READ 2 RAS Program Update

The READ 2 RAS program was launched in November 2016 to support Russia in developing the capacity of local experts and researchers in the field of education. The program has made progress in a number of important areas, including setting up a Doctoral Degree Program in Educational Measurement and Evaluation, a Master of Arts Degree Program in Education Quality, training programs in education quality, a Small Grants Program, and a Three-Tier Expert Capacity Building Program.

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Program in Educational Measurement and Evaluation: The task of developing a PhD program in Educational Measurement and Evaluation has been awarded to the Higher School of Economics – a leading Russian university in the area of social sciences – through a competitive selection process. The first cohort of students will be admitted for the 2018-2019 academic year. A limited number of scholarships will be available on a competitive basis to applicants from Russia and other European and Central Asian (ECA) countries.

Master of Arts (MA) Degree Program in Education Quality: A MA Degree Program in Education Quality will be set up in a soon-to-be-selected Russian university. The Russian university will partner with a university in one of the ECA countries to offer this MA Degree.

Training Programs in Education Quality: The Russian Training Center (RTC) is continuing to offer short-term training courses and seminars in the form of distant learning and face-to-face classes. The courses are designed for educational assessment professionals and focus on current methods, approaches, and best practices in carrying out the assessment of student learning. Online courses offered by the RTC are available free of charge with the support of the READ 2 RAS program.

Small Grant Program (SGP): In 2016-2017, the READ 2 RAS program supported two rounds of the SGP, a competition that promotes collaboration among research teams from ECA countries. The most recent round provided grants to teams from Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyz Republic to implement programs and initiatives across thematic areas of the READ 2 program.

Three-Tier Expert Capacity Building Program: The Three-Tier Expert Capacity Building Program will be launched in the next few months. The goal is for Russian experts specializing in education policy and quality assessment to provide support to development projects around the world. The three-tier program includes: 1) offering international internships for students in Russian universities pursuing master’s degree programs in educational research and assessment; 2) providing international internships for Russian mid-career professionals who hold master’s degrees and professional experience, as well as doctoral students conducting research on education policy and quality assessment; and 3) making available seasoned Russian experts and researchers with international experience in education quality and student assessment to support teams from the World Bank and other development organisations to conduct field research, data collection and analysis, desk reviews, and project implementation.

The READ 2 RAS program will run until 2019. The READ 2 RAS team is open to collaboration with international colleagues with expertise in education quality and student assessment.

To learn more about the READ 2 RAS program, please contact Tigran Shmis, Program Manager (tshmis@worldbank.org) and Dmitry Chugunov, Research Analyst (dchugunov@worldbank.org).