monitoring is based on the information from the following sources:

- governmental bodies of Ukraine;
- reports of non-governmental organizations;
- open sources of temporarily occupied territories, namely:
 - information posted on official websites and official pages in social networks (including VKontakte network) of the so-called Ministry of Education of the temporarily occupied territory;
 - official statistical data of the Russian Federation;
 - information posted on the websites of secondary schools in the temporarily occupied territories;
 - local mass media publications of the temporarily occupied part of the Kherson, Zaporizhzhia regions, the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol;
 - information published in social networks.

Limitations of the methodology:

In this research, the authors used only the sources available to them. Work with sources and analysis of information continued until 30 June 2022.

Information and reports that could not be verified as of the date of publication of the monitoring report were not included in it.

While preparing the report, the authors used data from the Vkontakte social network. This is due to the fact that after the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine, most of the information of the representatives of the occupation authorities was published in this social network, and thus, the search there is actually the only possible source of access to it.

The information is presented in the report to record the crimes of the Russian Federation and combat disinformation spread by it.

TEMPORARILY OCCUPIED TERRITORIES OF THE AUTONOMOUS REPUBLIC OF CRIMEA AND THE CITY OF SEVASTOPOL

Although June marks the end of the academic year in schools, educational institutions in Crimea continue to play a significant role in the assimilation of children on the occupied peninsula, the destruction of Ukrainian identity, the promotion of support for the war in Ukraine, and the encouragement of voluntary service in the army of the occupying power.

School teachers and the administration of educational institutions play an essential role in these processes. Vladimir Konstantinov, the so-called head of the State Council of the Republic of Crimea, emphasizes this in his public speeches:

“Today, teachers find themselves at the forefront of the struggle for the Russian world. Their students of today are our citizens of tomorrow. The children will live with what is going to be put in their heads. And then the whole of our society will live with it.”⁷

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[source](#)

[archive](#)

In order to fulfill its goal of creating “universal soldiers” from Ukrainian children in the occupied territories, who will not feel connected to the Ukrainian state, will not have critical thinking skills, and will be relayers of Russian propaganda, the Russian Federation continues to colonize the peninsula with educators from the territory of Russia, who are active agents of the “Russian world” concept.

Thus, at the end of May, the competition commission approved the rating list of applicants for the “Zemsky Teacher” program.⁸ And already in June, the selected candidates had the opportunity to come to get to know the director and the school for the further conclusion of an employment contract.⁹

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[source](#)

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This transfer of teachers leads to cultural assimilation in the occupied territories and continues the trends that began in 2014 after the occupation of Crimea and certain districts of Luhansk and Donetsk regions. In this way, the Russian Federation is actually trying to cut off children from the Ukrainian educational environment, and these teachers become an instrument in violating Articles 24, 94 of the Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Times of War.¹⁰

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[source](#)

Today, teachers remain the primary agents of the Russian world concept for children and youth. Thus, within the framework of the "Great Russian Word" festival, which took place on 6–12 June, the concept of the Russian World was discussed. The Russian language, as an element of colonialist policy, plays in it a central role.¹¹ According to the information V. Konstantinov published on his page, teachers from the occupied territories of Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhya, and Kherson regions also attended the event.¹²

In addition, the Russian authorities continue to use textbooks to form a distorted interpretation of historical events. Thus, in June, information appeared about the inclusion of the topic "Recognition of the DPR and LPR by Russia" in the textbooks of Russian history for the 9th grade.¹³

11 [source](#)

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12 [source](#)

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13 [source](#)

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Возрождение страны с 2000-х гг. (3 ч)

Российская Федерация в начале XXI века: на пути восстановления и укрепления страны. Вступление в должность Президента РФ В. В. Путина. Восстановление единого правового пространства страны. Экономическая интеграция на постсоветском пространстве. Борьба с терроризмом. Укрепление Вооружённых Сил РФ. Приоритетные национальные проекты.

Восстановление лидирующих позиций России в международных отношениях. Отношения с США и Евросоюзом.

Воссоединение Крыма с Россией. Крым в составе Российского государства в XX. Крым в 1991—2014 г. Государственный переворот в Киеве в феврале 2014 г. Декларация о независимости Автономной Республики Крым и города Севастополя (11 марта 2014 г.). Подписание Договора между Российской Федерацией и Республикой Крым о принятии в Российскую Федерацию Республики Крым и образовании в составе РФ новых субъектов. Федеральный конституционный закон от 21 марта 2014 г. о принятии в Российскую Федерацию Республики Крым и образовании в составе Российской Федерации новых субъектов — Республики Крым и города федерального значения Севастополя.

Воссоединение Крыма с Россией, его значение и международные последствия.

Российская Федерация на современном этапе. «Человеческий капитал», «Комфортная среда для жизни», «Экономический рост» — основные направления национальных проектов 2019—2024 гг. Разработка семейной политики. Пропаганда спорта и здорового образа жизни. Россия в борьбе с коронавирусной пандемией. Реализация крупных экономических проектов (строительство Крымского моста, трубопроводов «Сила Сибири», «Северный поток» и др.). Поддержка одарённых детей в России (образовательный центр «Сириус» и др.).

Общероссийское голосование по поправкам к Конституции России (2020 г.).

Признание Россией ДНР и ЛНР (2022 г.)

Revival of the country since the 2000s (3rd part)

The Russian Federation at the beginning of the 21st century: On the Way to Restore and Strengthen the Country. Inauguration of the President of the Russian Federation V.V. Putin. Restoration of the unified legal space of the country. Economic integration in the post-Soviet space. Fight against terrorism. Strengthening the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation. Priority national projects.

Restoration of Russia's leading positions in international relations. Relations with the US and the EU.

Reunification of Crimea with Russia. *Crimea as a part of the Russian state in the 20th century in 1991–2014.* The coup d'état in Kyiv in February 2014. The Declaration of Independence of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (March 11, 2014). Signing of the Agreement on the Accession of the Republic of Crimea to the Russian Federation and on Forming New Constituent Entities within the Russian Federation. Federal constitutional law of March 21, 2014 on the Accession of the Republic of Crimea to the Russian Federation and on Forming New Constituent Entities within the Russian Federation, the Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol.

The reunification of Crimea with Russia, its significance and international consequences.

The Russian Federation at the present stage.

The main directions of national projects in 2019–2024 are “Human capital”, “Comfortable environment for life”, “Economic growth”. Development of family policies. Promotion of sports and a healthy lifestyle. Russia in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic. Implementation of major economic projects (construction of the Crimean Bridge, pipelines “Power of Siberia” and “Nord Stream”, etc.). Support for gifted children in Russia (educational center “Sirius”, etc.).

All-Russian vote on amendments to the Constitution of Russia (2020).

Recognition of the DPR and LPR by Russia (2022)

INTRODUCTION TO THE MODERN HISTORY OF
RUSSIA

At the same time, scientific circles within the occupational authorities continue to work on rewriting history and using it to promote Russian narratives. Thus, on 16 June, the Crimean Federal University held an open lecture devoted to “Problems of interpreting modern history and counter- ing attempts to falsify the history of the Great Patriotic War.”¹⁴ Deputy Chairman of the State Council of the Republic of Crimea Vladimir Bobkov acted as a speaker.

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The statements about the need for higher education in the Russian Federation to withdraw from the Bologna system also included the intentions to finally sever ties with the European academic and scientific community.

At the extended meeting of the RF State Duma Committee on Science and Higher Education, V. Konstantinov voiced his opinion on Russia’s withdrawal from the Bologna system. In his opinion, *“it should be replaced not by a slightly renewed variation, but by a fundamentally different system that provides for the integration of all levels of education into a single complex, regulated by common federal standards. It is necessary to return students to the classroom, increase the volume of practical work, and the state should become a full-fledged contracting authority for the training of specialists.”*¹⁵

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Anzhelika Luchinkina, the vice-rector of the Crimean Engineering and Pedagogical University named after Yakubov, also supports the withdrawal from the Bologna system.¹⁶ According to her, the transition to the Bologna system of higher education led to an outflow of promising students from Russia and, as a result, to a shortage of qualified personnel.

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The abolition of the Bologna system and the creation of a system that would integrate all education into a single complex will create an even more significant gap between the educational space of the government-controlled Ukraine and the occupied territories.

It will also make it impossible to pass the attestation for the recognition of acquired qualifications, learning outcomes, and learning periods in the higher education system obtained in the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine after February 20, 2014. Currently, this procedure is tied to the recognition of the learning load, which is determined by ECTS credits. Therefore, this process will be impossible for all future graduates of higher education institutions who studied in the occupied territories.

“PATRIOTIC” EVENTS IN CRIMEA IN JUNE 2022

Any memorable date in Crimea is now used to promote support for the war waged by the Russian Federation against Ukraine.

Such actions are a violation of the norms of international law. Namely, Article 1 of the UN Charter¹⁷ establishes the following goal: “To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace.” In addition, Article 436 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine enshrines responsibility for the propaganda of war. Such actions include:

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- public calls to an aggressive war or an armed conflict;
- production of materials with calls to commit such actions for distribution purposes or distribution of such materials.

Understanding that the occupiers do not take into consideration the criminal legislation of Ukraine, one can pay attention to the fact that the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation also enshrines responsibility for propaganda of war, therefore the actions of the occupiers can be qualified under Article 354 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation.¹⁸

18 [source](#)

Thus, on 1 June, on Children's Day, the so-called head of the Republic of Crimea stated:

“Today, we remember the children of Donbas who died and suffered from the aggression of Ukrainian Nazism. The special military operation is also about protecting children, about creating a safe and happy future for them, in which there will be no place for fear and hatred.”¹⁹

19 [source](#)
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In June, a number of activities aimed at forming “Russian patriotic consciousness” among children took place. Among them are the campaigns “windows of Russia”, “candle of memory”, “minute of silence”, “garden of memory”, etc.

Thus, on 3-9 June, a competition of kindergartens of the city of Sevastopol was held for the best flash mob “together we are a great power, together we are the country of Russia.” More than 1,000 preschoolers took part in the competition.²⁰

20 [source](#)
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Russian culture, in particular cinema, is actively used to destroy Ukrainian identity. For example, on 10 June, within the framework of the Association of Student Patriotic Clubs "I'm Proud", the All-Russian Youth Film Performance dedicated to the celebration of Russia Day took place.²¹ The goal set by the organizers of the event was the patriotic education of young people through the demonstration of domestic feature films. A war-themed film was chosen for screening.

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Active militarization of the peninsula continues with a focus on supporting the war waged by Russia in Ukraine.

Thus, on 15 June, the Crimean Patriot Center prepared an image comparing Soviet soldiers of the Second World War, Russian soldiers of the Russian-Ukrainian war, and cadets of the Yunarmiya movement.²²

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Bayda Mariia Karpovna

For courage and heroism shown in battles with the Nazi invaders, she was awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union

Nimchenko Yuriy Petrovich

For heroism, courage, bravery and dedication shown in the performance of military duty during a special military operation in Ukraine, he was awarded the title of Hero of the Russian Federation

lushko Lilia Sergeievna

For the implementation of socially significant initiatives she was awarded the badge "Hot Heart"

On the eve of 22 June, in the village of Aromat, Bakhchisarai district, a memorial sign was opened after reconstruction at the place of a mass grave. At the opening, cadets of the Yunarmiya had the guard of honor near the memorial.²³

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From 20 to 25 June, the “Young Defender of the Fatherland” military-patriotic meeting was held at the base of the “Zavodskoe” airfield.²⁴ About 60 participants from among the members of the military-patriotic clubs of Crimea, cadets, and young soldiers attended the meeting. During the event, the participants learned the basics of military affairs, and completed a course of drill, general physical, mountain, and fire training.

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According to Sergey Havrilchuk, head of the Regional Headquarters of the All-Russian military-patriotic public movement “YUNARM-IYA”, the main goal of the event is **to educate a citizen of Russia.**



On 28 June, a parade of Crimean cadet classes took place in Simferopol on the territory of Zavodske Airport. More than 300 students of cadet classes of 14 general education organizations from 7 municipal entities took part in the parade.²⁵

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SUMMER CAMPS AS ANOTHER WEAPON OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

It has already become the tradition that the Russian authorities, together with the occupation administration, continue to use summer camps for the formation of Russian identity among children in occupied Crimea. Thus, according to the information of the so-called Ministry of Education of Crimea, it is planned that in the summer of 2022, about 5,000,000 children, including children from the occupied Donetsk and Luhansk regions, will have rest in the “Artek”, “Orlyonok”, “Okean” and “Smena” children’s centers alone.²⁶

26 [source](#)

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In general, Crimean summer camps are actively used for the assimilation of children from other occupied territories of Ukraine, in particular, Donetsk and Luhansk regions.²⁷ For example, on 22 June, there began the profile summer camp “Historical Heritage of Russia – the Hero City of Sevastopol”²⁸ for 150 children aged 14-17 from the occupied Luhansk region. The camp includes a cultural and patriotic program. The situation is similar in other summer camps.

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TEMPORARILY OCCUPIED TERRITORIES OF THE KHERSON AND ZAPORIZHZHIA REGIONS

In the temporarily occupied territories, the Russian Federation actively continues to implement the “Crimean scenario” in the field of education and culture. Representatives of the authorities of the Russian Federation, the occupation authorities of the Zaporizhia and Kherson regions, and the occupation authorities of Crimea, including V. Konstantinov, openly declare this:

“**The development of the liberated territories is largely based on the Crimean model.** In the same way, as in Crimea, the president confirmed his confidence that everything was done correctly, in accordance with the will of the Crimeans, the future of the liberated territories will also depend on the choice of their residents. And even Ukraine, or rather, what will be left of it in the end, can go away and play with the EU, as long as there is no threat to us from its territory.”²⁹

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One of the iessential steps that the Russian Federation needs to take in order to transform the education system in the newly occupied territories into a tool for Russian propaganda and the destruction of Ukrainian identity is the formation of a teaching staff loyal to the occupation authorities, which will relay Russian narratives to children.

In order to achieve this, the process of retraining teachers of the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions to teach according to Russian standards is essential. In general, by 1 September 2022, the occupation authorities plan to retrain in occupied Crimea 20,000 teachers of various specialties.^{30,31,32}

Thus, from 6 to 8 June, teachers from the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions took part in a seminar for teachers of Russian language and literature within the framework of the “Great Russian Word” festival in Crimea, during which training in methods of teaching Russian language and literature took place,³³ and already on 23 June, 70 educators from the occupied territories of the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions took part in the seminar “Implementation of state policy in the field of education. Experience of the Republic of Crimea” dedicated to the transition to Russian educational standards.^{34,35,36} On 27 June, representatives of the Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of the Republic of Crimea and even the trade union of public education and science workers of the Russian Federation gave lectures for the participants of the seminar. A seminar was also held in Yevpatoria for heads of educational institutions in the occupied parts of the Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions. S. Aksenov also attended the seminar.³⁷ In addition, 28 teachers from Melitopol attended a 4-day seminar in the Moscow region,³⁸ and another group was trained in Yevpatoria.³⁹

At the end of June, teachers of the occupied parts of the Kherson region will start receiving invitations for retraining in temporarily occupied Crimea.⁴⁰

30 [source](#)

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Внимание!
Уважаемые педагоги!
Министерство просвещения Российской Федерации
Республика Крым
г. Евпатория
июль-август 2022 г
Курсы повышения квалификации для педагогов Херсонщины
(БЕСПЛАТНО)

Предмет	Дата
Начальные классы	18.07-23.07
Русский язык	01.08-08.08
История	08.08-13.08
Математика	15.08-20.08
Физика	15.08-20.08
Химия	22.08-27.08
Биология	22.08-27.08

Желающие посетить курсы могут заполнить форму для регистрации до **06 июля 2022 г.**
Группы будут отправляться централизованно из г. Херсона утром в первый день курсов (место отправки сообщим индивидуально).
Количество мест ограничено!

In general, **the transfer of education to Russian standards is currently one of the main tasks of the occupiers.**⁴¹

41 [source](#)
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It is important to note that a significant part of school administration and teaching staff refuses to cooperate with the occupation authorities and to transfer educational institutions to Russian standards. For example, according to Anton Gerashchenko, out of 60 principals of Kherson schools, only two agreed to switch to Russian programs starting from 1 September.⁴²

42 [source](#)
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V. Konstantinov also stated about the refusal of the administrations of educational institutions to cooperate with the occupation authorities:

“*The school principal is their battalion commander. This person is on the front lines. And when our officials gathered a meeting with school principals on the organization of the Day of 1 September, 80% of the*

principals stood up and left. We should not persuade them to return but replace them with our own combatants!”⁴³

43 [source](#)
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The occupation authorities resort to various methods of ensuring this transfer of education to Russian programs, including intimidation, kidnapping, manipulation, encouragement, and replacement of heads of educational institutions with those loyal to the Russian Federation. One of the methods of pressure is that the employees of educational institutions receive letters in which, with reference to the IV Geneva Convention and in order to “prevent a humanitarian catastrophe”, the military-civilian administration of Kherson requires educators to ensure the educational process in the occupied territories, threatening to apply sanctions in case of refusal.⁴⁴

44 [source](#)
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Another widespread method is the replacement of the administration of educational institutions. Thus, the occupation authorities appointed Eduard Voloshchuk as vice-rector of Kherson State University.⁴⁵ School principals were replaced in Kakhovka,⁴⁶ Berdyansk,⁴⁷ and other cities. The process of selecting candidates for the positions of principals and heads of kindergartens began in Kherson.⁴⁸

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The importance of influencing children’s consciousness through education is also demonstrated by the fact that the occupation authorities in the Zaporizhzhia region threaten to deprive those residents of their parental rights whose children will not attend schools in the occupied territories in the new school year.^{49,50,51,52} Such actions are unacceptable in the sense of Article 27 of the Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War,⁵³ which states that protected persons are entitled in all circumstances to respect for their persons, their honour, their family rights, and they shall be protected especially against all acts of violence or threats thereof.

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Another action to influence children’s consciousness is to strengthen the interaction between the youth of the occupied territories of the Zaporizhzhia, Kherson, Luhansk, Donetsk regions, and Crimea. Thus, on 10 June, a telebridge was held on the topic “Development of youth policy in the territory of the LPR, DPR, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions”, during which representatives of the Council of Presidents of Student Self-Government under the Head of the Republic of Crimea and the Youth Government of the Republic of Crimea with children and youth from the Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions discussed cooperation in the field of youth policy and student self-governance.⁵⁴ The appointment of

51 [source](#)

52 [source](#)

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people loyal to the Russian Federation to positions related to youth development speaks of the importance of the influence of the occupation authorities on education and youth policies. For example, Viktor Georgiev, who has already received a Russian passport, was appointed director of the Kherson Palace of Youth and Students.⁵⁵

55 [source](#)

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The Russian authorities also continue to import “correct” literature into the occupied regions to influence the minds of children through culture.⁵⁶

56 [source](#)

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THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

In June, the educational process took place in some educational institutions in the occupied territories. In the middle of June, information began to appear about the need for students who did not attend classes in the spring to come to school for testing, the results of which will be used while taking the decision about their transfer to the next grade.⁵⁷

57 [source](#)

[archive](#)

Such actions of the occupation authorities directly contradict the provisions of Article 38 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁵⁸ which states that following their obligations under international humanitarian law to protect the civilian population in armed conflicts, States Parties shall take all feasible measures to ensure protection and care of children who are affected by an armed conflict. Since the learning process in conditions of war, directly in an educational institution, endangers the life and health of participants in the educational process, it is worth refraining from such actions.

58 [source](#)

In addition, the Russian authorities began to issue Russian certificates and diplomas in the occupied territories.

Thus, students of schools in the city of Berdyansk had to pass a multi-test and submit an application in order to receive Russian-style school leaving certificates.^{59,60,61}

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In Melitopol, school graduates also received Russian-style certificates, as well as Russian medals. Thus, on 29 June, the news appeared that the Head of the Federal Service for Supervision in the Field of Education and Science, Anzor Muzaev, issued the first Russian-style certificates to the graduates of Secondary Comprehensive School No. 15.⁶² In total, 4,400 certificates for grades 9 and 11 were delivered to the school, including 400 certificates with honors and medals for them. In total, the Federal

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Service for Supervision in the Field of Education and Science brought to Melitopol 20,000 Russian-style school certificate forms, as well as the equipment used to print certificates.⁶³

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The situation is different in the Kherson region. On 7 June, the head of the Kherson Regional Department of Education, Tetyana Kuzmych, said that Kherson graduates in 2022 will receive Ukraine-style certificates, and the next generations will receive Russian ones. In this matter, they plan to repeat the experience of Crimea in 2014.⁶⁴

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MELITOPOL IS AN EXEMPLARY "LIBERATED" CITY

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Since the beginning of the occupation, the newly appointed educational administration of Melitopol, including the director of the city's Department of Education and Science, Olena Shapurova, began to actively cooperate with the Russian authorities: to restore the educational process using various methods, including intimidation,^{65,66} to transfer education to Russian standards, to carry out measures aimed at supporting the actions of the occupiers.

On 27 May, Melitopol State University was established in Melitopol on the basis of Melitopol Agrarian University, Melitopol Pedagogical University, Berdyansk Pedagogical University, and Melitopol Classical Private University.⁶⁷ The educational system of the university will be adapted to the Russian one, and all students and teachers (just as it happened in Crimea) will automatically become students and teachers of the newly established university and receive Russian-style diplomas.^{68,69}

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There is also a decrease in the number of schools, which can be explained by the decrease in the population of the occupied territory.⁷⁰

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Educational institutions in Melitopol are already actively used for the formation of Russian identity among Ukrainian children. Thus, on 6 June, the occupation authorities involved children of the city in the celebration of the day of the Russian language, held in the in Gorky library, during which children wrote dictation in Russian.⁷¹

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On Russia Day, 12 June, the Minister of Education Sergey Kravtsov visited Melitopol on a working trip. He met with educators and school graduates. During the meetings, attention was paid to improving the qualifications of teachers and **involving children in the activities of Russian children’s movements.**⁷²

Graduates in Melitopol received Russian-style certificates and medals.^{73,74} The fact that the the Chairman of the State Duma Committee on Education Olga Kazakova congratulated the graduates of Melitopol schools speaks of special attention to Melitopol.⁷⁵

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Starting from 1 September 2022, in Melitopol, it is planned to start teaching in Russian, according to the 5-point grading system.⁷⁶ The Minister of Education of the Russian Federation Serger Kravtsov came to the city to transfer the education system in the Zaporizhzhia region to Russian standards.⁷⁷ The main purpose of the visit of the representatives of the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation was to prepare the education system of the Zaporizhzhia region to work with new curricula and programs starting from 1 September 2022, to update the material and technical support of educational institutions and to attract highly qualified personnel to work according to Russian standards.⁷⁸

The cultural space of the city continues to be replaced. Thus, the city's libraries received several thousand books: classics of Russian literature, historical publications, military literature, and books for children of school and primary school age.⁷⁹ Through literature, the occupation authorities continue the policy of destroying the Ukrainian identity of children and creating a “universal Russian citizen”.

The children of the city are encouraged to integrate more deeply into the Russian educational space. Thus, 500 schoolchildren got the opportunity to go to children's health centers in occupied Crimea, the program of which, as mentioned above, is aimed at forming children as patriots of the Russian Federation.⁸⁰

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADMISSION TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION OFFERED BY THE RUSSIAN AUTHORITIES

For the occupied territories of the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions, the Russian authorities and the occupation administration provide benefits for admission to the territory of the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions, Crimea, as well as in some institutions of higher education of the Russian Federation. The main purpose of these benefits is to leave the youth of the occupied territories in these territories or within the territory of the Russian Federation. In order to achieve this, hotlines have been launched to advise children about admission, and at Sevastopol State University, courses for applicants from the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions started, which prepare Ukrainian graduates for admission to Russian institutions of higher education.⁸¹

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Thus, the newly created Melitopol State University invites applicants to study free of charge.⁸²

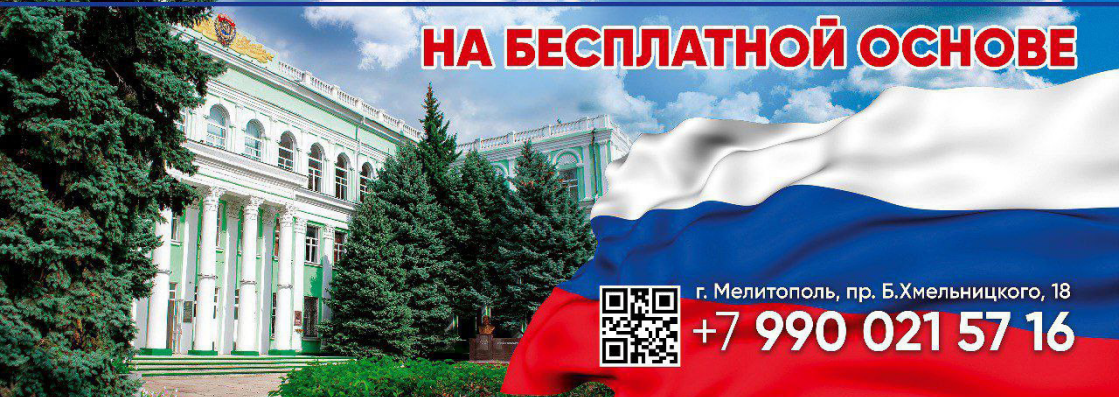
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МЕЛИТОПОЛЬСКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ приглашает получить высшее образование по классическим, техническим и педагогическим специальностям

НА БЕСПЛАТНОЙ ОСНОВЕ



In addition, graduates from the Kherson⁸³ and Zaporizhzhia⁸⁴ regions will be able to enter Russian and Crimean higher education institutions in 2022 under special quotas, which include the provision of a budget-funded place, a place in a dormitory, and scholarship.

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The information leaflets are distributed among graduates in the Kherson region about the possibility of admission to Russian universities and universities in occupied Crimea under the simplified system.

In addition, in order to encourage graduates to enter universities on the territory of the Russian Federation, the occupation authorities announced that alumni excellent students of Melitopol schools who plan to enter leading Russian universities will be granted Russian citizenship without waiting in the queue.⁸⁵

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