

- **Describe briefly the historical circumstances of the creation of this community in your country**

Russian emigration to the Czech Republic took place in three stages. Since 1918, a large number of Russian citizens came to Czechoslovakia. Within the so-called "Russian Action", which took place in 1921-1926, Czechoslovakia promised to help Russian emigrants. The second wave of migration came several years later and was mostly made up of the wives of Czech students. The last wave, numerically strongest so far, appeared after the collapse of the USSR

- **Describe the current status of the community in your country**

Due to the widespread of the Russian language in the world, the current Russian-speaking community is highly fragmented both nationally and culturally. With over 38,000 people, immigrants from the Russian Federation make up the largest share, while the number of immigrants from other Russian-speaking countries is estimated at 17,000 (mostly from Belarus, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, etc.).

The Russian-speaking minority itself is heterogeneous and internally diversified. Generally speaking, this community is usually wealthy and of high educational status, as the key reasons for young Russians to immigrate to the Czech Republic is either education or business. However, it is hardly possible to speak of their assimilation, but rather of segregation from the Czech society.

- **Define cultural specifics of dealing with community members (in general)**

Russian-speaking minorities represent a unique combination of European and Oriental elements. We can say that common cultural habits are similar to those in the Czech Republic. Then, depending on their region of origin and their religion (with a significant share of Eastern Orthodox and Muslims), the level of their conservativeness differs.

They are generally perceived as self-confident and direct people. Avoiding eye contact might signal insincerity while avoiding physical contact might be perceived as rude. In services, they are known as demanding customers who can speak up for themselves.

- **Define cultural specifics in the provision of health care to community members (with an emphasis on women)**

Like the rest of their community, Russian women are considered self-confident and able to seek help independently in case of health problems. In case of expecting a language barrier, they might be accompanied by their husbands or sons. If the patient is an Orthodox, the presence of a priest might be required in order to perform health-related religious rituals. Muslim women are usually more

conservative, possibly objecting to a male doctor's presence.

- **Determine the migrant language's specificities compared to the host country language**

Russian is the official language of Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan. It is also widely used in the former Soviet Union, and nowadays it is spoken by an estimated 150 million people. Russian is written using a Cyrillic alphabet, but Russian native speakers tend to have a knowledge of the Latin alphabet as well. Russian is a rather homogeneous language, however, given the worldwide spread of the language, there exists a number of dialects. Since Russian is in many aspects similar to Czech, it is usually not very difficult for Russians to learn Czech