

"Start Your Own Business with Moscow", a project of the Moscow Chamber of Commerce and Industry - the Entrepreneurship School for African Students of Moscow Universities

We present the project of the Moscow Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which is extremely promising from an economic, political and, finally, humanitarian point of view.

In recent years, there has been a steady increase of the number of African students studying at Russian universities. In 2022, there were about 35 000 of them, and this year this number continues to grow, which opens up prospects for more active integration of Russian business into the growing markets of Africa through the involvement of African graduate students of Russian universities in entrepreneurial activities.

At the moment, African students of Russian universities with the state accreditation have the opportunity to work in the territory of the Russian Federation without providing permits. However, the problem of employment of foreign students is quite acute, and their professional implementation requires the additional support and the formation of entrepreneurial competencies that will contribute to adaptation to the Russian reality.

In this case, to solve the problem of employment of foreign students, the entrepreneurial training can be a worthy help. To address these issues, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry have excellent opportunities, located at the junction of the three most important areas - business, government and higher education.

The target audience of this project may be African students of Russian universities. The following are ready to act as partners of the project:

- The Association "International Employers' Club";
- MGIMO Career Centre;
- RUDN Career Centre;
- All-Russian Association of Career Centres;
- Association of International Students of Russia.

We are deploying an educational project based on the Chamber of Commerce and Industry aimed at developing entrepreneurial competencies and career modeling skills among foreign students studying at Russian universities in the entrepreneurial environment of the Russian Federation.

Our project involves the implementation of the CPE (Continuing Professional Education) program, which includes:

- The theoretical part, which provides basic knowledge and skills in organizing your own business;
- The practical part, which provides practical skills in doing business in the Russian Federation.

We have the opportunities and prerequisites for this. The International Employers' Club was created at the initiative of the MCCI. This is the first project in Russia designed to implement initiatives to train specialists who meet the requirements of the modern international labor market by combining business and educational institutions. One of the goals is to create an extensive international business environment associated with Russian and international educational projects.

We consider the work with foreign students and in the future – with graduates of Russian universities, to be the most important element of our activities. After all, it can contribute to the strengthening of Russia in the world through "horizontal ties".

Today, in hundreds of countries, there are associations of graduates of Soviet and Russian universities, uniting people who know our language, culture, traditions, peculiarities of business relations, etc. Thus, hundreds of thousands of specialists from foreign countries have been trained at



the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia named after Patrice Lumumba since 1960. Now they work in 162 countries around the world. Most of them perceive our country as a second homeland.

We propose to use this factor for the development of economic ties, without waiting for current students to graduate and leave for their countries. We want to provide willing students from Africa with the opportunity to learn the specifics of doing business with partners in our country. The Russian CCI system unites more than 170 chambers in all regions and a large number of municipalities. This provides opportunity to quickly contact any part of the country and quickly get the necessary information.

At the same time, this is an opportunity to gain entrepreneurial skills, study the specifics of the work of the Russian foreign economic sphere and, most importantly, to gain contacts with Russian business. Thus, young representatives of friendly African countries studying in Russia will be able to become a kind of business representatives of their companies in Russia without interrupting their basic education, and subsequently do business with our country and not only.

