

# The Communities-in-Transition in the Arctic Region

(Case Study of the Sakha (Yakutia) Republic, Russia)

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# Sakha (Yakutia) Republic: Basic Data



**Territory:** 1,190,555 sq mi

40% of Sakha lies above the Arctic circle covered by permafrost

**Population:** 956,896

**Density:** 0,8 persons per sq. mile)

**Urbanization level:** 65,28%.

**Temperature:** the extreme area in the Northern Hemisphere (– 75.0°F /+ 104.0° F)

**Capital:** Yakutsk  
(299,169 inhabitants)

**Ethnic composition:** ethnic Yakuts (49.9%), Russians (37.8%), Evenks (2.2%), Ukranians (2.2%), Evens (1.6%), Tatars (0.9%)

# Communities - in – Transition: From Traditional Society & Way of Living



# Communities - in – Transition:

Towards Modern/Configurative (In Terms of M. Mead) Culture



# ACTION RESEARCH IN THE FIELD

Yakutia, 2015



# Socio-Cultural Specific Features of the Communities-in-Transition

<b>"Motivators"</b> Opportunities/value guidelines and positive strategies for the life path	<b>"Demotivators"</b> Problems/life strategies that lead to the negative life choices
Healthy family (traditional family, parental moral authority)	Unhealthy family (collapse of the social institution of family, especially in the rural areas)
Parental control and upbringing	Father's loss of authority in the family
The presence of a role model & strong authority figure	Lack of personal goals, inclining to follow the common social norms
The opportunities to achieve success in the future	Social environment where deviant behavior is acceptable
Personal independence and ability to make decisions	The absence of control and impunity
Democratic-style of education, self-education	Boredom and the lack of new experiences
Skills of gaining the new knowledge and abilities	High-level of susceptibility as a distinctive feature of the ethno-psychological type
Possibilities for migration	Abundance of information on deviant behavior
Overcoming harsh climatic conditions	

# **Challenges for the Local Communities-in-Transition:**

- **Gradual inclusion of the Russian Arctic region into the global economic, social, and cultural processes.**
- **Urbanization as a global trend opposed to the traditional culture and way of living.**
- **Regional/interregional youth migration, and need of adaptation and integration into urban multi-ethnic diverse communities.**
- **Crisis of traditional ethno-cultural identity accompanied by expansion of the deviant forms of behavior (violence, suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, etc.) and psychological trauma.**
- **Climate change as an irreversible process.**
- **Ambitious projects of the Arctic region exploration (development of the Northern Sea Route & international maritime transportation infrastructure) coming along with the increasing international presence in the region.**



**Thank you for your attention!**