The Higher Education Landscape in Russia in Reform

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I. The Russian Higher Education Landscape

The Russian Federation: Facts & Figures

Territory: 17.075.400 km²
Population: 143,3 Mill. (European Part: 80% # Asian Part: 20%)
Division into 9 administrative units: Moscow & Moscow region, Central Russia, Southern Russia, Northern Caucasus, North-West Region, Volga, Urals, Siberia, Far East
Largest cities (≥ 1 Mio. inhabitants): Moscow, St. Petersburg, Novosibirsk, Yekaterinburg, Nizhnyj Novgorod, Samara, Omsk, Kazan, Chelyabinsk, Rostov on Don

Most popular destination(s) for study: 1. Germany, 2. USA, 3. Czech Republic
Russian students in Germany: 14.909 (2016)
DAAD scholarship holders: 5.909 (Russian citizens: 4.015 / Germans: 1.894)*

* EU mobility grants included
The higher education landscape: Facts & figures

**Students:**
- 7,5 Mill. (2007)
- 4,5 Mill. (2015)
- 4,2 Mill. (2020)

**High school graduates:**
- 1,5 Mill. (2003)
- 0,6 Mill. (2014)

**Number of HEI:**
- 1,896 (2017)
- 1,250 (2020)
  - public: 530 (2017)
  - private: 366 (2017)
  - branches: 1,000 (2017)
  - 500 (2020)
  - 270 (2020)
  - 480 (2020)

Soviet Union: 1,2 Mill. students at 680 HEI
I. The Russian Higher Education Landscape

University and state in Russia

• Every University is subordinated to its respective sectoral ministry
• A Higher Attestation Commission (VAK) is the only legal body with the right to decide on the acceptance of a dissertation or habilitation and hands over certificates
• HEI Rectors are nominated, confirmed or recalled by the Prime Minister or even the President of RF (MSU, SPSU)
• = Universities are (only) executing bodies of the will of the Ministry
• = Centralism/Etatism/Top-down approach in thinking and conceptualizing universities are a deeply rooted, traditional and integral part of university culture in Russia
I. The Russian Higher Education Landscape

Universities: Who is who(m)?

1917-1991: Universities as „soke in the wheel“ of the planned economy of the SU (and partly into the military and technological complex > strict demands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministry of Education and Science (MON)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(General competence for all HEI of the RF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About 60 % of all HEI are subordinated to the Ministry of Education and Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• (Classic) Universities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Technical Universities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Pedagogical Universities</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sectoral Ministries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Professional contents and financing)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ministry of Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ministry of Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ministry of Transport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ministry of Culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Foreign Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ministry of Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Russian Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• others; Ministry of defence, Ministry of the interior etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Typology of HEI according to academic status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Characteristics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| A University (classical, technical) | - Broad range of subjects  
- Traditional humanistic ideal of higher education  
- PhD and habilitation/postdoctoral qualification  
- More than 6,000 students enrolled |
| B Academy (not Academy of Sciences!) | - University standards in education  
- Only one subject (law, medicine, agriculture, design…. )  
- Not more than 6,000 students enrolled |
| C Institute | Type 1 (1920ies):  
- Educational institution focussing on training/instruction  
- Goal: territorial supply in practical experts  
- No scientific qualification  
- Subjects: mostly pedagogy, medicine, engineering  
Type 2 (1930ies)  
- Top level institutions with high scientific and academical level  
- „camouflage description“ for research structures  
- Focus on engineering, natural sciences, aviation technologies (MIFI, MISI, MISI, MEI, MAI) |
## Typology of HEI according to subject

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Subject(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A</strong></td>
<td>University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>all subjects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B</strong></td>
<td>Pedagogical University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All subjects taught at schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C</strong></td>
<td>Technical University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All subjects relevant for engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>D</strong></td>
<td>Specialized Universities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One subject university</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Oil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Gas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Nuclear Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Art/Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Sports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Transport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Several subjects university</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Technological Universities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Humanistic Universities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I. The Russian Higher Education Landscape

Government Funding

**State Universities**
- Financing according to the number of students enrolled
- „Budgetary study places“ (study places financed by the state)
- Study fees
- Paid services
- Acquisitions from the economy
- Contract research

**Group of „Leading universities“**
- close cooperation with economy and direct funding by the government

**Private HEI**
- Study fees
- Acquisitions
  - Few Budgetary Study places
II. The Russian Higher Education Reforms

Reform backlog: The Russian Perspective

- WTO: yearly turn over on the world education market = 50-60 Billion US$  
  (of that USA – 25%, GB – 15%, Germany, France – 10% each. Russia’s share ≤ 0,4%)
- High number of students RF – 495 /10.000, USA – 445, Germany – 240
- Generation conflict: 40% of university personnel/administrators are 65 years or older → lack of career perspectives for young people due to lax or non existing age restrictions
- Very high number of HEI plus branches → deficit in education quality!
- Shift to a two-stage education system running too slow; lack of academic freedom of HEI; strict subordination to the bureaucratic standards of the ministry; deficit in financing
- Out-of-date study curricula, ignoring needs of the market; gap: education, science and the economy
- Lack of competitive innovative technologies on the world market as a result of outdated R&D structures in Russian science and research institutions
II. The Russian Higher Education Reforms

Overall goals of the HE reforms (I)

- Push Russia’s share of the world education market to 10%
- Lift the annual salary of university teachers/professors of leading universities to international standards (60,000-100,000 $/year)
- Raise the share of financing from business activities to 25% (2008: below 5%) by:
  - concrete vocational training programs
  - additional vocational training
  - establishment of capital funds + investment opportunities for private enterprises
- Leading universities: minimum of 25% income from R&D plus strengthening of research activities of university teachers and students
- English study courses
- Scholarships for Russian students (*Global Education*)
- Obligation to publish in international periodica (in English)
II. The Russian Higher Education Reforms

Overall goals of the HE reforms (II)

A modernization of all Russian HEI due to leading world standards is beyond financial possibilities of the Russian state

→ **Strategy:**

1. Decreasing the number of HEI by means of mergers, closure or change of management

2. Determination of a group of high potential HEI by competition

3. Establishment of regional scientific hot spots by administrative means
II. The Russian Higher Education Reforms

University admission: Unified State Exam (ЕГЭ)

- obligatory since 2009
- has replaced the traditional admission examination at Russian universities
- highly centralized written exam simultaneously in all time zones in Russia:
  1) Math, 2) Russian language, 3) Topic from future field study

Results:
- High school graduates chose their target universities on their own
  - Universities - for the first time - have to compete for high school graduates!
    - Marketing efforts
    - Developing international profiles and joint programs
    - Attractiveness of a HEI in terms of admission, university culture, dormitory etc.
  - The best prefer the group of „leading universities“ and western regions of Russia!
II. The Russian Higher Education Reforms

Efficiency evaluation 2012 et seq.

President Putin (March 2012): Cut number of HEI and students by 25%

Report MON (Nov. 2012): out of 541 HEI evaluated by MON, 136 do not work efficiently (25%)

Criteria of the monitoring:

- ЕГЭ average of latest students enrolled
- Scale of technology transfer
- Research done by academic personnel
- Number of diploma by foreign students
- Average acquisition of third party financing per capita of university personnel
- Infrastructure (m² per student)
II. The Russian Higher Education Reforms

Efficiency evaluation 2012: Results and consequences

34% - 71 % of all universities with humanistic, art and pedagogical profile, sports, agriculture classified as inefficient but only 10% - 17 % of all classic, technical and medical universities inefficient

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hochschulen Gesamt</th>
<th>Hochschulen ineffizient</th>
<th>Prozent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pädagogische Hochschulen</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landwirtschaftshochschulen</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geisteswiss. Hochschulen</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kunst-, Kultur- und Musikhochschulen</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sporthochschulen</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technische Universität</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Klassische Universität</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medizinische Hochschulen</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hochschulen für Rechtswissenschaften</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonstige Hochschulen</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Transparency? Objective Adequacy? Fairness of the process?

→ Result: Over 60 universities merged (since 2007)
II. The Russian Higher Education Reforms

„Leading Universities“ 2012 et seq. (I)

1. **Autonomous Universities**: Moscow State University + St. Petersburg State University
   - Direct financing form the state budget
   - Direct subordination to the administration of the president of RF

2. **National Research Universities**: since 2012 by competition 2017: 29

3. **Federal Universities** since 2007/2008 2017: 10
   Administrative merger of several existing universities in the center of every *okrug* on the basis of a Technical University
   - Siberian Federal University (Krasnojarsk) – 2007
   - Southern Federal University (Rostov on Don) – 2007
   - Far Eastern Federal University (Vladivostok) – 2010
   - Northern (Arctic) Federal University (Archangelsk) - 2010
   - Volga Federal University (Kazan) - 2010
   - Ural Federal University (Yekaterinburg) - 2010
   - North-Eastern Federal University (Yakutsk) – 2010
   - Crimea* (Sevastopol) - 2014

**Strategic tasks:**
- Economic stimulus for the region (innovation)
- Technology transfer
- Cooperation with regional business and industry
II. The Russian Higher Education Reforms

„Leading Universities“ 2012 et seq. (II)

- Legal right to employ foreign citizens (scientists, lecturers)
- Legal right for recognizing foreign diploma
- Additional rights to modify curricular programs
- Special financing of about 1 Bill. Rubles p.a. (for four years)
- Obligation to internationalize
- Advisory boards with representatives from economy and politics

Association of Leading Universities of Russia (www.alu.spb.ru) = 46 universities

March 2016: Signing of a MoU on a joint DAAD-ALU scholarship program „Abram Ioffe“
II. The Russian Higher Education Reforms

4. Flagship Universities (*opornye vuzy*) since 2016  
2016: 11 (*2018: up to 50*)

1. Siberian State Aerocosmic University named after Academician Reshetnev (Krasnoyarsk)  
2. Don State Technical University (Rostov-on-Don)  
3. Tyumen State Industrial University (Tyumen)  
4. Ufa State Petroleum Technological University (Ufa/Bashkortostan)  
5. Vyatka State University (Vyatka)  
6. Volgograd State Technical University (Volgograd)  
7. Omsk State Technical University (Omsk)  
8. Kostroma State Technological University (Kostroma)  
9. Samara State Technical University (Samara)  
10. Orel State University named after Turgenev  
11. Voronezh State Technical University

➢  [http://flagshipuniversity.ru/](http://flagshipuniversity.ru/)

Task:  
• Socioeconomic development and stabilization of its region
II. The Russian Higher Education Reforms

Brochure of the German House for Research and Innovation (DWIH) in Moscow

„FÜHRENDE HOCHSCHULEN DER RUSSISCHEN FÖDERATION“

Website: www.dwih.ru
II. The Russian Higher Education Reforms

Reform of the Russian Academy of Sciences

- Merger of the Academy of Sciences, Academy of medical sciences and Academy of agricultural science into one legal body

- Subordination of all institutes under the new „Federal Agency of scientific organizations“ (FANO):
  - Withdrawal of legal autonomy and sovereignty in the fields of personnel/staff, finances, administration

- Merger of institutes

- Merger of institutes with universities
Internationalization

• More institutional cooperation with foreign universities

• More students and researchers from abroad:
  ➢ Foreign students 2016: 129,000 (1,84%) (1. Kazakhstan 2. Belarus 3. Uzbekistan 4. Turkmenistan 5. Azerbaijan …… 35. Germany) # Soviet Union: 120,000 (10 %)

• *Mega Grants* for foreign researchers

• „Leading universities“ with clear order for internationalization

• Initiative 5/100 (2013-17: 900 Mill. € funding): boost 5 Russian universities into the Top 100 in international rankings; Minimum 10% foreign academic staff, + 15% international students enrolled

• Recognition of foreign diploma via:
  ➢ Bilateral agreements ➢ Nostrification ➢ Automatic recognition in case of Top300 universities (13 German universities)
Good reasons for cooperation with Russian HEI

• Differenciated Higher Education Landscape
• High prestige of higher education, high level of education
• Long standing traditions of basic research
• German language popular
• Russian HEI highly interested in cooperation
• German as higher education location with good reputation
• Long standing tradition of study in Germany
• New website on studying in Russia: http://studyinrussia.ru/en/
### III. Summary

**DAAD project funding for universities**

- 2015: over 800 German-Russian university cooperations;
- DAAD project funding: 1.894 Germans, 4.015 Russians (2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Funded</th>
<th>Germans</th>
<th>Russians</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Partnerships</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>522</td>
<td>829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German Studies Partnerships (GIP)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German Language study programs (DSG)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumni +</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>482</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study travels</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer schools in Germany</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double/joint degree programs</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Partnerships and thematic networks</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor Plus</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISAP – International study and training partnerships</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Go east!</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Examples:

- DAAD project funding for universities
III. Summary

Challenges for the Russian HE sector

Quality assurance
- Number of students, financing of universities
- Command of English language on all administrative/ scientific levels
- Alternative careers paths: vocational education
- Differenciation of the HE landscape

Internationalisation
- Attractivness for foreign students, researchers and academic teachers
- Master/PhD programs in English vs. Russian language abroad
- Bologna: process on track, but reluctant implementation
- Academic mobility into both directions, international projects

Innovation, application orientation
- Cooperation of science and economy
- Culture of teaching and learning, critical thinking

Integration of a science system of a vast geographical and cultural space
- Up to now: high slope North-South / West-East / Center(s) - peripheries
IV. Summary

- Largest and most fundamental changes in Russian higher education since 1917: it is only now, that perestroika reaches universities and the Academy of Sciences!
- „Desovietization“ of the soviet HE system: HE in accordance to economic needs instead of strategic goals
- Resignation from the soviet ideal of standardized education structures
  - Now: Competition between universities and a two-class system („Leading universities“ vs. normal universities)
- Lack of „new blood“ in scientific personnel has finally been understood
- Teaching still ahead of research
- East of the 60th longitude: universities as an instrument of state resettlement policy
Thank you for your attention!