improving the efficiency of the functioning of local self-government and “does not change Article 12 of the Basic Law on the independence of local self-government, rather emphasizes the diversity of interaction forms between state authorities and local self-government”.

In our opinion, the consolidation of the principle of unity of the public power system will contribute to improving the efficiency of interaction between municipal bodies and state authorities, the implementation of joint national projects and state programs aimed at solving issues of local importance in the social spheres. A striking example of this is the introduction of amendments to the Federal Law “On the Basics of Tourist Activity in the Russian Federation”, according to which the state authorities of the Russian Federation are authorized to approve methodological recommendations for the development and implementation of municipal tourism development programs. Besides, this law establishes the rights of local self-government bodies to develop, approve, and implement municipal tourism development programs.

This means that to implement the goals and objectives of state policy in the field of local self-government, it is necessary to form a clear understanding of the legal nature of local self-government and its place in the mechanism of a modern democratic state. The above provisions determine the relevance of the chosen topic.

DEFINITION OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT AND ITS MAIN FEATURES

To define the social role of local self-government, it is necessary to formulate the essence and meaning of a term such as "local self-government". In the legal literature, there are many approaches to this concept. Thus, according to the generalized opinion of most legal scholars, local self-government is understood as a special form of self-regulation and self-organization of various types of systems, including social ones. At the same time, local self-government in its semantic content also includes a special kind of collective activity aimed at ensuring the basic needs and interests of the local population (REBROVA, ALYAMKIN, 2016). Thus, local self-government, represented as an independent social institution, includes special features, such as:

- People power, that is, the local population is the direct source of power;
- In the vast majority of cases, the subject and the object of management coincide;
• The main way to implement the power of local self-government bodies is direct democracy;

• Providing opportunities for the local population to carry out independent activities within the most relevant areas of public life.

Based on the above features, the following author’s definition of the local self-government concept reflecting its social essence can be formulated: local self-government is a form to exercise power by the people, which provides an opportunity for the local population to carry out independent activities within the most relevant areas of public life.

The main feature of local self-government is that its legal nature allows the local population to participate in the formation of various interrelated institutions, whose activities will be aimed at meeting the basic needs and interests of local citizens (SHUGRINA, 2008). This circumstance helps to build an effective system to provide social benefits, being its economic and organizational component.

POWERS OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT BODIES IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL POLICY

According to the fair opinion of some scientists, local self-government should resolve a wide range of issues related to ensuring the social needs and interests of local citizens. This is because most of the social rights of citizens, for the most part, are implemented at the place of their residence. Consequently, local government bodies should be oriented towards the implementation of social policy (BONDAR, JAGARIAN, 2016). In this context, it should be noted that today some municipalities face the problem of insufficient active participation of the population in solving local issues.

The local self-government bodies of the respective municipalities need to implement a policy aimed at involving residents in the discussion and implementation of local issues. For example, local authorities should encourage the creation of territorial public self-government (hereinafter referred to as TPSG), develop youth public organizations and associations, as well as conduct various competitions and events that would involve citizens in the development of their municipality. In some municipalities, this practice is being already used. Thus, for example, in the city of Kurgan, 37 TPSGs were registered, of which nine new ones were registered in 2020 (VOLODINA, 2021). One of the priority areas of the Kurgan city administration activities is active cooperation with noted TPSGs. The joint efforts resulted in the solution to many issues in the field of housing and utility infrastructure, health care, repair, and cleaning of roads. However, not all municipalities tend to develop TPSGs. The analysis of the practice of creating TPSGs allows stating that in some federal entities, such as the Republic of Tyva, Altai, and Khakassia, where the vast majority of municipalities are subsidized, creating and implementing TPSG activities is quite problematic. This situation is due to the incorrect redistribution of budget funds and the lack of financial support from local governments.

Work to develop civic engagement of the population and create a real opportunity to participate in the formation of a comfortable urban environment of the Russian Federation municipalities is being carried out also at the federal level. At the initiative of the State Duma Committee on Federal Structure and Local Self-Government, and the All-Russian Association for the Development of Local Self-Government in municipalities, the All-Russian competitions "Ideas that transform cities" and "The history of local self-government in my region" are held annually. (COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE, 2020).

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT AS A SOCIAL INSTITUTION

Local self-government, represented as a social institution, declares the social and legal protection of the local population, the provision of a decent life for every citizen living in the relevant territory, as well as the implementation of all kinds of support in creating the most favorable living conditions as the main postulates.

The statutory documents of each municipality should be formed based on the general provisions presented above. The statutes of municipalities may contain more precise and
narrowly focused wording concerning the implementation of social rights. These may include the following provisions:

- The right of citizens to organize urban communities which can participate in the implementation of local self-government;
- The right of a citizen to participate in the work of elected local self-government bodies;
- The right of a citizen to participate in solving the most pressing issues related to the organization of local self-government;
- The right of a citizen to unhindered access to social and cultural values and monuments;
- The right of a citizen to form the most secure urban environment;
- The possibility of forming various types of socially-oriented institutions, whose activities will be aimed at protecting certain segments of the population, for example, pensioners or orphans;
- Ensuring the equality of all representatives of the local population based on their national, racial, or other characteristics;
- Legal protection of citizens’ rights, freedoms, and legitimate interests, including in the social sphere.

According to the modern legal doctrine, local self-government can be safely attributed to one of the social statehood institutions (KUZNETSOVA, 2016). This is because, through the existence and functioning of local self-government, state power is decentralized, becomes more flexible, and thus effective. Taking into account the fact that the list of functions of local self-government includes the implementation of social functions, it is possible to state confidently about the social and legal nature of local self-government (POSTRIGANOV, 2014).

RESULTS
Thus, local self-government has a social orientation, since according to the main legal provisions the competency of local self-government bodies includes ensuring various social needs and interests of the local population. To date, there are trends according to which the social orientation of the local self-government activities is growing significantly. In this regard, within the framework of this scientific study, we propose:

- to consolidate additional state powers, as well as to expand the list of issues of local importance, including those related to social aspects;
- to consolidate more precise and narrowly focused wording in the charters of municipalities concerning the implementation of the social rights of the local population;
- on the part of local authorities to encourage the creation of territorial public self-government, to develop youth public organizations and associations, to conduct various competitions and events that would involve citizens in the development of their municipality.

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Local self-government as a social institution: issues of theory and practice

Autogoverno local como instituição social: questões de teoria e prática

El autogobierno local como institución social: cuestiones de teoría y práctica

Resumo
O objetivo desta pesquisa é estudar os fundamentos teóricos e práticos do autogoverno local, representado como um tipo especial de instituição social, bem como formular propostas que visem a melhorar a efetividade da implementação do direito dos cidadãos de resolver independentemente questões de importância local. No decorrer do trabalho, foram utilizados métodos científicos gerais na forma de análise e observação, bem como métodos particulares. Abordagens particulares incluem métodos comparativo-legal, estatísticos, bem como sistemas-estruturais e formais-lógicos. O artigo apresenta a definição mais objetiva e significativa do conceito de autogoverno local do ponto de vista social, bem como lista as principais características desta instituição. Ao mesmo tempo, os autores voltaram sua atenção para o estudo da essência dos interesses e necessidades socio-legalizadas da população local e listaram os direitos mais comuns e significativos dos cidadãos nessa área.

Palavras-chave: População local. Direitos sociais. Interesses dos cidadãos. O poder das pessoas. Poder.

Abstract
The purpose of this research is to study the theoretical and practical foundations of local self-government, represented as a special kind of social institution, as well as to formulate proposals aimed at improving the effectiveness of the implementation of the citizens’ right to independently resolve issues of local importance. In the course of the work, general scientific methods were used in the form of analysis and observation, as well as particular methods. Particular approaches include comparative-legal, statistical, as well as system-structural, and formal-logical methods. The article gives the most objective and meaningful definition of the concept of local self-government from a social standpoint, as well as lists the main features of this institution. At the same time, the authors turned their attention to the study of the essence of the socio-legal interests and needs of the local population and listed the most common and significant rights of citizens in this area.

Keywords: Local population. Social rights. Interests of citizens. People power. Power.

Resumen
El propósito de esta investigación es estudiar los fundamentos teóricos y prácticos del autogobierno local, representado como un tipo especial de institución social, así como formular propuestas encaminadas a mejorar la eficacia de la aplicación del derecho de los ciudadanos a resolver de manera independiente cuestiones de importancia local. En el curso del trabajo, se utilizaron métodos científicos generales en forma de análisis y observación, así como métodos particulares. Los enfoques particulares incluyen métodos comparativos-legales, estadísticos, así como estructural-estructural y formal-lógico. El artículo ofrece la definición más objetiva y significativa del concepto de autogobierno local desde un punto de vista social, así como enumera las principales características de esta institución. Al mismo tiempo, los autores dirigieron su atención al estudio de la esencia de los intereses y necesidades socio-legalizadas de la población local y enumeraron los derechos más comunes y significativos de los ciudadanos en esta área.

Palabras-clave: Población local. Derechos sociales. Intereses de los ciudadanos. Poder de la gente. Poder.