

North Ossetian State University

North Ossetian State University (Russian Federation) academic team is calling for partnership under TEMPUS IV initiative.

North Ossetian State University in Vladikavkaz is one of the largest public institutions in the south of Russia. Founded in 1920, the university is directed at education, cooperation, and innovation in different academic areas of the humanities, technical and natural sciences, arts and sports. At present the university consists of 22 Faculties offering the whole spectrum of study programs under the life learning education strategy - from pre-university training to postgraduate studies.

The University administrates Scientific and Research Institute for Sustainable Development of Mountain Territories, Republic of North Ossetia Alania Institute of History and Archaeology, Institute of Ossetian Language History and Development.

International cooperation has always been one of NOSU development priorities. Since 2000 the university has initiated and participated in joint research and academic projects with the European Commission, the UN, International Research Institute of Stanford University. In recent years more than 500 students and faculty participated in international conferences, workshops, and scientific exchange programs (USAID, IREX, DAAD, FULBRIGHT, TEMPUS, COPERNICUS etc).

NOSU institutional development plan under TEMPUS IV initiative includes:

- modernization of curricula in Tourism and Hospitality, and IT, using the ECTS, the three cycle system and the recognition of degrees, due to the high demand of the qualified specialists in the field;
- development of lifelong learning in society at large, as a response to the labor market and competition;

Within the framework of academic development of NOSU the most topical objectives are:

1) **Bachelor program in Tourism.** Tourism is one of the top priorities for the south of Russia. The project NORTH CAUCASUS RESORTS, which joins several ski complexes in Krasnodar territory, Dagestan, North Ossetia, Karachay-Cherkessia, Adygeya and Kabardino-Balkaria was presented and widely discussed at the International Economic Forum in St. Petersburg in June 2010. The tourism cluster project in the North Caucasus received approval of the authorities and the estimated financial support of 60 billion roubles. It is supposed to conform to the European standards to become a venue for tourists from Russia and overseas. The project presupposes the development of ski complexes and tourism infrastructure in every member of the cluster where the Republic of North Ossetia has the highest potential for tourism and recreation. The investment project Mamison in North Ossetia includes a phased

construction of a year-round mountain resort complex equipped to the highest standards and expected to provide services for 7,500 tourists at its first stage. The complex will have 45 kilometers of downhill ski runs.

Hence, the region is in need of qualified specialists and personnel educated under the principles of the Bologna Process and European qualifications. The abundant experience of European universities in tourism and recreation management will have a significant ongoing impact in Russian education.

We invite EU partners with expertise in tourism, hospitality and recreation management for consortium to develop a Bachelor program in tourism for the south of Russia. The supposed activities include assistance in curriculum development, visiting lectures, students' and staff mobility, joint conference and workshops, distance learning program, evaluation. The program will provide students with knowledge and skills necessary for their active implementation on the regional level, as well as further Master studies in Russia and abroad.

2) **Modernization of curricular in Information Technologies.** Within the framework of NOSU academic development the three most urgent objectives are:

1. establish a Bachelor program in IT in Business;
2. introduce and apply distance learning to the university curricular;
3. organize academic exchanges for the university undergraduates and staff.

3) **Development of lifelong learning in society at large.** The program aims at encouraging links between higher educational institutions in society at large, and enhancing the contribution of academic specialists to the development of lifelong learning. The project objective is education and knowledge transfer within adult learning.

The project directions include the following:

- Certificate programs for adults (foreign languages, computers, design)
- Modernization of professional development courses (law, economics, tourism, health)
- E-learning development (modernization of library services, distance learning)
- Working and teaching
- Development of international relations.

North Ossetian State University would like to participate as a partner in other important directions under TEMPUS IV initiative:

- double degrees with European universities (according to the research of Double Diploma Programs between Russia and the EU, as of November 2010 (<http://tempus-russia.ru/Meropri-101110/DD-final.pdf>) only one university in the south of Russia has a double degree program with EU);

- university management and services for students;
- elaboration of international relations, including partnerships with enterprises;

- curricular development and modernization in other disciplines: Translation and Interpretation, Psychology, Teacher Training, Biotechnology, Nanotechnology, Human Rights, Urban Development, Ecology and Environment.

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