



## **Geographical education in Russia: state-of-the-art and new perspectives**

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Up-today education systems of different countries face new perspectives in globalizing World. The Russian higher education framework was basically incompatible with the process of making academic degree standards and quality assurance standards more comparable throughout the World (so called Bologna process for Europe). So did Earth Sciences education framework. Today the key question in the further development of Earth sciences in Russia is the interaction with European education system. At the crossroads it is challenging to analyze the history and state-of-the-art. We considered the question on the example of one of the largest centers of the Earth Sciences education in Russia - Faculty of Geography of Lomonosov Moscow State University, which is moreover regarded to be one of the largest scientific and educational centers of geography in the World. There are 1200 students and 180 PhD students studying on the Faculty. The Faculty consists of 15 departments, 8 research laboratories and 4 field stations, where 850 employees work.

Tuition of geography was established at Lomonosov Moscow State University since the day of its foundation. The significance of geographical studies at the University, which originally comprised the Faculty of Philosophy, the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Medicine, was already mentioned in the draft plan of its establishment (1755), which said that «anyone wishing to attend professors' lectures at the University has to learn foreign languages and first scientific basis beforehand". For this purpose two «gymnasiums» consisting of four schools were established at the University. Geography was included into the curriculum of the «first scientific basis school» and the «school of the distinguished European languages» - German and French.

Today Geography in Russia is regarded to be one of the base sciences that are devoted to the problem of society and environment and their interactions. Geography was gone far from the descriptive field of science and in recent years combined key aspects of Earth Sciences. A new structure of geographical science and education has developed under the influence of modern trends in Geosciences. There are fifteen specialized departments on the Faculty of Geography of Lomonosov Moscow State University. The structure of the Faculty of Geography comprises 3 main profiles: the Environmental Geography, Human Geography and Hydrometeorology. Research and education of the Faculty of Geography of Lomonosov Moscow State University is fundamental and application-oriented in nature. To find solutions for society's present and future demands is the main task of the research and education which is trend to become research-oriented. Eight multidisciplinary primary research laboratories contribute to the research-oriented education.

Modern global processes and terms such as sustainability, assessing risk and reducing disaster in environmental hazards, global and regional changes of environment and climate posed new perspectives in the geographical education. Integrative trends were in progress and that could be characterized by the following:

- Development of new integrative branch of geography (so called "geoecology") as a response to increasing anthropogenic impact on environment;
- Development of supplementary education (GIS, habitation ecology, landscape design etc);
- Interdisciplinary features of such branches as environmental impact assessment and audit;
- Scientific basis of sustainable development and nature management.

Both with organizational issues (i.e. perfection of student practices, field studies and modernization of field stations; creation of training courses for foreign students; strengthening special training programmes in schools and development of distance learning) this integrative trends determine further development of the Geographical education in Russia. All of them greatly depend on the integration processes between Russia and Europe. Firm place of the Geography in the European Earth Sciences system provides both demand for the society and key role in future of science.

