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Official opening of the Research and Educational Center (REC) “Mirror laboratory” for studying the consumption standards: regions, industries, digital environment took place at Orel State University named after I.S. Turgenev

Within the walls of the Institute of Economics and Management of Orel State University named after I.S. Turgenev, the grand opening of the REC “Mirror laboratory” for studying the consumption standards: regions, industries, digital environment took place.

The opening ceremony of the Laboratory was attended by the guests of the Flagship University Philippe Burny, Professor, Dept. of Economics and Rural Development, Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech, University of Liege (Belgium), Scientific attaché in Rural Economics and Policy Walloon Agricultural Research Center and his colleague HO Thi Minh Hop, Dept. of Economics and Rural Development. There were also professors from the Institute of Economics and Management of Orel State University named after I.S. Turgenev, Svetlana Aronova, Director of International Relations Department; Yevgeny Alyokhin, Ph.D., Associate Professor of the Department of Innovation and Applied Economics; Alexander Stetsenko, Dean of the Faculty for Preparation of foreign students; Alexei Zaitsev, director of the Institute of Economics and Management.



Svetlana Aronova, Director of the Department of International Relations, addressed words of welcome to the participants: “We are very pleased that we have such an opportunity to open this Research and Educational Center at the University. The creation of the laboratory is the result of regular cooperation, which began in 1995; when the first project “TEMPUS-TACIS” was going on to create the economic department of OSU, which later grew into the second pre-project in 1997, when Philippe Burny joined the work. It was the lucky moment thanks to which the project won. As far as I know, our project is considered one of the most successful in Russia, and ranks second in terms of success in the entire history of TEMPUS-TACIS existence ... I would like to recall that for a long time the cooperation continued within the framework of academic mobility, some conferences, as part of the ERASMUS Credit Mobility program, in which the Belgian professor was giving lectures to our students these

days. It is important to note that scientific contracts for all the years of cooperation have increased, acquired new qualities, and accordingly, interested groups of people have arisen who are interested in the same problems, which, despite the difference in development, in income levels and in output standards, still are common to both countries."

The grand opening of the REC began with cutting the red ribbon. Philippe Burny and Yevgeny Alyokhin were granted the honorary right, since they act as the heads of the Scientific and Educational Center each for his University.



During his visit, Professor Burny lectured to students of the Institute of Economics and Management for two days.

Then the floor was taken by Yevgeny Alyokhin, the head of the REC “Mirror laboratory” for studying consumption standards: regions, industries, digital environment. He explained that the laboratory will have a “mirror” character, saying that its idea is very simple. “The idea is not only to coordinate the work of our two institutions, OSU named after I.S. Turgenev and Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech, University of Liege, but to make the work of our universities closer. In fact, it is assumed that this will be a single laboratory, but divided into two parts. One part works here in Orel, and it is me, who do this part, and the second part will be in Belgium in Gembloux, and this part will be headed by Philippe Burny. We have already talked about the possibilities of coordinating our work, agreed on which research areas will be developed. In addition, since it is REC, we agreed on what educational resources we will continue to create together.”



Phillippe Burny, in his turn, expressed a great desire to engage in regional development in his region: “... We want to stress on regional development, and we want to collect data on this topic and compare data on the Orel region and data on the Walloon region (Belgium). This is a kind of comparative research. We will focus on sustainable rural development and environmental protection. We need economic, social and environmental data on environmental. For example, we are very interested in organic farming and the organic food market. We would very much like to collect statistics on initial research.”

Alexander Stetsenko and HO Thi Minh Hop thanked their colleagues for their fruitful work, expressing deep respect for the work they did together, emphasizing that there will be not less interesting cooperation ahead.

At the end of the event, Svetlana Aronova, on behalf of the rector of the University, Olga Pilipenko, thanked the guests for their visit, expressing hope for further cooperation and that the creation of the “mirror laboratory” would become another successful joint project.

