

CONCEPT OF THE BRICS NETWORK UNIVERSITY OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Moscow

The BRICS Network University (hereinafter – BRICS NU) is a union of educational institutions of higher education of the BRICS countries which implement cooperation (hereinafter – BRICS NU participants).

The BRICS NU is a unique project aimed at developing, testing and endorsing, and implementing the educational interaction model by implementing mostly bilateral/multilateral short-term joint educational programmes, master's and postgraduate programmes, as well as joint scientific and research projects in various areas according to the general standards and quality criteria provided that the learning outcomes are in compliance with the national state standards.

The BRICS Network University development goals include:

Providing opportunities for high-quality education using various tools, such as traditional main educational programmes, joint network educational programmes, short-term programmes of full-time and distance exchange education, modular courses, as well as the development of joint educational platforms, etc.

Promoting sustainable development and improving the social welfare of the BRICS countries by implementing the knowledge and skills acquired by the participants in joint and research programmes and projects in social, natural sciences and humanities, technology, and other spheres in the spirit of the diversity of opinions and scientific ideas.

Providing education of high-qualified professionals to meet the BRICS countries' needs in personnel in line with the challenges and opportunities of the Fourth Industrial Revolution in the priority areas, in the pursuit of expanding the students' access to modern education methods, forms, and technologies under the implementation of the BRICS NU educational programmes.

The BRICS NU development includes the following stages each of which is to be discussed separately along with defining the priority tasks:

- introductory stage (2015-2020) since the establishment of the BRICS NU, according to the Memorandum of Understanding on the BRICS Network University Establishment dated 18 November 2015, the introductory stage has implied creating regulatory and organizational-substantive framework of the BRICS NU;

- formation stage (short term, 2020-2022). It involves forming the priority areas; developing principles of the implementation of educational programmes and scientific research classified into priority fields of study; implementing a number of programmes in priority fields of study as pilot projects on the first stage; creating a shared base of information resources and data; creating a basic scientific journal (bulletin) of the BRICS NU.

- testing and endorsing, and implementation stage (medium term, 2023-2025) involves expanding the tested priority areas, in particular, launching joint further education programmes, regular summer schools, common educational online platform; enhancing academic mobility; establishing joint research laboratories and centres; developing a cooperation network of joint postgraduate and doctoral programmes; making regularly scientific publications; developing and supporting a portal of scientific and applied information; forming the key courses in the priority fields of study.

- stage of the full-fledged work format (long term, since 2026) implies a full transition to the common online platform; creation of a research and educational network; development of a network of research laboratories and centres.

Priority Areas.

The priority fields of study at the BRICS NU formation stage include the fields stipulated in the Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of the BRICS Network University dated 18 November 2015:

- Computer Sciences and Information Security,
- BRICS Studies,
- Energy,
- Ecology and Climate Change,
- Water Resources and Pollution Control,
- Economics.

Forming the priority areas of the BRICS NU in the midterm implies the following actions:

Transforming the structure and contents of educational programmes in compliance with the current requirements of the participating countries' labour market, as well as the priority areas of scientific and technological cooperation of the BRICS countries.

Improving the credit transfer mechanisms;

Intensifying both student and academic staff mobility according to the decision of the International Thematic Groups in the BRICS NU priority fields of study.

Developing a universal procedure for the enrollment in the BRICS NU educational programmes.

Improving the principles of midterm and final assessment regulated by the agreements on training jointly high-qualified staff between the BRICS NU participants.

Addressing the issue of digitalization of education aimed at implementing joint network programmes and related activities in the online format.

General coordination of the BRICS NU development is carried out by the International Governing Board of the BRICS NU. Other governing bodies of the BRICS NU may be established as necessary and upon agreement at IGB meetings of the BRICS NU.

To coordinate joint activities of participating organizations the International Governing Board of the BRICS NU designates from among the members of the BRICS NU the Coordinating University of the BRICS NU created for the information-analytical and organizational support of the current activities of the BRICS NU, for organization of the document circulation of the BRICS NU.

In order to promote the BRICS NU project in the BRICS NU participating countries and international educational community, engage business structures in participating in training jointly specialists and assisting in the employment of graduates, it is proposed to establish the BRICS NU Board of Trustees, which will promote attracting funds to develop the BRICS NU, as well as promote the BRICS NU interests in various public and nongovernmental structures, funds and organizations.

The BRICS NU activities will make a contribution to forming a new generation of highly-qualified and motivated specialists with critical thinking, who are able to implement innovations when dealing with economic and social issues, who have skills of interacting in a multinational and multilingual environment, who are able to combine scientific and applied knowledge using state-of-the-art technologies.