Higher Education System Capacity Building in Tatarstan

Education

Start of FBS Program: November 2008
Completion Date: June 2010

The objective of the FBS program was to contribute to the capacity of Tatarstan’s higher education system to serve the purposes of regional and municipal social and economic development. The direct beneficiaries of this FBS program were municipal and regional authorities, as well as managers and faculty of the participating universities.

To achieve this objective, the program considered the following priority areas:

- Building the capacity of seven participating universities in the area of strategic planning
- Developing strategic plans for participating universities
- Preparing a draft higher education development strategy for the entire region

Results. Prior to the project, universities in Tatarstan were performing without a clear plan for the future, leaving their development strategies limited largely to reacting to immediate issues and challenges. As a result of the project, all seven participating universities have drafted strategic development plans, five of which have been endorsed by governance boards. In addition, an education development strategy for the entire region was developed and approved by the government which is based on (i) a diagnostic review of the higher education sector in Tatarstan (conducted by the World Bank under a preceding FBS), (ii) the strategic plans of the local universities, and (iii) regional and national economic development plans.

Impact. The new higher education strategy was incorporated into the broader Education Development Program (through 2015), which was adopted by the Government of Tatarstan. Based on the strategies developed with support from the World Bank, two universities have received the status of national research university granted by the Federal Ministry of Education (only 27 out of a total of 660 public universities in Russia have received this status), and an additional university has recently received the rank of federal university, a status shared by just six other universities in Russia.

Key Partners. Administration of Kazan City; JSC Directorate for Extra-Budgetary Urban Development Programs; Ministry of Education and Science of the Tatarstan Republic