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Организация
Объединённых Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للثقافة والعلم والتعليم

UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme

Professor Alevtina Chernikova
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Ref: ED/FLI/26/59

6 March 2026

Subject: Renewal of the agreement of the UNESCO Chair on Comparative Studies in Quality of Higher Education at the University of Science and Technology MISIS, Russian Federation (ID 2017RU1246)

Dear Rector,

In reference to the request to renew the mandate of the UNESCO Chair on Comparative Studies in Quality of Higher Education, I am pleased to inform you that the agreement between UNESCO and the University of Science and Technology MISIS concerning the Chair, initially established in 2017, shall remain valid until 30 June 2030.

Under the leadership of Professor Viktor Kruglov as Chairholder, the Chair will contribute to the activities of the Education Sector through research, teaching and training, as well as community action and communication.

Recognizing the pivotal role of institutional support in ensuring the success of the UNESCO Chair, we seek your commitment, in this new mandate, to facilitate the active engagement of the Chair's team in various UNESCO activities and those organized by its partner institutions, as well as to leverage opportunities for interuniversity collaboration, and to champion knowledge sharing and dissemination activities. Your unwavering support in this regard will strengthen the Chair's impact and outreach. We also seek your support to strongly encourage the research produced and published by the Chair to be made available as Open Access in line with the 2021 Recommendation on Open Science, and educational materials as Open Educational Resources in line with the 2019 Recommendation on Open Educational Resources.

The UNESCO Chair is encouraged to consult the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme guidelines and procedures regarding some changes, including renewals. More specifically, and to ensure that all UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks are contributing to UNESCO's programme and priorities, a revised set of criteria will be used in future evaluations of renewal requests, as published in Annex B of the guidelines. In this regard, the Chair should align its activities – as relevant – to the new requirements.

The university should consider developing a webpage for the UNESCO Chair on its website. The Chair's webpage should include the objectives of the Chair, team composition and information on current and future activities. The new logo included in this message should be used on the webpage as well as on other communications materials produced by the Chair.

The Chair is strongly encouraged to continue advancing the global agenda for sustainable development through knowledge sharing and raising awareness of sustainability and strengthen its engagement with UNESCO and with other UNESCO Chairs and Networks. To this end, a database of the programme members is updated regularly on the UNITWIN Programme webpage.

All members of the Chair are also invited to join the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs LinkedIn Group and to participate in UNESCO-driven initiatives/activities, intellectual and public policy dialogues, ethical reflections and standard setting processes. The designated focal point at UNESCO Education Sector, Mr Noah Webster Sobe , Chief, Section for Higher Education (e-mail: nw.sobe@unesco.org) can be contacted to seek out opportunities for closer collaboration with UNESCO. The focal point looks forward to hearing from the Chair on a regular basis – please add your focal point to your mailing lists, invite him to join Chair events, and share your latest research/publications.

Finally, should the University of Science and Technology MISIS wish to continue hosting the UNESCO Chair beyond this mandate, a formal request is to be submitted to UNESCO by 31 December 2029 through the dedicated online platform. The renewal of the Chair may require the signature of a new agreement.

Do not hesitate to contact the UNITWIN Programme team for any questions you may have at unitwin@unesco.org.

Yours sincerely,



Sobhi Tawil (PhD)

Director

Future of Learning and Innovation Division