

The theme of university partnership has actively developed during the last years. At the moment Russian universities use consortium agreements in order to actualize and create partnerships. There are two ways of doing that: the decision can be made on a governmental level or/and a university level

UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS: GREAT PROSPECTS

Gulnara KRASNOVA, Vice-rector for international activity of Peoples' Friendship University of Russia

Education Act

"Education Act" is one of the forces that makes university partnership easier. It identifies the potential participants of the network forms of educational programs: scientific, cultural, sportive, religious and other organizations that have the resources that are needed in order to make educational programs possible.

The draft of the Act includes the following network forms of educational programs:

- Joint activities of organizations engaged in educational activities aimed at enabling students to develop an educational program using the resources of several organizations engaged in educational activities;

- The acceptance of the results of the developed curriculum program. This includes courses, subjects, modules and so on.

Article 109, Chapter 14 of Education Act, "Participation in international cooperation" requires that organizations and citizens of Russia are taking part in international cooperation in education by entering into agreements on education with foreign organizations and citizens in accordance with the laws of the Russian Federation and other forms provided by Federal law and other normative legal



Gulnara KRASNOVA

acts of the Russian Federation, including through networking with foreign organizations engaged in educational activities".

I would like to talk about three international educational consortia where Peoples' Friendship University of Russia is a participant:

- University Network of the CIS with the support of the Interstate Fund for Humanitarian Cooperation of CIS Member States that was created on the 11th of June in 2009 — An agreement on the CIS Network University Consortium;

- Network University of Shanghai Cooperation Organization that was established with the support of the SCO in 2009;

- Venice Consortium for Human Rights at the UN. Entry was held on the 15th of July, 2009.

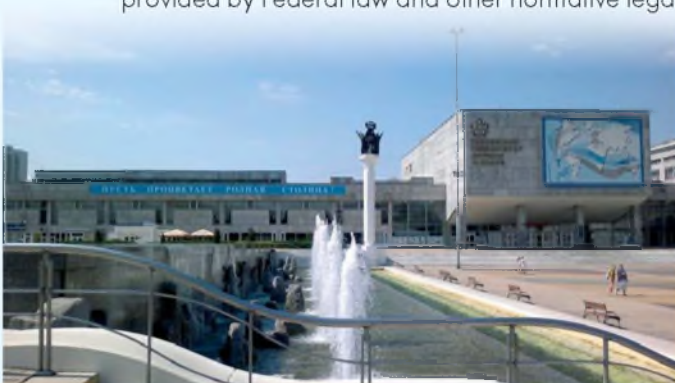
The above-mentioned international education consortia supported by international organizations, have different areas of training and a different number of participants.

University Network of the CIS

The CIS development of academic mobility for students doing a joint master's degree includes the following academic programs: Jurisprudence in International law, Management in Management of International projects and International Management, Economy in International trade, Philology in Russian Language and Literature, and International relations in World Politics.

The main objectives of the Consortium is to fulfill the following targets:

- creation of a single (general) education area high schools of the Commonwealth of Independent





States through the implementation of joint educational programs, organization of "inclusive education";

- establishment of mechanisms for the development of academic mobility of students and teachers in the Commonwealth of Independent States;

- promotion of intercultural dialogue among students; promotion and enrichment of culture, language, historical and national traditions of the peoples of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Peoples' Friendship University is the initiator and the parent organization of the CIS Network University. Our university has the central part of the organizational and methodological work, as well as interaction with national ministries, including financial support IFESCCO CIS Network University.

Network University of Shanghai Cooperation Organization that was established with the support of the SCO in 2009, has got 59 universities from Russia, Kazakhstan, China, Tajikistan, and Kirgizstan that signed the agreement.

The main objectives of the Consortium is to fulfill the following targets:

- The SCO development of academic mobility for students doing the following academic programs: "Ecology", "IT" and "Nanotechnologies", "Regional studies" and "Energy studies".

In this consortium, People's Friendship University takes a core part in Ecology course. Our mission is to unite all schools in this program, to develop joint curricula and to enroll students from the partner universities.

On the 1st of June, 2010, Peoples' Friendship University joined an agreement on Venice Consortium for Human Rights to develop joint educational programs in the field of human rights with the Office of the High Commissioner and 44 European universities.

The teaching of the MA students, specializing in human rights, is provided at a high level of academic

training. The program is innovative in its content and form.

Model of partnership

So what does the participation in the consortium give to Peoples' Friendship University and other Russian institutions of higher education?

Why should other universities implement this model of partnership?

And how can partnerships and networks benefit universities?

- The use of new educational technologies in the learning process.

- Cooperation with international organizations.

- Increase in academic exchanges.

- The benefits of multilateral agreements to bilateral agreements.

- Expanding the range of educational programs offered by the software to integrate with other universities, including Russia.

- Improve the quality of education, including taking into account the quality of training by the partner universities.

- Expanding international cooperation.

- Additional advertising campaign to recruit students.

- Maintaining and further improving the competitiveness of the university in the external and internal markets of educational services.

- The upgrade of the university within the country and abroad.

- Integration of logistics and human resources of educational institutions participating networking (teachers, educational support and administrative staff).

Thus, the prospects of the international partnership of Russian universities in the implementation of educational programs in various regions of the world (Europe, CIS, SCO, APEC, etc.) are broad and we believe have great prospects. **OS**