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ESG EDUCATION AT RUSSIAN UNIVERSITIES

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Abstract. The successful implementation of the concept of sustainable development depends on the active participation of all sectors of society in all spheres of human activity, in which education plays a crucial role. Universities are of particular importance as they contribute to the establishment and integration of higher education in the field of sustainable development based on ESG principles – in other words, they work in the environmental (E), social (S), and governance (G) spheres of sustainable development. Since 2015, Russian universities have been developing their sustainability strategies and modifying their organizational structures to achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (hereafter referred to as SDGs). Russian higher education institutions have also gained experience in implementing educational programs designed to develop competencies for professionals in the field of sustainable development.

This comparative analysis examines Bachelor's, Master's, postgraduate, and continuing education programs in fields such as economics, management, public and local administration, law, and environmental studies. The study found that the foundations for Education for Sustainable Development (hereafter ESD) were laid in Russia in the 1990s, but have only become a widespread phenomenon in the last five years. In the early stages, the leading universities, particularly in Moscow and St. Petersburg, were the most active participants. Currently, the number of Master's programs is increasing, and the share of regional universities in implementing these programs has risen significantly in recent years, accounting for 40–45%.

Keywords: *university, higher education institutions, higher education, ESG education, education for sustainable development, Sustainable Development Goals*

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Introduction

The issues addressed in this article pertain to the development and implementation of educational programs in sustainable development at universities, aimed at training and preparing personnel for the real economy sector. They are of great importance for meeting the commitments to achieve the SDGs for the period from 2015 to 2030 [1].

According to the submitted “Action Plan for the Formation and Development of Education for Sustainable Development in the Russian Federation” [2], which promotes sustainable development in the country and influences the formation of an effectively functioning system of education for sustainable development in Russia, the main tasks have been defined, according to which the competence of universities can include the promotion of the implementation of the ideology of sustainable development [3].

In the 1990s, a system of environmental education was established at classical and technical universities in Russia as part of the development of ESD [4]. At classical universities, education was of a natural science nature (study programs: ‘Ecology’, ‘Geoecology’, and ‘Nature Management’). In contrast, at technical universities, the focus was on engineering and environmental science (study programs: ‘Life Safety’, ‘Environmental Protection’) [3].

In the 2000s, programs were developed to advance Russian universities, reflecting the SDGs in the regions where they were present, for example, within the framework of creating flagship universities (2016–2021). The subsequent implementation of a system approach with the triple participation improvement of universities, corporate structures, and state bodies is reflected in the strategic academic leadership program “Priority-2030” (2021–2030) [5].

Despite significant progress in the development of educational programs in the field of sustainable development, the challenge of optimizing the coordination of interaction between universities, businesses, and the state remains relevant. This hinders the effective achievement of the global SDGs and the implementation of the tasks set. At the current stage, it is necessary to reconsider the approaches to the formation of educational programs that not only take into account the regional specifics and the needs of the real sector of the economy, but also ensure the training of specialists who can flexibly adapt to the dynamic conditions of the labor market, the prospects for their further improvement in the context of modern challenges and trends [6].

Research and Methodology

In this study, the authors conducted a comparative analysis of university programs in ESG and sustainable development over the past five years, encompassing both broad societal areas, such as economics, management, public administration, and international cooperation, as well as more specific areas, including environmental studies and urban

planning. For this comparative analysis, programs were classified by educational level, including bachelor's and master's degree programs, as well as professional development and continuing education programs.

The analysis included a geographical factor – namely, the location of the universities in each entity of the Russian Federation – and assessed the demand for education in ESG and sustainable development in the regions where these universities operate [7]. This approach allowed the authors to examine the percentage change in the growth of educational programs over the past five years.

Baseline data for the analysis came from open sources, including more than twenty official university websites with information on organizational structures (such as sustainable development centers), development programs of participating universities within the framework of federal initiatives (over 100 institutions as of 2022–2023) as part of strategic projects to implement sustainable development practices, results of sustainability rankings of the last three years featuring Russian universities, as well as scientific articles, expert materials and analytical reviews evaluating the development of educational programs in ESG and sustainable development (more than 45 Russian higher education institutions over the last 10–15 years).

Prerequisites for the necessity of ESD

“Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is education that enables the social change necessary to create more equitable societies and achieve sustainable development” [8].

At the international level, the recognition of ESD as one of the most essential prerequisites for shaping sustainable development is reflected in officially published United Nations (UN) documents, starting with the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in 1992. At the UN World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg (South Africa) in 2002 [9], the concept of ESD was first presented by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and a resolution on the implementation of the Decade of ESD (2005–2014) was signed [10]. The new program “ESD for the period up to 2030”, which was developed based on the UN initiatives – “UN Decade of ESD” (2005–2014) and “Global Action Program on ESD” (2015–2019), was approved in 2019 at the 206th session of the Executive Board and the 40th session of the UN General Conference. Later, it was also agreed at the 74th session of the UN General Assembly.

Currently, ESD is also at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015. The agenda is based on five pillars—people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership—and is underpinned by three interlinked dimensions: Environmental Stewardship, Social Inclusion, and Economic Development. The adopted document defines and sets out 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with 169 associated targets, which are integrated and indivisible [11]. Particular attention is given to SDG 4 as one of the priority goals – “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all” – and the related target – “By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and culture contribution to sustainable development” [12]. Consequently, as a goal in its own right, education is also an essential tool for achieving other SDGs. It plays a key role in ensuring the sustainable development of society as a whole.

The report “Education Goals for Sustainable Development. Learning Objectives. UNESCO” [13], published in 2017, is an important document that emphasizes the role of education in achieving the SDGs. The report emphasizes that education is a key tool for promoting the concept of sustainable development, as it provides the knowledge needed to solve global challenges, while taking into account local specificities, and that teachers in educational institutions play a key role in promoting ESD, as they should not only impart knowledge, but also create conditions for the development of skills and values necessary for sustainable development. According to the report, a professional for each of the SDGs should have a range of competencies and interdisciplinary knowledge in the following areas: pedagogical, cognitive, social-emotional, and behavioral. Key competencies in ESD include strategic vision, systems thinking, critical thinking, forward thinking, self-awareness, teamwork, and integrated problem-solving.

The international contribution of universities to the implementation of the SDGs has also been measured in the global Times Higher Education Impact Rankings since 2019 [14]. The most essential prerequisite for universities to be included in this ranking is the provision of metric data on at least four SDGs, including the mandatory SDG 17 – “Partnership for Sustainable Development” [15].

Following the adoption of the Global Strategy for Sustainable Development, Russia in 1992 adopted its concept for transitioning the Russian Federation to sustainable development. It states the need for a gradual transition of the country to sustainable development following the principles established at the UNCED Conference in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, which ensures a balanced solution to socio-economic problems and the problems of preserving a favorable environment and the potential of natural resources to meet the needs of present and future generations of humanity [16].

Russia was one of the initiators in the development and adoption of the “Education Strategy for Sustainable Development”, the first regional action program in this area, by the UN Economic Commission for Europe in 2005. Based on this document, the “National Education Strategy in the Field of Sustainable Development for the Russian Federation” was developed [17].

Following the discussion in the State Council on the “Environmental development of the Russian Federation in the Interest of future generations” in 2016, the President of the Russian Federation instructed the government to “include in the federal state educational standards requirements for the acquisition of basic knowledge in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development, taking into account current global priorities, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement adopted on December 12, 2015 and the commitments of the Russian Federation in the field of combating climate change and preserving a favorable environment” [18].

ESG education and ESD at Russian universities

In the mid-1990s, the first specialized courses on sustainable development emerged at Russian universities, as confirmed by the creation of corresponding specializations in the natural sciences and socio-economic fields within the higher education system [19, 20].

Until the 2020s, the inclusion of this topic in the educational programs of Russian educational institutions was slow and unsystematic, did not meet the current challenges of the time, and was implemented on the initiative of individual educational institutions [21].

Over the past five years, the number of Master’s and Bachelor’s degree programs in sustainable development has increased significantly. The data (Fig. 1) on the quantitative growth of ESG programs in Russian higher education institutions, categorized by educational level and regional location, show that in 2022, approximately 26 master’s and 9 bachelor’s programs were developed. In 2023, 14 master’s programs were added.

It is worth noting that, despite Moscow and St. Petersburg remaining the central regions for implementing Master's programs in the field of sustainable development, the share of regional universities currently stands at 40–45% (Fig. 2).

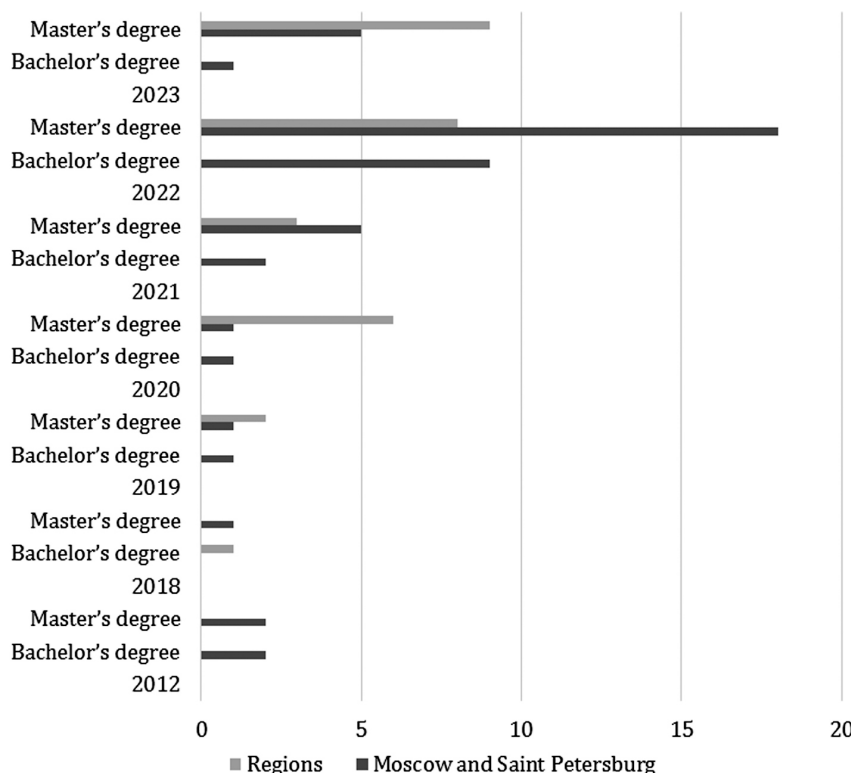


Fig. 1. Growth in the number of ESG education programs in Russian higher education institutions. Source: authors' compilation

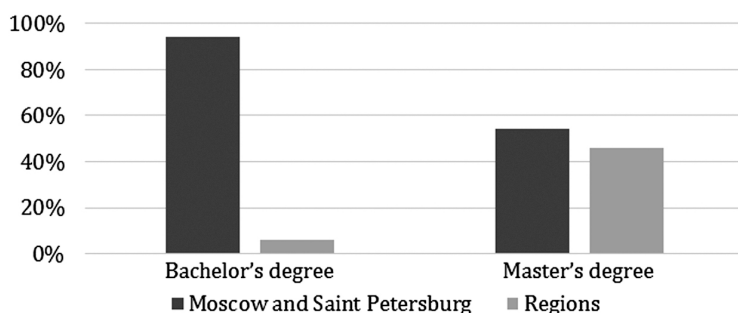


Fig. 2. The ratio of the number of ESG educational programs at Russian higher education institutions. Source: authors' compilation

The demand for ESG education programs from companies and society is also increasing, as reflected in a significant rise in courses for additional professional education and training.

There is an incentive for Russian higher education institutions to demonstrate initiative, ranging from introducing new educational programs in the field of sustainable development at various levels of education, to focusing on the needs of companies, to integrating sustainable development into their strategies, and making changes to their organizational structure. Currently, Centers for Sustainable Development (Table 1) are being established in Russian educational institutions as structural departments responsible for developing educational programs, conducting scientific research in the field of sustainable development, and implementing changes at the management and college policy levels [22].

Table 1

Areas of activity of the Centers for Sustainable Development in Russian educational institutions

№	Name of the institution	Name of the Center for Sustainable Development (year established)	1. EA	2. C	3. P	4. M	5. Ed	6. R	7. Inn	8. Adm	9. Prj
1	Lomonosov Moscow State University (MSU)	Center for Sustainable Development Management (2024), based at the Faculty of Economics	*		*	*	*				
2	St Petersburg State University (SPbU)	Center for Sustainable Territorial Development (2024)		*	*	*	*			*	
3	Ufa University of Science and Technology (UUST)	Eurasian Center for ESG and Sustainable Development (2024)					*	*			
4	National Research University Higher School of Economics (HSE)	Center for Corporate Sustainable Development Management (ESG Center) (2022)	*	*			*	*		*	
5	Peoples' Friendship University of Russia (RUDN)	Sustainable Development Center (2022)	*		*	*			*		

Continuation of Table 1

№	Name of the institution	Name of the Center for Sustainable Development (year established)	1. EA	2. C	3. P	4. M	5. Ed	6. R	7. Inn	8. Adm	9. Prj
6	State University of Management (SUM)	Center for Sustainable Development Design of Civil Society Institutions (2022)	*	*	*		*	*			
7	Southern Federal University (SFU)	Center for Sustainable Development (2022)				*	*				
8	Moscow Witte University	Research and Education Center for Sustainable Development (2021), based at the Department of Sustainable Development Economics				*	*				
9	Samara National Research University named after S.P. Korolev	Resource Center for Sustainable Development (2021)	*	*		*	*		*	*	
10	MGIMO University, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia	Center for Sustainable Development and ESG Transformation (2020), within the Institute of International Trade and Sustainable Development (IMTSD)	*			*	*		*		
11	North Ossetian State University (NOSU)	Center for Sustainable Development (2020)				*	*		*		
12	The Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA)	Research and Education Center for Sustainable Development (2018), within the Institute of Finance and Sustainable Development				*					

End of Table 1

№	Name of the institution	Name of the Center for Sustainable Development (year established)	1. EA	2. C	3. P	4. M	5. Ed	6. R	7. Inn	8. Adm	9. Prj
13	Kabardino-Balkarian State University (KBSU)	Center for Sustainable Development (2017)					*			*	
14	V.I. Vernadsky Crimean Federal University (CFU)	Research and Education Center for Noospherology and Sustainable Noospheric Development (2015; previously since 1997 as Crimean Scientific Center)			*		*				
15	Russian State Agrarian University – Moscow Timiryazev Agricultural Academy (RSAU–MTAA)	Center for Sustainable Development of Rural Territories (1996)				*	*				
16	Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO	Skolkovo Sustainable Development Center (2006)	*	*	*		*	*			

Legend:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. 1. EA – Expert and Analytical | 6. R – Research |
| 2. C – Consulting | 7. Inn – Innovation and Implementation |
| 3. P – Public Awareness/
Educational Outreach | 8. Adm – Administrative |
| 4. M – Methodological | 9. Prj – Project |
| 5. Ed – Educational | |

Source: authors' compilation.

Since the early 2000s, more than a dozen Russian universities have established centers in the field of sustainable development, both as independent structural units and integrated into existing structures. These centers play a crucial role in promoting ideas on sustainable development, contributing to the formation of environmental awareness,

and developing innovative solutions to socio-economic and ecological problems.

However, the most remarkable upswing in the establishment of Centers for sustainable development has occurred over the last ten years (Fig. 3). These centers are involved in developing educational programs, conducting scientific and applied research, providing information and analysis, offering expert and advisory services, managing public relations, and engaging in academic activities. Particularly noteworthy are the activities of the centers in the field of sustainable development, which aim to implement strategic projects of universities within the framework of the federal program for strategic academic leadership, “Priority-2030”. For example, the strategic project “Social policy of sustainable development and inclusive economic growth” is being implemented at the National Research University Higher School of Economics, “ESG models of growth of new eco-territories” at the Ufa University of Science and Technology, and two projects “Water well-being and green economy”, “Kabardino-Balkaria – a territory of health resorts and tourism: a new paradigm of treatment, rehabilitation and medical tourism” at the Kabardino-Balkarian State University.

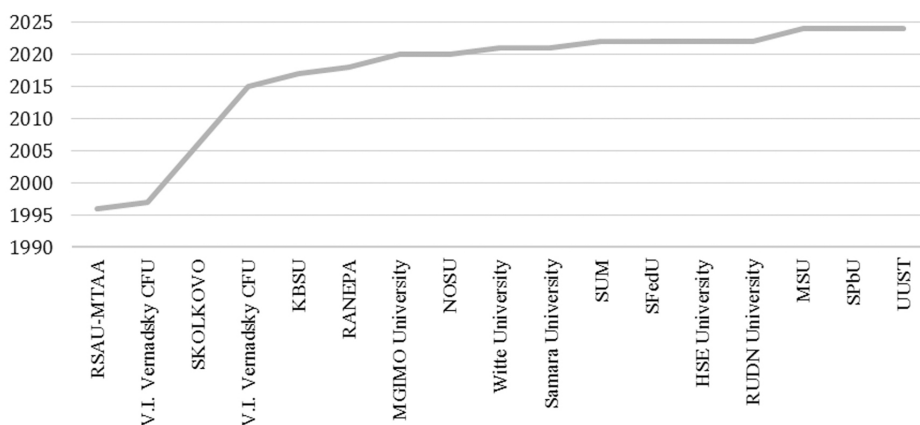


Fig. 3. The period of establishment of centers for sustainable development in Russian educational institutions. Source: authors' compilation

As can be seen from the MGIMO expert report [23], Russian universities that have developed and successfully implemented educational programs for master's and bachelor's degrees in the field of sustainable development have also emerged over the last decade. After analyzing the data, it is possible to determine the focus of ESG education at Russian universities, both in broad social areas, such as economics, management, public administration, and international

cooperation, and in more specialized areas, including ecology and urban development. Table 2 provides a list of ESG education programs in Master's subjects offered by Russian universities.

Table 2

ESG Master's degree programs at Russian higher education institutions

Area of activity	Russian higher education institution	Educational program
Economics, Finance, and Credit	Lomonosov Moscow State University (MSU)	National Models of Sustainable Development (2021)
	The Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA)	Finance and Strategies of Sustainable Development (2022)
	National Research University Higher School of Economics (HSE)	Environmental Economics and Sustainable Development (2022)
	Plekhanov Russian University of Economics (PRUE)	• Finance of Sustainable Development (2022) • “Green Economy” and Resource Management (2022)
	Financial University under the Government of the Russian Federation	Corporate Finance and ESG Business Transformation
	Russian State Agrarian University – Moscow Timiryazev Agricultural Academy (RSAU–MTAA)	Sustainable Development Economics and ESG Business Transformation (2023)
	St. Petersburg State University of Economics (SPbSUE)	• Economics of Energy and Sustainable Development (2012) • Sustainable Energy and Energy Transition Economics • Finance of Sustainable Development / ESG Finance (2022)
	Kazan (Volga Region) Federal University (KFU)	• Low-Carbon and Sustainable Development Economics • Sustainable Development Economics and Integrated Reporting
	Perm National Research Polytechnic University (PNRPU)	Sustainable Development Economics
	North-Caucasus Federal University (NCFU)	Finance of Sustainable Development / ESG Finance (2023)
	North-Eastern Federal University (NEFU)	Environmental Economics and Natural Asset Management
	Kemerovo State University (KemSU)	Environmental Economics and Natural Asset Management (2022)

Continuation of Table 2

Area of activity	Russian higher education institution	Educational program
Management and Administration	MGIMO University, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia	• Sustainable Development Management (2021) • Sustainable Development and Strategic Management in Energy
	HSE University	Corporate Sustainable Development Management (2022)
	Bauman Moscow State Technical University (BMSTU)	Sustainable Development and Environmental Safety of Industrial Enterprises
	Plekhanov Russian University of Economics (PRUE)	Sustainable (Green) Project Management (2023)
	Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology (MIPT)	Business Analytics and ESG Project Management (2022)
	National University of Science and Technology MISIS (NUST MISIS)	Technological Leadership for Corporate Sustainable Development (2022)
	Moscow Witte University	Sustainable Development Systems Management
	Kosygin Russian State University (RSU Kosygin)	Business Sustainable Development: Management and Modern Marketing (2020)
	Russian State University for the Humanities (RSUH)	Corporate Governance and Business Sustainable Development
	Russian Biotechnological University (ROSBIOTECH)	Sustainable Development Management (2022)
	Ural Federal University named after the First President of Russia B.N. Yeltsin (UrFU)	Smart Region: Sustainable Development in the Digital Economy (2021)
	Southern Federal University (SFU)	Sustainable Development (ESG) Management (2022)
	Saint Petersburg Electrotechnical University "LETI" (ETU "LETI")	Sustainable Development Management of Production Systems (2022)
	Novosibirsk State University (NSU)	Business Management for Sustainable Development
	Perm National Research Polytechnic University (PNRPU)	ESG Management (2023)
Public and Municipal Administration	MGIMO University	Law, Digital Innovation and Sustainable Development (2022)
International Relations	Southern Federal University (SFedU)	International Management and Sustainable Development Economics (2023)

Continuation of Table 2

Area of activity	Russian higher education institution	Educational program
Ecology and Environmental Management	MGIMO University	Climate and Carbon Regulation (2022)
	Peoples' Friendship University of Russia (RUDN)	• Environmental Expertise and Sustainable Development • Sustainable Development and Environmental Safety
	Plekhanov Russian University of Economics (PRUE)	ESG Business Transformation (2022)
	D. Mendeleev University of Chemical Technology of Russia (MUCTR)	• Green Chemistry for Sustainable Development • Expertise for Sustainable Development in the Chemical Industry
	Perm National Research Polytechnic University (PNRPU)	Waste Management and Circular Economy (2020)
	National Research Tomsk Polytechnic University (TPU)	Environmental Engineering and Sustainable Development
	Tyumen State University (TSU)	• Waste Management for Sustainable Development (2023) • Business Process Greening (2023)
	Siberian Federal University (SibFU)	• ESG Concept: Environmental Risk Assessment and Management • Sustainable Development and Environmental Safety
	North-Caucasus Federal University (NCFU)	Environmental Monitoring for Sustainable Development (2020)
	Grozny State Oil Technical University (GGNTU) named after acad. M.D. Millionshchikov	Environmental Monitoring for Sustainable Development (2018)
	Chechen State University (CSU) named after A.A. Kadyrov	Geocological Foundations of Sustainable Development (2021)
	Karachay-Cherkess State University named after U.D. Aliev	Environmental Monitoring for Sustainable Development (2020)
Urban Planning, Architecture, and Geography	HSE University	Low-Carbon Development Management (2022)

End of Table 2

Area of activity	Russian higher education institution	Educational program
Urban Planning, Architecture, and Geography	ITMO University (National Research University of Information Technologies, Mechanics and Optics)	Smart City and Urban Studies / Sustainable Urban Development (2021)
	St Petersburg State University (SPbU)	Forest Geography and Sustainable Forest Management (2019)
	Ural Federal University (UrFU)	Sustainable Building Design (2019)
	Altai State University (AltSU)	• Agro-Monitoring and Territorial Sustainable Development • Geoinformation Technologies for Regional Sustainable Development • Cadastre and Territorial Sustainable Development
	Voronezh State Technical University (VSTU)	Sustainable Development of Urbanized Areas
	Perm National Research Polytechnic University (PNRPU)	Economics and Management of Sustainable Development in Urbanized Areas (2020)
	Irkutsk National Research Technical University (IRNITU)	Architecture of Sustainable Living Environments
	Orel State University named after I.S. Turgenev (OSU)	Architecture of Sustainable Living Environments

Source: authors' compilation.

Based on the 62 master's degree programs offered by Russian universities, it is evident that their number has increased significantly in recent years, including those offered by regional universities. The data presented (Fig. 4) shows that at the universities in Moscow and St. Petersburg, the number of Master's programs in areas of public activity, such as economics and management, is increasing, while at the regional universities, Master's programs in ecology and nature management, urban planning, and architecture predominate.

Table 3 lists ESG Bachelor's degree programs at Russian higher education institutions.

Bachelor's degree programs are offered in equal numbers in all areas of public activity, except for urban development. At the same time, the number of universities offering Bachelor's degree programs does not exceed ten, and they are mainly concentrated in Moscow (Fig. 5).

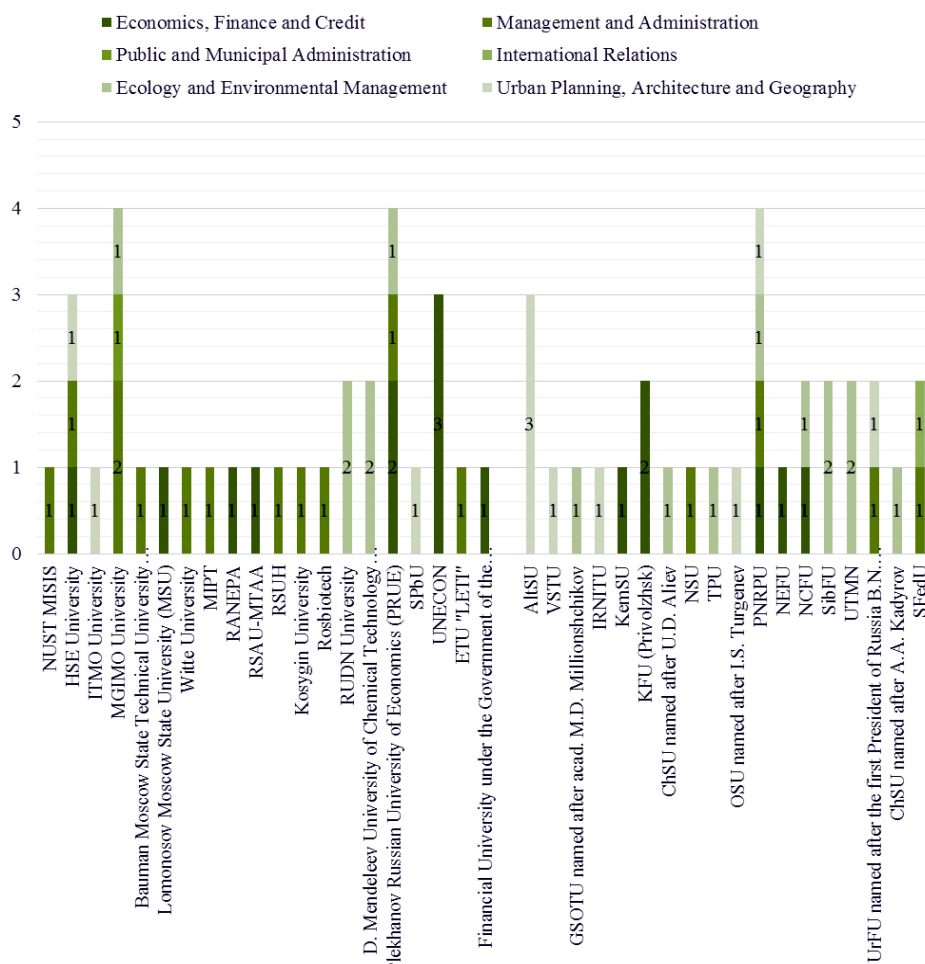


Fig. 4. ESG education programs in the Master's program at Russian higher education institutions in the field of social activities. Source: authors' compilation

Table 3
ESG Bachelor's degree programs at Russian higher education institutions

Area of activity	Russian higher education institution	Educational program
Economics, Finance, and Credit	The Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA)	Finance and ESG Business Transformation (2021)
	Financial University under the Government of the Russian Federation	Corporate Finance / Corporate Economics and ESG Investing
	Gubkin Russian State University of Oil and Gas (National Research University)	Economics and Sustainable Energy Projects

End of Table 3

Area of activity	Russian higher education institution	Educational program
Economics, Finance, and Credit	Irkutsk National Research Technical University (IRNITU)	Sustainable Innovation Economy (2018)
Management and Administration	The Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA)	• ESG Project Management (Sustainable Development Projects) (2022) • Quality Management / Quality Management in ESG Transformation Strategies and Processes (2022)
	Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology (MIPT)	Innovation Management in Business / Sustainable Development and Management (2022)
Public and Municipal Administration	MGIMO University, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia	Law, Digital Innovation, and Sustainable Development
	The Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA)	Public Administration for Sustainable Development (Sustainable Development Projects) (2022)
International Relations	MGIMO University, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia	International Economic and Environmental Processes (2012)
	The Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA)	International Sustainable Development Programs (Sustainable Development Projects) (2022)
	Plekhanov Russian University of Economics (PRUE)	Global Sustainable Development (2022)
Ecology and Environmental Management	MGIMO	Climate and Environmental Security (2012)
	ITMO University (National Research University of Information Technologies, Mechanics and Optics)	Eco-Technologies and Sustainable Development
	Peoples' Friendship University of Russia (RUDN)	Ecology and Sustainable Development (2023)
	Russian State Agrarian University – Moscow Timiryazev Agricultural Academy (RSAU–MTAA)	Ecology and Sustainable Development (2019)
Urban Planning and Geography	National Research University Higher School of Economics (HSE)	Geography of Global Change and Geoinformation Technologies (2020)

Source: authors' compilation.

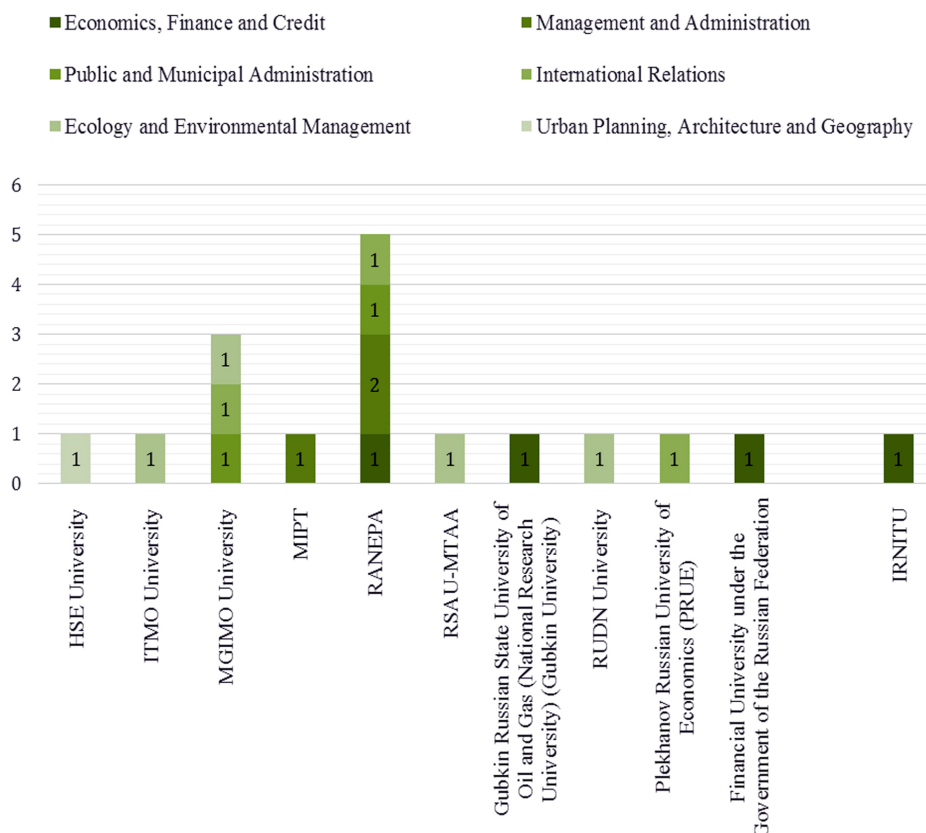


Fig. 5. ESG education programs in the Bachelor's degree program at Russian higher educational institutions in the field of social activities. Source: authors' compilation

Currently, the demand for specialists in sustainable development is increasing, primarily driven by the expansion of continuing education programs and advanced training initiatives. Given the pace of training specialists with bachelor's and master's degrees in the field of ESG education, it can be assumed that retraining programs will continue to play a key role in meeting the shortage of specialists in sustainable development. Table 4 presents a list of continuing education and retraining programs in sustainable development conducted by Russian higher education institutions.

Since the early 2020s, Russian universities have increased the number of higher education programs in sustainable development, especially Master's programs in economics, management, ecology, and environmental management. Narrowly specialized Master's programs in sustainable development are offered by Russian higher education institutions that train specialists for the oil and chemical industries, as well as in fields such as urban planning and architecture.

Table 4

*Continuing education programs in Russian higher education institutions
in the field of sustainable development and ESG*

Russian higher education institution	Program
Lomonosov Moscow State University (MSU)	• Sustainable Land Resource Management in the Eurasian Region • ESG and Environmental Safety • Ecology and Sustainable Development • Legal Support for Sustainable Development and ESG Strategies in Achieving the Goals of the Climate Agreement • Sustainable Development Leaders: ESG Transformation of Society and Business • Sustainable Development: Risks and Management Principles
MGIMO University, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia	• Greenhouse Gas Emission Management: From Calculation to Compensation (2022) • Business Management Based on ESG Principles: From Practitioners to Practitioners (Baikal Communications Group) (2023) • Online Training for Students and Staff: Tools for Sustainable Development and ESG Transformation (Priority 2030 Program)
The Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA)	• ESG Transformation of the System of Public and Municipal Administration • Specialist in Effective ESG Investment • Assessment of Company Maturity Level According to ESG Criteria • Media Communications and PR Management within the ESG Transformation Strategy of a Company • ESG Business Transformation: Practice and Tools (2022)
National Research University Higher School of Economics (HSE)	• Sustainable Development and ESG: Global Challenges and National Priorities (Basic Course) • Short-Term Educational Program for Students • Autumn School “ESG Transformation of the Financial Sector” (2022)
Plekhanov Russian University of Economics (PRUE)	• Business Transformation on ESG Principles • Finance of Sustainable Development
Financial University under the Government of the Russian Federation	Sustainable Development Management in Business
Moscow Witte University	Sustainable Development Management of Territories
Gubkin Russian State University of Oil and Gas (National Research University)	Implementation of ESG Principles in an Oil and Gas Company

Source: [23].

A study conducted by the rating agency RAEX following the “Universities and Sustainable Development” conference [24] revealed that Russian employers are showing an increasing interest in specialists in the field of sustainable development and ESG. The need to train personnel capable of developing and implementing sustainable

development strategies that encompass environmental, social, and corporate governance aspects is emphasized. Skills in ecological management and management practices aimed at the ESG transformation of companies are particularly valued. The study identified and presented the role and capabilities of universities in implementing sustainability strategies at national and regional levels, as well as best practices worth disseminating and emulating. It is worth noting that there is a shortage of human resources in the field of ESG, particularly in the financial and banking services, forestry, oil and gas, trade, and real estate sectors. This highlights the need to enhance the collaboration between universities and employers in training professionals who meet the contemporary demands of the labor market in the field of sustainable development.

Conclusion

ESG education programs are gaining popularity due to the growing focus on sustainable development, globalization, and social and environmental concerns. In the current state of the national economy, there is a need for professionals who know how to integrate the principles of sustainable development into production business processes and corporate management strategies. Russian higher education institutions are actively developing and implementing ESG educational programs to train professionals who can analyze and adapt best practices to the specific conditions of the national economy.

Most often, Russian universities conduct ESG education programs in the fields of “economics”, “finance”, and “management”, including disciplines dealing with sustainable development, environmental responsibility, and corporate governance. These programs aim to develop the knowledge required to manage corporate sustainability, assess ecological risks, and interact with key stakeholders.

In addition, such programs are often interdisciplinary and aim to train specialists who can work in both the private sector and governmental organizations, as well as in non-profit structures. Some leading Russian universities already offer specialized Master’s programs in sustainability and ESG education, which enable graduates to be competitive in the labor market.

One of the main challenges facing Russian universities in today’s conditions is the lack of faculty with sufficient knowledge in the field of sustainable development, as well as the inadequacy of proposed teaching materials and the need to adapt international standards to the content of

the disciplines. However, the growing interest of companies and government agencies in the training and retraining of ESG professionals encourages Russian universities to develop educational programs in ESG education that are in demand.

Therefore, the introduction of ESG educational programs in Russian higher education institutions is a crucial tool for training specialists, offering a new format that can effectively implement the principles of sustainable development and thereby enhance Russia's competitiveness at both national and international levels.

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ПЕДАГОГИКА

ESG-ОБРАЗОВАНИЕ В РОССИЙСКИХ УНИВЕРСИТЕТАХ

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Аннотация. Успешная реализация концепции устойчивого развития (далее – УР) зависит от активного взаимодействия представителей общества во всех направлениях деятельности человечества, в которой важную роль предопределяют образованию. Особенно выделяются университеты, которые способствуют становлению и внедрению высшего образования в области УР, опираясь на принципы ESG, иными словами, действуют в экологическом (Е (англ. абб.) – environment), социальном (S (англ. абб.) – social) и управленческом (G (англ. абб.) – governance) направлениях УР. Начиная с 2015 г. российские университеты разрабатывают собственные стратегии УР и трансформируют организационные структуры, способствующие реализации Целей устойчивого развития ООН (далее – ЦУР). Российские образовательные организации высшего образования (далее – ООВО) также накопили определенный опыт реализации образовательных программ по формированию компетенций для специалистов в области УР. В представленной сравнительной аналитике рассмотрены образовательные программы бакалавриата, магистратуры, дополнительного профессионального образования и повышения квалификации, по таким профилям как экономика, менеджмент, государственное и муниципальное управление, юриспруденция и экология. В результате исследования установлено, что фундамент образования в интересах устойчивого развития (далее – ОУР) был заложен в России еще в 1990-х годах, однако как массовое явление фиксируется в последние 5 лет. На момент становления наибольшую активность проявляли ведущие университеты, которые в основном сосредоточены в Москве и Санкт-Петербурге. На текущий момент возросло количество образовательных программ магистерской подготовки, при этом доля региональных университетов в их реализации в последнее время значительно возросла, достигнув почти 40–45%.

Ключевые слова: университет, образовательная организация высшего образования, высшее образование, ESG-образование, образование в интересах устойчивого развития, цели устойчивого развития

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