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SHORT HISTORY OF STANDARDIZATION OF FRENCH LANGUAGE AND MODERNITY

According to the Constitution of France French language is the state language. Despite the extensive expansion of English the French language maintains its international status.

Language policy of France incorporates the following two aspects: 1) external – strengthening of the function of language within the society and 2) internal – language development, elaboration of language norms, and regulation of orthographic rules.

The first language-related resolution in Europe was adopted in France in 813. It declared the native Romance language (instead of Latin) as a liturgical language for churches.

France is regarded as a multicultural but monolingual country. The so-called Toubon Law relating to usage of the French language, adopted in 1994, is a law mandating the use of the state language in spheres such as education, office documentation, advertising and commerce. The Toubon Law provides for the imposition of fines and penalties for violations of the law.

The issue of language protection being secured by the legislation is one of the main responsibilities of the authorities.