



Yaroslav the Wise  
Novgorod State University

# **RUSSIA IN THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION**

**Anatoly L. Gavrikov**  
president of NovSU

## **Significant changes in the Russian system of higher education in recent years:**

- full-scale transition to a multi-level training system has been accomplished;
- in 2011 Russian universities admitted students mainly to undergraduate and graduate programs;
- new requirements for content and quality of training were introduced on the basis of new federal educational standards;
- a wide public and professional discussion of the draft law "On Education in the Russian Federation" has been completed;

## ***Significant changes in the Russian system of higher education in recent years:***

- ❑ the systems of professional standards and independent quality assessment is being actively developed;**
- ❑ the level of state support for the network of federal and research universities has been significantly increased;**
- ❑ scientific, educational and innovative clusters has been formed and are effectively operating in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Tomsk, and Kazan;**
- ❑ consolidated budget of education has been increased from 600 billion rubles to 2.3 trillion rubles for the last eight years.**

## **Situation around Russia's WTO accession:**

- negotiation process has taken 16 years;
- the working group (10.11.2011) and the Ministerial Conference (16.12.2011) have approved a package of documents on Russia's accession to the WTO (Working Group Report, the List of Tariff Concessions, the List of Specific Commitments on Services);
- internal ratification procedures to be completed by June 15, 2012.

## **Pessimistic expectations and projections in Russian media:**

- sharp criticism of the federal government's official position to join WTO;
- mass closure of Russian enterprises;
- the destruction of farmers;
- degradation of the entire national economy;
- the country is turned into a raw materials appendage to the global market.

## **Negative consequences for Russia of non-participation in WTO:**

- ❑ no “most favourable nation treatment “ status in the export of goods and services;**
- ❑ no opportunity to participate in the discussion of international trade rules, even with membership in the G8 and G20;**
- ❑ hampering the desire of Russian business in its expansion abroad;**  
**effective modernization impossible without fair and equitable participation in the international exchange of goods, services, and the latest technologies.**

## **Russia has obtained acceptable conditions for WTO membership:**

- no obligations relating to the change in prices for gas, electricity, oil, and oil products;
- reduction of the existing import duties will begin with the second year;
- introduction of transition periods from three to seven years for the reduction of duties;
- level of average tariffs on industrial goods during the transitional period will decrease by about 10% to 7%;
- same for agricultural products - from about 22% to 19%.

## **Preliminary assessment of the negative impact of WTO on education:**

- market-based approach to education will not be beneficial, will make education a subject of sale, rather than public good;
- fostering the processes of society stratification;
- impeding the development of national culture.



## **Positive expectations in Russian education:**

- better opportunities for opening branches and representative offices of Russian universities abroad;
- faster integration of Russian higher education institutions into the world educational space;
- increased mobility of teachers and students;
- international recognition of Russian documents on education;

## ***Positive expectations in Russian education:***

- ❑ possible influx of financial and material resources in education;**
- ❑ higher salaries for teachers involved in the branches of foreign universities;**
- ❑ higher responsibility of Russian universities to customers in the labor market;**
- ❑ improved quality of educational programs.**

## **Threats to the public sector of higher education:**

- ❑ circulation of foreign university diplomas with their affiliated branches available will decrease the number of enrolled and prospective students in Russian universities;**
- ❑ outflow of qualified teachers and promising young graduates from Russian universities is highly probable;**
- ❑ private universities may turn into foreign affiliates on a contractual basis, or through co-foundation.**

# «RUSSIA IN THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION»

9

A book published by NovSU authors:



Pevzner



Shirin



Petryakov



Shaydorova

## **The mission:**

**In the area of international relations NovSU sees its mission in harmonious cooperation with the international academic community, strengthening the image of the university as an open scientific and educational center which promotes the export of its educational services in the international market. Novgorod State University seeks to develop international contacts into the system of long-term scientific and educational cooperation and strategic partnerships with universities and international organizations in different countries.**

## **NovSU participation in major consortia:**

- ❑ the project Tempus IV – “Networking of partner universities in the multilevel system of training and retraining professionals in the field of educational management” - 11 partner universities;
- ❑ the project «TUNING RUSSIA» - 16 universities;
- ❑ the programme Erasmus Mundus Action 2 - 20 universities.

## **Strategic objectives of NovSU in the field of international relations:**

- ❑ Developing strategic partnerships by fostering cooperation with foreign universities;
- ❑ Implementing the principles of the Bologna process (two-tier education system, modularization of the educational process, a system of credits, quality assurance system);
- ❑ Developing and implementing international educational programs;
- ❑ Promoting international scientific research in various areas of knowledge and implementing joint international research projects;

## ***Strategic objectives of NovSU in the field of international relations:***

- ❑ Increased revenue from the export of educational services, revenue from non-budgetary funds and grant activities;
- ❑ Promoting academic mobility of students and teachers;
- ❑ Faculty professional development in foreign language proficiency, educational administration, and fundraising.



## **Main Tempus projects implemented by NovSU:**

- ❑ Project TEMPUS-TACIS (JEP-22141-2001) (2002 - 2005);
- ❑ Project TEMPUS-TACIS (CD\_JEP-24192-2003) (2004 -2007);
- ❑ Examination of research and teaching materials as part of the TEMPUS-TACIS (JEP\_27036-2006) (2007-2010), together with the Vienna Economic University (Austria );
- ❑ Project TEMPUS III (CD\_JEP-26 070 2005 (RU) in cooperation with the Universities of Hildesheim, Dortmund (Germany), Krems (Austria) (2006 - 2009);

## ***Main Tempus projects implemented by NovSU:***

- ❑ Joint European Project TEMPUS IV (159371-TEMPUS-DE-TEMPUS-JPCR) (2010-2013);
- ❑ International project "Establishment of a network of Tuning Centers in Russian Universities" (511135-TEMPUS-1-2010-1-ES-TEMPUS-JPCR "TUNING RUSSIA") (2010-2013).

# «RUSSIA IN THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION»

14



**Thanks for your attention!**

**Our contacts:**

**[www.novsu.ru](http://www.novsu.ru)**

**[novsu@novsu.ru](mailto:novsu@novsu.ru)**

**[Anatoly.Gavrikov@novsu.ru](mailto:Anatoly.Gavrikov@novsu.ru)**

