FEASIBILITY STUDY REPORT

The Russian Federation, 19-23 June 2017

CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES
PART VI

ESTABLISHMENT IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMPETENCE CENTRE FOR MINING-ENGINEERING EDUCATION
AS A CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNESCO
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ESTABLISHMENT IN SAINT-PETERSBURG, THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, OF THE
INTERNATIONAL COMPETENCE CENTRE FOR MINING-ENGINEERING EDUCATION
AS A CATEGORY 2 CENTRE
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SUMMARY

In response to the request of the Government of the Russian Federation to establish the International Competence Centre for Mining-Engineering Education as a Category 2 Centre, under the auspices of UNESCO, the Natural Sciences Sector has undertaken a feasibility study mission in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, from 19 June to 23 June 2017, to evaluate the feasibility and the relevance of the proposed Category 2 Centre.

The proposed Centre will aim at providing a training and research platform in the branches of engineering, and promoting international academic mobility. In addition, the proposed Centre should be a significant stage in the implementation of ideas of sustainable development on the principles of cooperation with regard to economy, environment, and society. Gender equality and Africa will be major elements taken into consideration when selecting the trainees and collaborators.

The proposed Centre’s activities are fully in line with the programme priorities of the Natural Sciences Sector, especially in engineering and science education. The scope of the Centre is international.

The present document reviews the prerequisites for the establishment of the centre and provides the scientific and institutional rationale behind the proposal of the Russian Federation Government. A Draft Model Agreement between UNESCO and the Government of the Russian Federation has been prepared in conformity with the Standard Model Agreement indicated in document 37 C/18 Part I. The feasibility study was undertaken in accordance with the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy (37 C/18) approved by the General Conference at its 37th session.
CONSIDERATION OF THE FEASIBILITY OF THE PROPOSED CENTRE

Introduction and Background

1. The Government of the Russian Federation has proposed the establishment, in Saint-Petersburg, the Russian Federation, of the International Competence Centre for Mining-Engineering Education as a Category 2 Centre, under the auspices of UNESCO. The proposed Centre aims to provide a training and research platform in the areas of engineering, and to promote international academic mobility and gender equality. In addition, the proposed Centre should be a significant stage in the implementation of ideas of sustainable development on the principles of cooperation with regard to the economy, environment, and society. The proposed Category 2 Centre also will focus on development and implementation of innovative technologies for energy-saving and energy-efficient in mining engineering. The proposed Category 2 Centre will also be an essential instrument in implementing modern science education systems based on the principles of unified educational standards and professional certification, with positive impact in the economy, environment, and society.

2. The proposed Centre intends to be as successful in nurturing talented young people, women and men, in their professional development. In this context, the Centre is keen to collaborate with the huge network of Category 2 Centres and UNESCO Chairs in the engineering and science education, especially the ones in Africa.

3. In response to this timely and well-defined establishment proposal of the International Competence Centre for Mining-Engineering Education as a Category 2 Centre, under the auspices of UNESCO, the Director-General gave her approval for the feasibility study needed in order to assess the relevance, scope, governance, objectives and strategies of the proposed Centre, and its collaborative relationship with UNESCO.

Objectives of the Centre

4. The Centre’s mission is to promote principles of sustainable development at the national and international levels with regard to mineral-resources sector of the economy in support of UNESCO's global priorities ‘Priority Africa’ and ‘Gender Equality’ for the purposes of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals 9 (Innovation) and 4 (Education).

More specifically, the objectives of the proposed Centre are to:

- Influence the policy in the field of mining engineering education at the national and interstate levels;
- Acting as a laboratory of ideas and innovations in the field of natural science and engineering education;
- Contributing to the global dialogue between states and universities in the field of natural science and engineering education;
- Creating a unified system of international professional certification for engineering personnel;
- Creating favorable conditions for global mobility of students and post-graduate students, teachers and scientists.
5. The mission of the Centre is implemented by means of:

- Advancement of higher education systems, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) in the mineral-resources sector of the economy (as constituent parts of lifelong education), including the entire volume of essential knowledge, skills and experience which contribute to mining-engineering specialist integration into the international professional environment;
- Development of an integrated system for international professional competence assessment with assignation of qualifications to mining-engineering specialists (engineers) and executives employed at enterprises of the mineral-resources sector.

Name of the Centre, location and infrastructure

6. The name of the Category 2 Centre should read as follows: the International Competence Centre for Mining-Engineering Education – Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO.

12. The proposed Centre will use the existing and future infrastructure of Saint-Petersburg Mining University of the Russian Federation, which includes a building under construction in Saint-Petersburg and the necessary scientific facilities. All complementary infrastructure costs will be covered by the Russian Government.

Legal status and mode of operating

7. The proposed Centre has an independent legal status. The financial resources needed for the creation, functioning and activities of the proposed Centre will be provided by the Government of the Russian Federation.

Governance

8. The Centre shall be managed by a Governing Board, renewed every six years. The Governing Board should include representatives of the Russian Government, the Russian Academy of Sciences, UNESCO’s Engineering Programmes and any Member States of UNESCO willing to be part of the Centre and that has sent the Centre a notification for membership. The Governing Board should be composed of:

(i) Three representatives of the Government of The Russian Federation, namely from the Ministry of Energy of the Russian Federation;
(ii) One representatives of the Russian Academy of Engineering
(iii) One representative per Member State that has sent to the Centre notification for membership, in accordance with the stipulations of Article 10, paragraph 2 of the draft model agreement, and that has expressed the wish to be represented on the Governing Board;
(iv) One representative of the UNESCO, appointed by the Director-General of UNESCO;

15. The Governing Board shall:
(i) Approve the long-term and medium-term strategy and programmes of the Centre.

(ii) Approve the annual work plan of the Centre, including the staffing table.

(iii) Examine the annual reports submitted by the Director of the Centre, including a biennial self-assessment of the Centre’s contribution to UNESCO’s programme objectives, in particular those of the Engineering Programmes.

(iv) Examine the periodic independent audit reports of the financial statements of the Centre and monitor the provision of the accounting records necessary for the preparation of financial statements.

(v) Adopt the rules and regulations and determine the financial, administrative and personnel management procedures of the Centre in accordance with the laws of the country.

(vi) Decide on the participation of regional intergovernmental organizations and international organizations in the work of the Centre.

(vii) Adopt its own rules of procedure. For its first meeting the procedure shall be established by the Government and UNESCO.

9. The Governing Board shall meet in ordinary session at regular intervals, twice in every calendar year. It shall meet in extraordinary session if convened by its Chairperson, either on his or her own initiative or at the request of the Director-General of UNESCO or of two-thirds of its members. The Category 2 Centre shall bear the cost of organizing meetings of the Governing Board.

Financial matters and sustainability

10. Contribution of the Government

The Government shall:

(i) Provide all the resources, either financial or in kind, needed for the administration and proper operation of the Centre. The Government of the Russian Federation already pledged 2.4 million USD for the functioning of the proposed Centre.

(ii) Make available to the Centre the operating subsidies and staff salary cost subsidies granted each year by the Government.

(iii) Bear the full cost of providing the educational infrastructure and equipment of the Centre.

(v) Make available to the Centre the administrative and technical staff necessary for the performance of its functions.
Other sources of funding may however also be forthcoming from financial contributions, especially from other Member States or private entities benefiting from the services of the Centre.

**Financial and administrative implications for UNESCO**

11. UNESCO has no financial obligations or accountability for the operation and management of the Centre and shall not provide financial support for administrative costs. However, UNESCO may provide assistance, as and when needed, in the form of technical assistance for the programme activities of the Centre, in accordance with the strategic goals and objectives of UNESCO by:

   (i) Providing the assistance of its experts in the specialized fields of the Centre.

   (ii) Engaging in temporary staff exchanges when appropriate, whereby the staff concerned will remain on the payroll of the dispatching organizations.

   (iii) Seconding members of its staff temporarily, as may be decided by the Director-General on an exceptional basis if justified by the implementation of a joint activity/project within a strategic programme priority area.

In all the cases listed above, such assistance shall not be undertaken except within the provisions of UNESCO’s programme and budget, and UNESCO will provide Member States with accounts relating to the use of its staff and associated costs.

**Links and areas of cooperation with UNESCO**

12. The Centre will cooperate with UNESCO Engineering Programmes and the International Basic Science in the science education aspects of the proposed Centre. The proposed Center also intends to cooperate with the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education (IITE), the UNESCO International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa (IICBA) and UNESCO-UNEVOC’s specialized Centre for technical and vocational education and training. The Centre will clearly contribute to the achievement of SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 9 (Innovation and Scientific Infrastructure) set in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

13. The Centre will seek to build partnerships and collaboration with relevant UNESCO partners, among these the networks of UNESCO Chairs and Category 2 Centers in the basic and engineering sciences and science education, and other specialized institutions and networks of excellence.

14. The Centre will cooperate with UNESCO in developing activities in the Engineering Programmes and International Basic Science Programmes (IBSP), including engineering teaching and in contributing to the work of the Organization in promoting engineering learning and teaching at national, sub-regional and regional levels, in order to reduce the deficit in schooling in the sciences and to foster the blossoming of a generation of talented young scientists.

15. The work of the proposed Centre in the region and sub-region will make a substantial contribution to the strategic objectives of **Major Programme II (MPII): Natural sciences**, and **Main Line of Action (MLA) 2: Building institutional capacities in sciences and**
engineering. The Centre’s activities will encompass an interdisciplinary approach to research and teaching of engineering that has increasingly become the basis for programme action within the context of the UNESCO Engineering Programmes.

**Conclusion: Results expected from UNESCO’s contribution**

16. Where appropriate, UNESCO will provide technical assistance in the form of its experts and policy advice in the specialized fields of the Centre. UNESCO will also make available its networks in the sciences, as well as the scientific Board of IBSP in the development of collaborative projects in engineering education and research. UNESCO will also actively promote the activities of the Centre and facilitate partnerships and cooperation with other countries in the region and beyond. The Organization will assist the Centre to achieve its objectives through fostering collaboration with its partners, UNESCO Category 2 Centres and other centres of excellence worldwide.

**Proposed draft decision**

17. In light of the above report, the Executive Board may wish to consider the following decision:

**The Executive Board,**

1. Having examined document 202 EX/ Part…., which provides a comprehensive and analytical outline of the proposal to include the International Competence Centre for Mining-Engineering Education, as a Category 2 Centre, under the auspices of UNESCO;

2. Emphasizing the importance of international and regional cooperation for human and institutional capacity development in Engineering education and research at all levels;

3. Welcoming the proposal of the Government of the Russian Federation to create a Centre responding to the needs to contribute to the objectives set in the UN 2030 Agenda for sustainable development;

4. Highlighting the important opportunity for action and international collaboration that the establishment of the Centre offers in the framework of UNESCO’s programmes;

5. Recognizing that the proposed Centre meets the guidelines and criteria for the creation of institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO (Category 2), as approved by the UNESCO’s General Conference in 37 C/Resolution 93 and contained in document 37 C/18;

6. Recommending that the General Conference, at its 39th session, approve the establishment in Saint-Petersburg, the Russian Federation, of the International Competence Centre for Mining-Engineering Education, as a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO, and that it authorizes the Director-General to sign the corresponding Agreement, contained in the Annex to the current document, between UNESCO and the Government of the Russian Federation.
7. Inviting all Member States interested in the Organization’s Engineering and Programmes to cooperate actively with the International Competence Centre for Mining-Engineering Education of the Russian Federation

Conclusion:

The feasibility study concludes that the International Competence Centre for Mining-Engineering Education meets all the criteria to become a category 2 Institute, under the auspices of UNESCO.