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For a long period of time Russia was far distanced from the other world. Nowadays we are in the process of transforming our legal system and integrating Russia into the international community. It formulated a need of reformation of the system of legal education in the country. The main goal of this reformation was to prepare a new generation of lawyers - well educated and open-minded people who will understand how the rules of law work in other countries and in the international community as a whole, and what is the role of the rule of law in a democratic society.

Novgorod State University Law School is very young. It was founded in 1994, in the time when the country realized the need for lawyers. At that time a lot of new law schools were opened. But to have a lot of lawyers is not the only goal; the main problem is quality of their education.

In Novgorod Law School we have now almost 1500 students. Legal education in Russia requires five years of studying in the university under the strong control of the Ministry of Education under a standard curriculum.

An important role in our first steps was a partnership program between Novgorod State University and Cleveland State University in Ohio in the United States. Under the support of this program we opened a computer class in Novgorod with free access to all databases and to the internet, and we opened law library at the faculty. Six of our graduates have studied in the U.S. and received their LL.M. there.

But the most important part of the program was the communication between people, the possibility for them to get acknowledge with methodologies of teaching, to compare approaches to the different issues of law. We had wide program of exchanges. But our exchange program was concentrated on the exchanges of teachers. The idea is very simple - instead of sending a lot of groups of students there and back, we decided that to

prepare teachers was much more important because later they will transfer their knowledge and understanding to the hundreds of students.

From 1998 six law teachers from Novgorod visited Cleveland, spending two-three months there. Russians attended classes in Cleveland State University's Marshall School of Law and in Case Western Reserve University. They made research in libraries there, visited courts and law firms. It helped them to develop courses which they taught, to start new ones, to involve a lot of new interactive methodologies in their practice.

As a result we have now in our curriculum such new classes as "comparative law" , "Street law", "white collar crimes", "human rights", etc. From that time we started a law clinic at the faculty. During that time eleven American law professors visited Novgorod. They were teaching different legal classes - international environmental law, public international law, etc. Classes of American professors were very popular. It was strong impulse for Russian students to develop their knowledge of law, to understand the role of law in the world.

Special impact the partnership had in teaching of international law. In Soviet time International law was a short course more political in content than legal. So we had to change the very sense of what to teach and how to teach. That was not an easy goal, as far as we didn't have books and materials in Russian, no tradition of studying case law, we never had moot court practice in law school. During six years of partnership we've done a big step forward in teaching and studying International law.

That's why when in 2002 for the first time Russian National Championships for the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition was organized we were so much eager to participate. That was a real challenge. The Jessup Competition plays an important role in the development of Russia's future lawyers, judges and legislators. The competition, held entirely in English, provides Russian law students with first-hand experience preparing submissions and presenting their arguments in a courtroom setting. It shows the importance of knowledge the law and gives a practice of using it. This year nineteen teams participated in National Competition. It was one of the largest national

championships in the world. Our Written Memorial took 1 place, and we 've got 2 place in oral pleadings. It gave us a chance to represent Russia in the international competition in Washington, D.C.

After our first time in Jessup we started International Law Moot Court Competition at our Law School. Every year in spring students of the 3d year are competing and judges are students from the Jessup team. As most of students say this competition is one of the best experiences at the law school.

I want to show one more unique example of partnership. It is our Russian-American Summer Law School. Since 1998 every summer in Sanct-Petersburg we organize this Summer School. For a whole month ten Russian law students and fifteen Americans are studying, living together in the educational center in St. Petersburg. Classes are in English, that's why all applicants from Novgorod have to have TOEFL exam (with no less than 500 points result). Most of the classes are teaching by American professors, and at the end students have written exam. In Summer School they have classes on different international law issues and Russian-American comparative law. All the period of Summer School Russian and American students are living together in the hotel, sharing rooms, preparing to the classes together. It is a unique chance of cultural experience for both sides. In afternoons they have special program of excursions. For one week-end all the participants go to Novgorod where they have classes in Novgorod University, visit to the prison, historical excursions. For 3-4 days in Novgorod American students live in the families of Russian students. As a result this program gives the participants not only the possibility to study law and see a foreign country, but to make a lot of friends and develop the relations between both countries.