

The University city Forum

What is an university city? In Germany, it's enough a presence of a university to add to the city's brand these fine words, the Association of university cities in France includes 80 full-fledged participants, in the UK, there are six types of university cities and towns. In Russia, according to Wikipedia, the university town is just one - Tomsk. The first beyond the Urals Tomsk Imperial University was opened in 1878 (now - TSU) and it is here, just on the initiative of Tomsk State University, 23-26 November 2016, the first international forum of university cities took place. The represents from five countries were on the forum, not including the Russians, - United Kingdom, Germany, Spain, Norway and France. The forum was attended by representatives of Bath (UK), Limoges, Nantes, Nice, Paris (France), Regensburg (Germany), Santiago de Compostela (Spain), Tromsø (Norway) and Russian university cities. The organizers of the event were National Research Tomsk State University and Administration of Tomsk region, with the support of the Embassy of France in Russia, the German Consulate General in Siberia, the German Society for International Cooperation GIZ.

In 2015, the Municipality of Tomsk has registered the trademark «Student Capital of Russia», to make reference to the number of students per 10 thousand inhabitants of Tomsk ranks third in Russia after Moscow and St. Petersburg. Tomsk - a classic European-style university city, as, unfortunately ... not enough is known in Europe. To increase the popularity Tomsk can benefit from the practice of German university towns such as Tübingen and Marburg, which have applied for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List. No wonder the forum was attended by representatives of university cities already on the list of UNESCO - Bath (UK), Regensburg (Germany), Santiago de Compostela (Spain). Chief Scientific Secretary of TSU and director of the Center for Scientific Research «Transsiberian scientific way», based on which, in fact, launched the project on comparative analysis of university cities, Lyudmila Borilo noted that the forum should become an annual gathering place for prominent Russian and foreign experts.

The history of European universities is inextricably linked with religion. So, one of the oldest and most famous universities in Europe bears the name of the confessor of King Louis IX of Robert de Sorbon. The oldest in the English speaking world and the second oldest in Europe, is the University of Oxford, where the training is carried out with 1096. In 1209 the training was suspended due to clashes between citizens and university professors, and the subsequent execution of two scientists. There originates a conflict «town and gown»-, university and urban communities, in principle, not exhausted himself so far, as many have said, the forum participants. For example, in English Bath as told a business school professor at the University of Bath Spa Inna Pomorina, two local universities not only are among the largest employers in the county - they employ the same number of people as in all restaurants Somerset, whose capital is the university city, but the universities promote the growth of the cost of living in the city, especially rents. Naturally, many townspeople associate the growth of the cost of renting apartments, and lack of it with the students and require decisive action of the City Council in relation to the universities insist on imposing restrictions on the growing number of students. Similar problems are faced and university city in Spain.

Special attention is given to the experience of Regensburg - an old German city, the former residence of the Bavarian dukes. The historic center of Regensburg, for a long time and deservedly included in the UNESCO World Heritage list, but the university was founded only in

1962, formally incorporated in the medieval townscape. According to the director of the Institute for Social Research and technological expertise of the University of Applied Sciences in Regensburg professor Karsten Weber, the city does not have problems with the involvement of students, including foreign ones, as it is one of the most visited tourist centers in Germany, but all the “charm” of the UNESCO-protected medieval towns - narrow streets that cannot be extended, historic buildings, do not be reconstructed, a ban on the construction of a new bridge over the Danube, the lack of reliable electricity supply – are there in excess supply. There is something to think about Tomsk, the famous wooden architecture which not only pleases the eye, but also complicates the modernization of urban infrastructure.

Another useful example was the story of French professor Jean-Louis Truel how small agricultural town of Limoges was able to build an innovative ecosystem, relying on university development. In addition to agricultural products, Limoges was famous for the production of porcelain and oak barrels in which the cognac and Bordeaux wine are kept. Today it is successfully running Europe's largest cluster of ceramics, producing both luxury products and medical implants and new materials. Residents of Tomsk, forming a regional cluster in the field of construction and medical ceramics, are going to put into practice some of the experiences of Limoges, the more so as Limoges universities for nearly 10 years working with Tomsk colleagues.

Of course, of particular importance for the host country acquired the issues of creating a comfortable and safe campus that provides a road map approved by the RF Government project "INO Tomsk." A lot of time devoted to discussion forum participants “ideal campus of the XXI century ". And some of the findings were very useful for the Siberian university city. Firstly, an integral feature of the modern campus is basic comfort of home. And one of the ways to achieve it may be the development of student business. So, among other winners of the student competition of projects carried out in the framework of the forum, it was the 4th year student of TSU Ruslan Shkuta, proposed to open in dormitories «Laundromats»- self-service laundry. Secondly, for the realization of truly beautiful interuniversity projects like «University mile» (the creation of a network of public spaces in which students of different universities will be comfortable to «exchange a word») to overcome mental barriers to co-operation of Tomsk universities. As one of the French experts, cooperation is more favorable competition, but to understand it takes time.

After discussing the features of the development of university cities in Europe (analysis of Asian and American trends have decided to leave the second forum), the experts concluded that the really historical European university cities where the universities for several centuries of urban spaces have become city-forming, are small and medium-sized urban municipal units. They actively use this status for marketing areas, increase their attractiveness and competitiveness. For large cities, especially metropolitans (Paris, Berlin, London, St. Petersburg), the status is secondary. Despite the widespread notion of «university city» in the European literature, marketing territories and branding of many European cities - such as Münster, Bamberg, Montpellier, Toulouse and Grenoble, there are still no clearly defined criteria for the University city or town. The statistical test (the number of universities in more than one share of population connected to the university, the number and proportion of students per 1000 inhabitants) can be attributed to the category of university cities such as Paris, Berlin, Santiago de Compostela and Bath - different in culture, size, contribution of the University to urban

development and other aspects. And the student capital of Russia - Tomsk, equidistant from the oldest European university in Bologna and the oldest university in Asia, Manila, fully able to become an international center for research on this topic.

Olga Kolesova, coordinator of Forum, head of the laboratory of Tomsk State University