SUMMARY

Topic of the graduate qualification paper: Consular offices in the system of foreign relations of the Russian Federation

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The relevance of the research topic: at present international relations of Russia are becoming more dynamic. The processes of globalization are leading to the expansion of the Russian Federation relations with other countries, more frequent contacts between Russian and foreign legal entities and individuals, that in turn specifies the necessity of scientific function of consular offices in the system of foreign relations and their role in protecting the rights and interests of Russian citizens as one of the first priority of Russian foreign policy. Now the Russian Federation is generally developing consular relations established by the Soviet Union. However, the changes happening at this moment in both domestic and foreign policy of our country cannot but affect consular law and Russian consular institutions. Scientific analysis of the need for main areas of functional and legal transformation of the Russian consular offices and the prediction of the possible optimization of Russian consular institutions give a supplementary relevance to our research.

The object of the research is to identify the main areas of functional and legal transformation of the Russian consular offices and the prediction of the possible optimization of Russian consular institutions.

Research tasks:

- to systematize the main approaches to the definition of consular offices as foreign relations institutions, to identify their key characteristics;
- to consider the historical and theoretical aspects of the formation and the functional development of Russian consular offices;
- to carry out a practical analysis of organizational and legal foundations of the Russian consulates in foreign countries;
- to identify key tendencies, key trends and prospects of functional transformation of Russian consular offices in contemporary realities.

**Scientific novelty of the research** is to systematize the main approaches to the understanding of nature and essence of consular services in the system of foreign relations of modern state; to identify historical and theoretical aspects of functional development of Russian consular institutions; to analyze the modern system of Russian consular offices organization; to define the main directions of its functional transformation and offer the measures of further optimization of Russian consular offices in today's global processes and foreign policy tasks of Russia.

**The research paper structurally consists of** an introduction, two research chapters containing four subsections, conclusion, and the bibliography with the total number of 121 names, 30 of them in foreign languages and 5 appendixes. The total amount of paper is 77 pages.

**Summary:** In modern global processes, the functional activity of consular institutions is actively expanding and transforming. Today the Russian consular offices solve fundamentally new tasks associated with the promoting of Russian business abroad, illegal migration, coordinating efforts to protect the rights and interests of Russian tourists, the development of contacts and relations with compatriots and rendering their return to their homeland, the promoting of a Russian positive image, implementation of main orientations of foreign cultural policy by means of educational programs dissemination, the Russian language promoting and expanding cultural cooperation. Considering all these facts, it is important to mention that in a global world Russia is ready for broad international cooperation and the Russian leadership sets a task to review the existing approaches to the organization of the system of consular offices in accordance with long-term objectives of a comprehensive modernization of the country, diversification of its economy and the transition to the innovative model development.