



Dear colleague,

We are delighted that you'll be coming to our roundtable on Russian academic diaspora in social sciences to be held on October 24 in Moscow. As we mentioned in our invitation letter, the roundtable will include short remarks by the participants and a general discussion. In order to make our discussion more structured, let us mention few points we hope you'd consider touching upon in your remarks.

Sincerely,

The Coordinators

Policy Roundtable 1: Russian Academic Diaspora in Social Sciences: The Potential

Opens with a short presentation by the roundtable organizers covering existing research and data on Russian academic diaspora. After that the participants will be invited to contribute 5–7 min remarks assessing the state of their respective disciplines in Russia and the academic potential of the Russian diaspora in their respective fields. Discussion is to follow.

Questions for participants:

How would you generally assess the state of your discipline in Russia? Do you have in Russia colleagues of truly world-class caliber?

Does Russia (i.e. scholars working in Russia) have any presence in the global science in your field? Are there any scholars in your field in Russia who are up to the standards of top departments in US universities? Are there any internationally recognized “stars” among your colleagues in Russia?

What about Russian academic diaspora in your field? How large quantitatively is it? Are there any internationally recognized “stars” among the Russian diaspora members in your field?

Do you see the next generation of Russian scholars in your field? How would you assess the level of interest towards your field among young Russian graduate students? Do you see talented young Russian scholars in your field coming to the best graduate schools in the US and Europe, or staying for *aspirantura* at the Russian universities?

How are the diaspora scholars in your field perceived by their colleagues in Russia? Is there much communication and exchange of ideas? Is there a single academic community, or two separate ones?

Would you say that the academic diaspora in your field is sufficiently strong in terms of its quality and size to be viewed as a potential resource for re-launching your discipline in Russia?

Policy Roundtable 2: Russian State and the National Academic Diaspora: The Policies

Open with a short presentation covering the state policies towards the diaspora, to be followed by short remarks from the participants reflecting on these policies and to conclude with a discussion. The goals of this second session is to come up with a vision of the policies to be recommended to the Russian government

Questions for participants:

How would you generally assess the level of interest in cooperation with Russia among the diaspora members in your field? What are the key factors that, in your opinion, shape this interest? Why do diaspora members in your field want to cooperate with Russia (if they do)?

Have you heard about any policy initiatives of the Russian government aimed at establishing cooperation with the national academic diaspora? Have you, in any form, been involved with these initiatives?

As a member of diaspora, what forms of cooperation with Russian scholars and institutions do you personally find most appealing and practicable?

When Russian scholars and policymakers discuss the possible institutionalized ways of harnessing the potential of academic diaspora for modernizing science and higher education in Russia, a number of formats are often mentioned. We've outlined most popular among them is a separate memo, which is also attached to this letter. If you feel like it, you might also touch upon some of these formats in your remarks. Would you suggest any other formats?

Please note that we intend to process the remarks made at the roundtable into specific policy proposals. Before releasing any such documents to the general public, we will send them to you for final review and corrections.

Thank you very much. We are looking forward to seeing you in Moscow!