

Dear colleagues,

Let me briefly introduce The Udmurt State University and the Department of Modern and Contemporary History and International Relations.

Udmurt State University is located in the capital of Udmurt Republic – in the city of Izhevsk. Izhevsk is an industrial center with the population over 650 thousand people. It is located between Ural Mountains and Volga river regions.

The university conducts international cooperation in the framework of international agreements with European universities and research centers.

UdSU has signed cooperation agreements with 21 European universities and research centers. Since 1994, it has implemented 15 Tempus projects. Udmurt State University also conducted several research projects under the INTAS program.

Our university is a member of such organizations as EUA (European University Association), EAU Eurasian Association of Universities and the Association of Finno-Ugric Universities.

Research Facilities: The library resources of Udmurt State University are quite sufficient for this project. The library consists of more than 1 million documents.

The library has 3 specialized departments, service centre with the digital laboratory and a publishing centre. UdSU library provides access to computers, editing and publishing services (such as scanning, printing, typing, laminating, copying of documents, etc.). Computer labs offer a direct access to all library electronic resources and remote databases.

In addition, UdSU has the Institute of Distance Education (IDE) - a modern multi-media content and a convenient interface for research and study. IDE provides support to professors and researchers in conducting their on-line and off-line conferences.

Our university has several research and educational centres that are specializing in European studies - Centre for Spanish Language and Culture, French Resource Centre, Hungarian Language Centre and German Resource Centre. These centres host scientific seminars, conferences, and publish research works.

Support for incoming personnel:

Great work on the hosting of foreign professors, researchers and students is done by the Office of International Relations of UdSU.

One of the dormitories of the University is allocated for the accommodation of foreign professors and exchange students.

The building is very comfortable for living and studying, with all the necessary services such as internet access. It is located 5 minutes away from the university campus in the downtown part of the city.

Moreover, UdSU has an International Education Centre that is responsible for university admission and offers Russian language course and preparatory services for international visitors. The centre also develops and implements program of socio-cultural adjustment; assists international visitors interested in Russian and Udmurt language courses (groups and individual classes); develops and hosts Language and Culture Summer schools.

Already established partnerships among Consortium members:

Some members of the consortium have long-term research collaboration experience. For example, a cooperation agreement between the University of Siena and UdSU has been conducted for the last several years.

Professors from the University of Siena have already given lectures (via online technologies) to the students of the Udmurt State University. Their lectures were dedicated to the European Union history and politics.

Georg August University of Goettingen and the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven were members of Erasmus Mundus Triple I consortium and conducted exchange programs with Udmurt State University for several years.

TEAM

Human Resources:

Modern and Contemporary History and International Relations Department specializes in teaching and research of history and contemporary politics of foreign countries, with the 75% focus on the European studies.

It employs 8 professors and researches, 2 PhD students and 1 staff member.

My colleagues pay special attention to Political process and evolution of political institutions in Europe, to Contemporary European Political Thought, to European Social policy and the issues relate to the crises of welfare state, immigration, nationalism and national identity on Europe.

Dr. Lidiya Kulyabina is the expert on Scandinavian history, culture and politics. She is the author of book "Sweden in contemporary world".

Dr. Maria I. Beznosova. Head of International Relations Office (UdSU). Her research and academic interest cover international educational integration issues. She is responsible for management and coordination of international partnerships, signing agreements on behalf of our university. She is also our institutional coordinator for all international projects.

Dr. Vera Pushkareva is another distinctive member of our team. Her main research interests are related to the topic of "European Idea in History".

Dr. Vasily Ivanov, he is well known Russian expert on the topic of Religion in Europe. He is researching the evolution of European religion traditions.

Now let me introduce **myself (Dr. Vladimir Zolotykh).** The area of my research is the western political thought and social policy. I am also conducting research on Political process and political institutions in Europe.