THE DOUBLE DEGREE PROGRAM "HISTORY AND DIALOGUE OF CULTURES" OF THE PEOPLES` FRIENDSHIP UNIVERSITY OF RUSSIA AND THE UNIVERSITY GRENOBLE-ALPES AS AN ASPECT OF INTELLECTUAL MIGRATION AND FRENCH-RUSSIAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION

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Abstract

One of the fundamental principles of the Bologna Convention is to create conditions for mobility of teachers and trainees. In this context, the intellectual migration provides the possibility of such mobility. International activity of the Peoples` Friendship University of Russia (RUDN University) is one of the priority areas in the framework of the educational policy of the University. Since the mid-2000s the RUDN University has been successfully implementing the programs of double diplomas with foreign universities and an example of such activity is a joint master program "History and dialogue of cultures". This program is designed in partnership with the University Grenoble-Alpes (France) (UGA) in 2007 and involves several types of educational mobility: academic, scientific, student. During the period of validity of the agreement on joint program of Russian and French students were able to study in the master program of RUDN University and UGA but also to participate in scientific events to consult with the professorial and teaching staff, to engage in active research work.

In addition to student mobility, this program also involves academic exchanges, the interaction of scientific schools and laboratories of the two Universities. Many universities try to broaden the range of teaching special disciplines by attracting leading lectures from other universities to improve the competitiveness in the global education market. Moreover, in this context the program of double magistracy creates the conditions for such activities as academic mobility and its implementation in the framework of interuniversity cooperation is one of the fundamental points of the bilateral agreement between RUDN University and UGA.

Keywords: intellectual migration, RUDN University, the double degree program, international cooperation, academic exchanges, "History and dialogue of cultures.

1 INTRODUCTION

In 2003 Russia signed the Bologna Convention. One of the fundamental principles of which is the creation of conditions for mobility of teachers and trainees and, in this context, the intellectual migration provides the possibility of such mobility [1]. It may be noted that France has traditionally received migrants from different regions of the world creating a range of programs that contributed to the attraction of foreigners including seeking to enhance their intellectual and professional level. According to the terminology adopted in the International organization for migrants (Geneva, Switzerland), intellectual migration, is defined as "brain circulation" meaning work on a temporary basis and highly qualified specialists [2]. It is no coincidence that France is in the first rank today among those states that choose scientific personnel from Russia. France divides 4th-5th place with Finland in the total number working abroad Russian scientists [3]. Higher educational institutions of Russia and France implementing a program of educational cooperation cause such intellectual migration of a large extent.

In the period of universal mondialisation and internationalization of cultural, historical and educational traditions at universities are global goals. It is primarily the training of highly qualified personnel who are able to work in different industries and countries, speak several foreign languages and can build business relations in the international labor markets. In this regard, the international orientation of Universities is essential for the future success of graduates and their further professional development.

International activity of the Peoples` Friendship University of Russia is one of the priority areas in the framework of the educational policy of the University.
2 METHODOLOGY

General works on the study of the intellectual migration in particular were the main sources for writing this article. France and Russia as well as the texts of the agreements on double degree master program "History and dialogue of cultures" between the Peoples’ Friendship University of Russia and the University of Grenoble-Alpes.

The processes of intellectual migration are dedicated to many studies due to the fact that "migration is studied in Russia and in the power of global research trends and in fact that these issues affected Russia closely" [4].

Comparative methods were used to analyze the sources (record keeping, legal type) in this article and reach the level of theoretical generalizations to make a complete picture regarding the development of intellectual migration in the framework of the double master "History and dialogue of cultures". The historical-cultural approach was used in this work, which allows tracing the impact of cultural interaction between Russia and France on the development of their scientific and educational sphere [5]. In addition, the authors turned to imagological conception giving the opportunity to follow the ways of formation of the image of another country in the minds of society and above all its intellectual elite [6].

3 RESULTS

The creation of joint educational space is one of the components of intercultural interaction in our days. Double master's programs successfully operate in RUDN University with universities of China, France, Germany, Spain, Kazakhstan etc. It is known that now in the educational sphere so-called virtual migration is developing and a program of distance education and migration the limited short-term study abroad. Within these new forms of learning RUDN University implements programs of the network of universities, which are particularly popular in the Eurasian space. We are talking about the universities of the Commonwealth of independent States (CIS) and the Shanghai cooperation organization (SCO). These universities form a single educational space in the conditions of the Eurasian project. It may also be noted that the European and Eurasian space frequently overlap complementing each other and creating a productive dialogue between different models of education: Western European, Russian, Chinese, etc., and also shapes migration processes including on the level of intellectual exchange.

These aspects present the opportunity to develop certain intellectual migration between higher-education teaching personnel, graduate students and doctoral students. Intellectual migration in the framework of Russian-French relations assumes that the "migration of ideas", research cooperation, study and implementation of the educational experience of foreign countries. This type of migration became possible with the development of the Bologna process as well as increased attractiveness of Russia for expats and intellectual migrants and, on the other hand, the traditionally high evaluation of French level and quality of education. In turn, the implementation of programs of double diplomas in particular between Russian and French universities promotes intellectual migration expanding the conceptual framework of scientific relations and academic mobility. Within each of these programs are not only close scientific contacts, student exchange but also cultural cooperation.

In addition to the educational value these programs allow students to get acquainted with the history, culture, traditions and scientific achievements of a particular country. And this experience is extremely important for those students who intend to improve their language skills, their research skills. It is assumed that an advanced study of foreign languages at RUDN University, in this case French, contributes to the successful adaptation of Russian-speaking students to the education system of France. Nowadays in particular, in the framework of the faculty of Humanities and social Sciences of RUDN University some disciplines are practiced teaching in French [7] as well as the publication of textbooks and dictionaries with the goal of teaching students not only French language but also terminology that will be used as part of training at UGA majoring in "History" [8]. In general, it can be noted that the teaching of historical disciplines in the French language in Russian Universities gives the opportunity to "expand the conceptual framework of research, study and analyze a large amount of sources and historiographical base" [9] and undoubtedly contributes to the successful study at the partner University particularly in the UGA.

Since the mid-2000s, RUDN University successfully implements the program of double diplomas with foreign Universities and an example of such activity is a joint master program "History and dialogue of cultures"[10]. This program is designed in partnership with the University Grenoble-Alpes (ex-
University Pierre Mendes France – Grenoble II) in 2007 and involves several types of educational mobility: academic, scientific, student. The terms of the contract on the joint program created an opportunity for Russian and French students to study in the master program of RUDN University and UGA but also to participate in joint research activities to consult with higher-education teaching personnel, to engage in active research work.

In addition to student mobility, the program involves academic exchanges, the interaction of scientific schools and laboratories of these two universities. Many universities are trying to broaden the scope of teaching of special disciplines by attracting as lecturers by leading scientists from other universities to improve the competitiveness in the education market. And in this context the program of double magistracy creates the conditions for such activities as academic mobility and its implementation in the framework of interuniversity cooperation is one of the fundamental points of the bilateral agreement between RUDN University and UGA.

It should be emphasized that the master's program corresponds to the basic scientific direction which is studied at the faculty of Humanities and social Sciences of RUDN University – "Dialogue of civilizations" and takes into account a sufficiently high level of language proficiency of University students. Implementation of the program enables them not only to get acquainted with the system of training of historians in France but also to write a master thesis on related topics with the use of French scientific literature and sources. Practice shows that the mobility of students, their integration into the European educational and scientific process, expands the cultural range of graduates, enhances the professional level and creates favorable conditions for employment in the Russian and international organizations.

Selection of UGA as a partner was due to the fact that he is known in the cultural space of Europe as one of the major scientific and educational centers have accumulated extensive experience in teaching courses aimed at the study and implementation of intercultural interaction. Its appeal to RUDN University lies in the fact that the UGA is an internationally oriented University not only training foreign students (up to 30% of the total number of approximately 20 thousand) but developing relations with various Universities in Europe, Africa, Asia and North America. Thus, it is realized in practice the principle of intercultural exchange and intellectual migration.

Training courses of the faculty of Humanities of UGA have innovative character and are based on historical and cultural experience of both French and other societies. They use methods of historical anthropology, comparative history, sociology, social psychology, religious studies and philosophy. The principles of objectivity and tolerance are used in courses which developed by the French specialists allowing to study and interpret the cultural and psychological characteristics of different peoples, which in turn contributes to their spiritual integration, development of civil society. The ratio of culture and history are viewed through the prism of globalization and given the problems in Western society as a result of the process of cultural interaction.

Under the agreement, the first year Russian students in graduate courses spend in the Grenoble University. They got a number of compulsory courses, for example "the State of research cultural and political history of modern times"; "Historiography of the modern period"; "Contemporary France: politics and culture") as well as elective courses: "From one to the other: interpenetration of knowledge on the axis East-West"; "Politics is representation and international relations"; "Images and power in the European politics of the New age"; "the History of visual culture" and etc. In addition, students prepare a part of a thesis (determine the perspectives of research, make a detailed plan, formulate a working hypothesis, analyze the historiography and source database). The texts which are about 20-30 pages, written in French, and then defend in Committee of French teachers. In order to expand professional relationships and mobility it is planned to prepare Russian specialists courses for reading them in Grenoble and joint scientific supervision of masters and PhD students.

The second year of training in a magistracy passes in RUDN University. In addition to mandatory disciplines ("Modern problems and methodology of history, History of historical science", "Computer technologies in a historical science and education") students study elective courses ("Problems of immigration in France and Russia: comparative analysis", "France and Russia in the system of international relations", "Modern Russia: politics and culture", "Russia and France: cultural relations in the XVIII-XX centuries"). These courses will allow students not only to study the modern history of the two countries but also to see the influence of "dialogue of cultures", economic and political interactions in their social development.
It should be noted that participation in the program "History and dialogue of cultures" involved professionals working in a wide range of issues and scientific problems in the history of Russia and history of France and Europe as a whole. Moreover, among the research problems in a number of Grenoble historical researches include such areas as the history of countries and peoples of the Alpes: Northern Italy, Switzerland, the Alpine part of France etc. This creates a perfect environment for the study of issues on cooperation between Russia and France in general and Russian-Italian, Russian-Swiss relations over the centuries. Historians, students, and higher-education teaching personnel and doctoral students working in this region actively use local archival materials, library collections etc. Of course, these documents are available to students coming to study in Grenoble in the framework of the joint program.

A great importance in intercultural dialogue is the involvement of the Russian students in academic and cultural events which are held in Grenoble University (symposia, conferences, scientific colloquia) where experienced teachers and academics share their research, discoveries in that particular area. Of course, this practice enriches students' knowledge and helps to expand the conceptual framework of the research to develop those research areas that have not received distribution and popularity in Russia yet.

Students from Russia studying in Grenoble visit not only scientific but also cultural events, particularly concerts, plays, exhibitions which are held in the region. Undoubtedly, all this helps to understand and comprehend the variety of French, North Italian and Swiss culture, to broaden their understanding of Western traditions and values which is important for intercultural dialogue.

Students from France coming to Russia, of course, familiar not only with the history of our country but also with its rich spiritual and cultural heritage. The RUDN University, in addition to traditional and innovative forms of education, offers international students different kinds of excursions (in Moscow, Golden ring of Russia, St. Petersburg), visiting theatres, museums etc.

Moreover, of course, one of the main components of intercultural communication is an introduction to scientific schools studying the approaches and methods used in scientific research in Russia. In this area there is a special interest of both the students and teachers of partner Universities.

4 CONCLUSIONS

These aspects present the opportunity to develop certain intellectual migration between teaching staff, postgraduate students, doctoral students, students. Intellectual migration involves the "migration of ideas", research cooperation, study and implementation of the educational experience of foreign countries. This type of migration became possible with the development of the Bologna process as well as increased attractiveness of Russia for expats and intellectual migrants and on the other hand, the traditionally high evaluation of French level and quality of education. In turn, the implementation of programs of double diplomas promotes intellectual migration between Russian and French universities in particular expanding the conceptual framework of scientific relations and academic mobility.

In general, it can be noted that the implementation of such joint programs is a big step forward towards a humanitarian, cultural, scientific interaction and dialogue, the development of intellectual migration. This is the activity, the importance of which is equally understood by both Russian and French side. It was repeatedly voiced not only the students and teachers involved in the process but officials from Russia and France. In particular, the Ambassador of France in Russia Jean De Gliniasti noted in 2011: "Cultural exchange is the basis of bilateral relations high level" [11].

REFERENCES


See, for example E.V. Linkova, Teaching materials for the course "Russia and France: the history of diplomatic and cultural relations" /http://web-local.PFUR.ru/web-local/prep/rj/index.php?id=1291


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