

Dr. Dmitry Poletaev  
NIIVS HSE, Senior researcher  
dmitrypoletaev@yandex.ru

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Investments gained by the Russian Federation as a result of educational migration are negligible presently, while the available potential of its educational & research system is quite considerable. Benefits from enrolling foreign students are not limited to the financial resources coming to the country. Foreign students may stay in Russia after graduation thereby strengthening and reinforcing the Russian human potential and improving the demographic situation which currently develops in a negative key: the general population decreases and the share of the able-bodied population in the total population is falling, both in percentage terms and in absolute figures. On the other hand, upon returning home, foreign graduates of Russian higher schools come to join the political and financial elites of their countries, and they bring with themselves the tolerant attitude to Russia that has been formed in them on an interpersonal communicative level. This produces a direct consolidating effect on interstate partnership and cooperation and has a general wholesome effect.

In conditions of the Russian population ageing, the current higher education system will soon experience a shortage of applicants. It appears more rational in this situation not to curtail the available capacities of the educational & research system that have been built over many years, but to orient on enrolling high school graduates, college students, seekers of master's degree, and post-graduate students from abroad on a paying (contractual) basis.

The facts of migrantophobia being recorded in Russia recently, along with the lack of mechanisms that would stimulate educational migration, gradually reorient foreign students to continuing their education in Western European countries and the United States. Such state of affairs will obviously entail direct economic and demographic losses for Russia.

Russia does not pursue an integrated migration and state policy aimed at drawing foreign educational migrants; neither has it put the problem of their adjustment on the list of top state priorities.

Of interest in this connection is the Project "The Role of Educational Migration from Foreign Countries in the Socioeconomic and Demographic Development of Russia" (by the example of Tomsk and Moscow), which is being implemented within the

framework of the Interregional Institute of Social Studies projects. The Project is designed to analyse the available possibilities, socioeconomic outcomes, and trends in the education of foreign students in Russian higher schools. Assessment will be made of potential and real socioeconomic and political benefits for Russia from enrolling foreign students in central and regional higher schools of the Russian Federation.

The pilot phase of the Project has been completed by now. Namely, the available literature has been studied, questionnaires for polling foreign students and for expert interviews have been written, and a pilot survey has been carried out (10 students and 6 experts). The sample in the basic phase will amount to 600 foreign students and 30 experts.

The intermediate Project results can be summed up as follows:

- There is no State policy with regard to educational migration in the Russian Federation; cooperation between higher schools serves as a substitute. There are no programs like DAAD or others.

- The world competition for educational migrants is growing, but Russia does not take an active stand to enter into the world market of educational services.

- The methods used in inter-State exchange are ineffective. Instead of grants for which foreign students should compete there is a complicated system that is not suited to selecting the best of foreign students. Scarce money is allocated for scholarships in Russia, which cannot attract foreign talents.

- The entangled bureaucratic system of enrolling foreign students, excessively centralized education management, too tight control over financial activities of higher schools and limitations on their independent activities produce a negative effect on the educational migration development and the ability to compete on the world market of educational services.

- Actually no preventive efforts are made and no preventive propagandist measures are taken to lower the level of chauvinism and nationalism, including their manifestations in everyday life; the Ministry of Internal Affairs works poorly in this area – this hampers much the forming of a positive image of Russia as a country safe for boys and girls from foreign countries.