

# **Russia**

## **National Higher Education Equity Policy**

### **Governance**

Who is responsible for defining national policies in higher education?

- Since May 2018, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation is the new ministry responsible for setting higher education policy. Previously, the Ministry of Education and Science had been taking the lead on this.
- Rosobrnadzor is the Federal Accreditation Agency supporting the Ministry in the area of licensing and accreditation.

### **Higher Education Policy Documents**

What are the current official documents defining the national higher education strategy / policies?

- State Program “Development of Education” (2013-2020)
- Federal Law “On Education in the Russian Federation,” adopted in 2012
- National Education project to promote higher education exports
- Performance-based funding policy document

### **Equity in Policy Documents**

What broad and specific equity objectives do the policy documents identify?

- Article 43 of the Russian Constitution states that: “Everyone shall have the right to receive on a competitive basis free higher education in State and municipal educational institutions and enterprises.” This right is further enshrined in the 2012 Federal Law.

Which equity target groups are identified in the policy documents?

- Students with disability
- Army veterans
- Youth without parental care
- Disadvantaged students

Does the country have concrete targets for the participation of specific equity groups?

- No, except for the “accessible environment” program targeted at students with disabilities.

Russia does not have a standalone policy document dedicated to equity promotion in higher education.

Are there specific anti-discrimination provisions?

- No

What specific interventions and/or instruments of equity promotion are included in the official strategy and policy documents (monetary and non-monetary)?

### ***Monetary Policy Instruments***

- Students who are studying in a higher education institution for the first time can compete for a state-funded place, according to paragraph 3, article 5 of the Federal Law “On Education in the Russian Federation.” There are exceptions to this: certain programs are not eligible, certain programs that have a high demand, students who were not successful in the competition, and students studying for a second degree or further higher education.
- Grants and Scholarships are available to all students. “Social Scholarships” are available to students with disabilities and low-income students.
- Student loans are available to all students, but very few use this mechanism.

### ***Non-Monetary Policy Instruments***

- **Affirmative action programs and preferential admissions:** No less than 10% of enrolment is for students with disabilities (priority enrolment) and students from disadvantaged groups (orphans, students with parents with disabilities, children of army veterans).
- **Army veterans who have served for three years have special admission procedures and support programs:**
  - They can participate in preparatory courses offered by federal state education institutions, free of charge (the state pays the tuition fees)

- They can enroll in state and municipal higher education institutions without any competitive process
- If they study full-time, they are entitled to scholarships and stipends (students from families with only parent, students with disabilities, children of militaries, staff of policy and law-enforcement agencies and some other categories)

### **Financial Resources**

What financial resources does the country devote to equity promotion measures?

- Not available

### **Quality Assurance**

The quality assurance criteria do not take equity elements into consideration.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

- The Ministry of Science and Higher Education is responsible for monitoring the impact of equity promotion measures.

### **Dedicated Equity Promotion Agency**

Russia does not have an agency dedicated to equity promotion in higher education.

### **Sources**

Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation, <http://government.ru/en/department/388/>

*Overview of the Higher Education System: Russian Federation* February 2017, Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), [https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/eacea-site/files/countryfiche\\_russian\\_federation\\_2017.pdf](https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/eacea-site/files/countryfiche_russian_federation_2017.pdf)

“Constitutional Right to an Education: Russia” *The Law Library of Congress* [https://www.loc.gov/law/help/constitutional-right-to-an-education/russia.php#\\_ftn18](https://www.loc.gov/law/help/constitutional-right-to-an-education/russia.php#_ftn18)