

### *International research projects in Herzen University*

During the month, from April 15 to May 15, at the Faculty of Information Technology in frame of the project “International research network for study and development of new tools and methods for advanced pedagogical science in the field of ICT instruments, e-learning and intercultural competences”, IRNet, teachers from five European universities conducted their research. These universities were - Lusíada University, Portugal; Extremadura University, Spain; Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovakia; University of Silesia in Katowice, Poland; University of Ostrava, Czech Republic. The visit of European colleagues to Herzen University (HSPU) was the second, but this year, 2015, our university was visited by an extended delegation of participants - 15 researchers.

Our guests were offered a variety of business and cultural program. The IRNet project participants from our university were the Dean of the Faculty of Information Technology Tatiana Noskova, and assistant professors of the Chair of Informatization of education Tatiana Pavlova and Olga Yakovleva. The representatives of foreign universities got acquainted with the development of the information structure of Herzen University. During the meeting with the vice-rector for informatization M. Puchkov, they discussed the objectives and the development of ICT infrastructure in HSPU and participated a free discussion on the impact of information technology on the development of the Russian education in general. A visit to the 19th university exhibition of scientific achievements was organized. There the guests had the opportunity to meet interesting scientific development staff, students and graduate students. In addition, the guests got acquainted with the scientific research conducted at the Department of Physics and the Faculty of Correctional Pedagogy. The Faculty of Physics organized a visit to the research laboratories. At the Faculty of Correctional Pedagogy researchers not only get acquainted with modern approaches to training in the field of correction and inclusive education, but also held a meeting with students, where they discussed the IRNet project, and its possible contribution to the development of ICT tools in correctional education.

Undoubtedly, an important and significant aspect of our partners' visit was associated with the interaction with students. In this regard, the main venue of interactions was the Faculty of Information Technology. A public lecture for all interested students was organized, where representatives of each European University spoke about their high school, showed the main directions of its development, the possibility of cooperation, student exchange, and discussed the importance of intercultural competences for modern students. Foreign teachers in their speeches also told the students about various aspects of the use of information and communication technologies in their universities.

The teachers of the Faculty of Information Technology held a number of seminars and master classes. Associate professor from the Chair of Informatization of Education T.Pavlova showed the information educational environment developed by postgraduate students. Associate professor of the Chair of Information and Communication Technologies N.Karpova and assistant P.Aksyutin acquainted the guests with the electronic resources of their department. Team leader of university programmers, professor E.Baranova, demonstrated software development in the field of management of the educational process. Head of Music and Computer Laboratory, professor I.Gorbunova showed new methods of music education.

Foreign guests visited the fundamental library of Maria Fyodorovna, got a library card, and the ability to conduct research in the library's collections.

From the standpoint of the formation of intercultural competence, it seems significant, that all communications with foreign partners were held in English. Teachers of all faculties, took part in meetings and seminars, communicated with colleagues, discussed professional problems without interpreters. Students understood our partners, and many of them asked questions and were included in the discussion of the problems. As international project continues for four years, then this activity can include other faculties of the University. This is also important from the perspective of the development of effective educational ICT tools as well as from the perspective of intercultural

competences, solving professional problems in the English language as a means of intercultural interaction.

There is no doubt that an important aspect of the visit of foreign partners in St. Petersburg has become a cultural program. For guests were organized trips to Kronstadt and Pavlovsk, as well as informal meetings - a walk through the city, visiting museums, park ensembles, concerts and performances.

The project team from the Faculty of Information Technology held weekly scientific seminars with colleagues on the tasks of the project, discussed the current progress of research and its prospects, developed a questionnaire for joint research, elaborated joint scientific publications, including publications in indexed scientific base Scopus. Team leader, T.Noskova was the coordinator of the third working package from September 2014 until April 2015. During this time has developed a methodology of scientific research as well as diagnostic tools, such as questionnaires, translated into all the languages of the countries participating in the project.

An important place during the visit of foreign partners took an international conference "The high-tech information educational environment", which has become an annual with foreign universities and the submission of reports and presentations in English.

At the end of the stay in our university, interviews with the heads of each of the research teams were recorded in the media laboratory; they have shared their most vivid impressions of the research work at the university and stay in St. Petersburg.

For our project participants from HSPU this activity is multi-valued: they are training, experiencing an international cooperation. The Faculty of Information Technologies is strengthening cooperation with foreign partners, the exchange of professional experience and publications of faculty experts in international scientific journals. For all interested faculties – it is an annual platform of intercultural cooperation, which is important for teachers and for students. For the university as a whole - is the positioning of our university in the international market of educational services.



Figure 1 Discussion at the Research Institute of Physics



Figure 2 Discussion of the problems of inclusive education with the Dean of the Faculty of Correctional Pedagogy



Figure 3 IRNet participants at the Exhibition of scientific achievements



Figure 4. IRNet Project participants



Figure 5 Meeting of the researchers at the Faculty of Physics



Figure 6 Meeting with the vice-rector for informatization M.Puchkov



Figure 7 Methods of using computers in inclusive education



Figure 8 IRNet researchers – participants of the High-Tech Conference 12<sup>th</sup> May at HSPU, SPB, Russia