

Political and demographic consequences of the transferring to three-tier system of higher education in the Russian Federation

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Abstract

This article describes the expected impact of the transformation of the Russian system of higher education. The author examined the relationship between the change in terms of training, number of students and teachers and the number of higher educational institutions in the Russian Federation. A possible negative impact of higher education reform in the political and demographic processes in the country is shown.

Key words: The Russian Federation, the reform of higher education, three-tier system of higher education, political stability

Since 1 January 2011, according to established regulatory and legal acts, the system of higher education goes to a multilevel structure. Since then, the vast majority of Russian universities will produce only bachelors and magistrates¹.

This transferring means a significant qualitative change in the country's education system. The education system is the most important social institution, and any changes will be reflected in the social development of the country. In the author's

¹ Federal law of 24.10.2007 №232-ФЗ «Changes into separate acts of the Russian Federation (in the part of establishing of levels of higher professional education)» // Official documents in education. - №33(281). – p.17-29.

opinion, this transference will have a number of significant political and demographic consequences. This article describes these possible effects.

Let us consider some basic figures for subsequent analysis. In 2009, the institution of higher education in Russia there were admitted to the first course 1544.2 thousand people, including full-time training - 678.2. In 2010, the institutions of higher education was made 1399.4 thousand people, including full-time studying were enrolled about 670 thousand people. The total number of enrolled students in 2010 was approximately 90.6%, and the number of admitted as full-time students was 98.8% according to the data of 2009. So it can be assumed that the number of enrolled students to the institutions of higher learning in 2011 will make up about 90% according to the data in 2010, i.e about 1260.0 thousand people, and a number of full-time students will be about 660 thousand people.

Due to the changes in the normative terms of studying: a trainee program of specialist training (5 years) and BA (4 years), in 2015 the students will graduate the same year enrolled in the specialist program in 2010, and students enrolled in bachelor programs in 2011. Students were studying full-time: in 2006 - 620.5 thousand in 2007 - 643.9 thousand in 2008 - 657.3 thousand in 2009 . - 697.0. Thus, in 2015, more than 650 thousand specialists and approximately 650 thousand bachelors, who studied full-time will graduate from universities. We don't take into account the number of graduates who studied part-time and had evening classes because they are already employed at the end of high school. At the same time, you should consider that producing about 40 thousand in 2015 Masters on condition that the number of applicants for the master's program in 2013 will be comparable with 2010 (43.9 thousand) and 2011 (43,2 thousand).

Thus, in 2015, there will be twice more graduates in the labour market : instead of the usual 650-700 thousand - 1350-1400 thousand people. This fact leads to an abrupt destabilization of the labor market in the country and it will destabilize the political situation in the country before the parliamentary elections in Russia in 2016. It will be impossible to completely cover the number of Bachelor graduates to master's degree in 2015, as in the Russian Federation it is found out that only 25% of bachelor program graduates may enroll for master's programs. The result of all this can become mass rallies young people with higher education, but not having a job. A similar example we saw in January and February 2011 in Egypt. We have seen that this perturbation of youth can lead to the collapse of the political system and to political changes.

This is the most significant political and demographic consequences of the transferring of higher education in Russia, however, is not unique.

Another negative consequence will be a mechanical reduction in the number of students in the 15-20% by 2015-2016. In Russia it is associated with the transition from a 5-year study period to a 4-year-old. The number of students decreased from almost 7.5 million to just over 5 million. The result will be, for example, the

deterioration of Russia's positions in a number of international rankings, for example in such a major international rating as the UN Human Development Index (Human development index), where one of the indicators is the proportion of students².

Another negative consequence will be a reduction in the number of teachers in universities. This figure is for the majority of Russian universities depends on the number of students and is calculated as: 1 teacher to 10 full-time students or 30 students of correspondence courses. In 2009-2010, a Russian state, municipal and private universities employed 377.8 thousand teachers (342.7 thousand in state and municipal and 35,1 thousand in non-state). To the 2015-2016 the number of students is the 15-20% result in a corresponding reduction in the number of PPP across the country for 50-60 thousand people. This would undoubtedly lead to a weakening of the Russian education system and the Russian science will suffer the intellectual elite of the country.

As in Russia, funding of autonomous universities (they constitute the majority of state and municipal institutions) is calculated from the number of students, a decrease in 2015-2016. Student population will lead to the corresponding (15-20%) reduction in funding of universities from the state. If the current rules of university financing are not changed, then the result will be deterioration of the material and financial means of most Russian universities.

Another negative consequence of the transition to a three-level system of higher education may be a weakening of the intellectual potential of Russian regions. This phenomenon is due to the fact that, for objective reasons, Master's courses will be concentrated in the leading universities of the country, leading to the migration of advanced intellectually youth from the province in the educational centers of the country. Besides, the Russian system of training scientific-pedagogical staff (post-graduate) will lead only accept graduates with master's degrees and diplomas of specialists. As a result, some regional universities in 5-10 years will be out to go to graduate and, accordingly, will not be able to prepare themselves for research and teaching staff. Ultimately, this may lead to the closure of the regional universities, or their transformation into institutions of secondary vocational education (colleges), in which, according to Russian laws, can teach Bachelors and teachers do not necessarily have a degree. Thus, there will be another large concentration of Russian higher education system in several centers.

Another, a consequence of the transferring to three-level system of higher education will increase in 2015 in Russia contingent of young people subject to conscription into the army, as only 25% of the bachelors will be able to enter the mas-

² According to records of 2010 г. Russia took 65 place in the rating. Meanwhile 3 points of the index(supposed life time, literacy level and the quality of life) Russia showed the best results in literacy).

ter's courses. Thus in 2015 will drop the sharpness of the question of acquisition of the Russian army.

Summing up, it should be noted that the ongoing transformation of the Russian system of higher education has a number of political and demographic implications, only some of which are covered in this article. Negative nature of these effects both due to the fact of mass simultaneous transition of all universities in the country to a three-tier system, and existing Russian law. Higher education reform in Russia may have a negative effect on the stability of the political system, especially when one considers the coincidence timing for the completion of reform (2015-2016.) And the fall elections in 2016 to the lower house of Russian parliament. To prevent the described negative effects certain preventive measures will be required on the part of the Government of the Russian Federation, both now and in the future.