DIGITAL MINDSET: TRANSFORMING THE WAY RUSSIA IS GOVERNED

University 2035
Application for the EFMD Excellence in Practice Award 2020

THE MINISTRY
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20.35
UNIVERSITY

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INITIATIVES

Year 2019 in Russia witnessed a launch of a nationwide “Digital Economy” program, one of the most ambitious endeavors of the government’s push to modernize the state. Estimated to cost more than $24 billion over the course of 5 years, the program implies a digital transformation of public services, internet infrastructure development and the implementation of future-proof information security measures. The program is relying on cooperation of three federal ministries, Russian Presidential Executive Office, several government-owned corporations, non-commercial organizations, SMEs and other stakeholders.

The success or failure of the “Digital Economy” program (hereinafter DEP) ultimately depends on competencies of federal and regional public servants, many of which are not ready to carry out such advanced projects. That is why the Agency for Strategic Initiatives and the University 2035 were tasked with transferring the knowledge on data-driven decision making to 30 000 leaders of government entities, subordinate organizations and government-owned companies. This project was called “Data-driven management: Chief Data Officers in Civil Service” (hereinafter CDO project, L&D Initiative).

This L&D Initiative was broken down into 5 parts following the general 5-year DEM timeline. In late 2019, the University 2035 received a government subsidy to launch a leadership training program in data-driven management for the first 5000 public servants. In spite of a large project scale and very tight deadlines, the L&D Initiative proved to be a great success, helping students to overcome initial incertitude and – what’s even more important – to assemble teams and come up with 396 practice-oriented projects, many of which are being implemented already.

A modern economy is digital. The government is one of the main consumers and owners of big data. Chief data officers are responsible for the implementation of data-based decision-making principles defining how data is being collected, stored and analyzed on different levels of national administration. And it is vital for us to train such leaders.

Ilya Torosov, Deputy Minister of Economic Development