



Institute of Economics and Finance of Russian University of Transport: Milestones of Establishment and Development



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ABSTRACT

The article discusses the main stages of development of the Institute of Economics and Finance of Russian University of Transport. Brief information about changes in the status and structure of the Institute is followed by description of the results of its scientific and pedagogical activity, prominent transport economists

working at the Institute. IEF is now one of the leading institutes of Russian University of Transport.

IEF trains engineers, bachelors, and masters in the fields of economics, management, trade, business and applied informatics, linguistics.

The article is dedicated to the 90th anniversary of foundation of the Institute.

Keywords: *transport, transport education, scientific school, history of transport economics, Russian University of Transport, Institute of Economics and Finance.*

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Developments of transport in 19th century resulted in a wide need not only for engineering, but also for economic staff for the industry. At the first stages of industrial development, the border between technical and economic calculations was not always obvious, and the latter were often made by designers, builders, specialists in transportation.

Unlike practitioners, specialists in the theory and methodology of economic calculations in transport were usually formed from economists, financiers and statisticians who had general educational background (it is worth recalling the well-known examples of S. Yu. Witte and A. I. Chuprov).

In 1920s and 1930s, transport specializations appeared in a number of large economic universities of a general profile.

However, this situation did not allow mass training of qualified economists working on the basis of uniform methods and possessing the fundamentals of technology of transportation processes to the extent sufficient to understand the sources of formation of costs and results when making management decisions. The training of such specialists has become vital for the national economy during the period of industrialization. In this regard, on May 29, 1930, People's Commissar of Railways Ya. E. Rudzutak issued the order to create Moscow Transport and Economic Institute (MTEI). The Institute was assigned with a task of training highly qualified economists for railway, sea, river and road transport. The faculties of the Institute comprised, besides planning faculty, railway, water and road faculties, which included departments of construction, maintenance and operation of facilities of the corresponding mode of transport.

In addition, a number of departments belonged to the Institute's subordination (departments of political economy, economic geography, specific economies, planning, transport economics, labour economics, finance and accounting, etc.).

At the railway faculty, the first dean of which was Associate Professor V. A. Egorov, students were trained in four specialties: economic planning, financial, labour economics, and accounting and statistics.

The first academic staff of MTEI comprised Professors A. E. Gibshman, A. S. Chudov, I. V. Ivliev, Associate Professors V. E. Umbliya, M. P. Romanov, P. A. Sarantsev, N. I. Sidorovich, M. A. Gratsiansky. From the first days of the existence of MTEI, Ph.D. studies course was

created to train pedagogical personnel. The first Ph.D. students were V. M. Romanov, I. M. Nikolsky, F. I. Zheleznov, M. A. Skorobogatov and N. I. Pykhov. Ph.D. students, assisting management of the Institute, carried out a great deal of work on organizing admission, rallying a team of students during construction work, preparing curricula for railway, water and road faculties, programs and other educational documentation.

By September 5, 1930, the new university had completed recruiting and enrollment and started the educational process. The Institute was located in the district adjacent to Sokol metro station, training was conducted in the barracks building, the dormitory was in the railway cars at Podmoskovnaya station.

The first graduation took place the same year: by the order No. 71 of November 23, 1930, four early graduates of the railway faculty were awarded the qualification of transport engineer-economist.

During the period from 1930 to 1933, Transport and Economic Institute had trained 370 engineers and economists.

By the order of the People's Commissariat of Railways dated June 15, 1933, Transport and Economic Institute, together with Moscow Operational Institute of Railway Engineers (MOIRE), Moscow Institute of New Railway Construction (MINRC), were merged into Moscow Institute of Railway Engineers (MIIT). MTEI became a part of the single university in the form of the Faculty of Engineering and Economics.

The Engineering and Economics Faculty of MIIT worked until 1941, when the university was evacuated to Novosibirsk. In wartime, in evacuation conditions, training of engineers-economists was conducted at the Faculty of Civil Engineering.

During the Great Patriotic War, professors and students of the Faculty of Engineering and Economics volunteered for the active army, worked at enterprises in Moscow and in hospitals.

The Faculty of Economics at MIIT was restored during the 1943–1944 academic year.

In order to provide railway transport with economists, the Council of Ministers of the USSR, by its decree of August 2, 1948, allowed the Ministry of Railways of the USSR to restore the Moscow Transport and Economic Institute from September 1, 1948.

Professor S. K. Danilov became its head. Later the Institute was headed by Ya. M. Zhukovsky, Professors A. K. Shubnikov,



V. V. Povorozhenko, D. F. Parfenov and Associate Professor G. A. Chumachenko. The training of engineers-economists and economists for railway transport was carried out in the following specialties: planning and organization of transportation; organization of cargo and commercial work; economics and organization of supply; financing and accounting.

Pursuant to the resolution of the Council of Ministers of the USSR of August 29, 1958 «On streamlining the network of universities and reducing the number of students in Moscow» and the order of the Minister of Railways of the USSR dated September 3, 1958, it was deemed expedient to merge MTEI with MIIT. MTEI again joined MIIT as the Faculty of Engineering and Economics [abridged in Russian as IEF].

Professor S. K. Danilov was appointed a dean of the single faculty in 1958. He headed the faculty until 1962. Professor I. V. Belov was the dean from 1962 to 1980, Professor V. Ya. Shulga – from 1980 to 1985, Professor M. E. Mandrikov – from 1985 to 1997.

During this period, scientific schools in the field of economic research in transport began to take shape, IEF scientists created major scientific developments that are still used in economic practices in a transformed and improved form: method of calculating the cost of transportation by the method of expenditure rates (A. S. Chudov), methodology for assessing sectional costs of transportation (I. V. Belov, M. E. Mandrikov, A. M. Shulga, N. G. Smekhova, etc.), methodology for optimal allocation of productive forces by the criterion of minimizing transport costs (E. D. Khanukov), the method of optimal planning of cargo flows (V. G. Galaburda), the method of assessing efficiency of investments in railway transport (B. A. Volkov, M. F. Trikhunkov, V. A. Dmitriev, A. D. Shishkov, etc.) and many others.

Great scientific and methodological importance belonged to generalization of fundamental economic provisions and best practices in numerous textbooks prepared at that time: *Economic Geography of Transport* (S. K. Danilov, 1974), *Economy of Railway Transport* (a team of authors led by E. D. Khanukov, 1979, and I. V. Belov, 1989), *Statistics of railway transport* (ed. by T. I. Kozlov and A. A. Polikarpov, 1981 and 1990), *Prime cost of railway transportation* (A. S. Chudov, A. M. Shulga, N. G. Smekhova, etc.). V. Ya. Shulga, A. D. Shishkov, Yu. D. Petrov, R. M. Tsarev, A. I. Kuporov and other professors and

associate professors developed textbooks on economics of individual subsystems of railway transport: track facilities, locomotive and wagon facilities, rolling stock repair plants, linear railway enterprises, etc.

Until now, monographs that comprehend the experience of development of economic theory and management practice in the railway transport have been of great importance, i.e., *Economic theory of transport in the USSR* (I. V. Belov and V. A. Persianov, 1993).

In 1993 MIIT received a status of a university and a new name: Moscow State University of Railway Engineering. In the course of the administrative reform carried out at the university in the late 1990s – early 2000s, the faculties were consolidated and transformed into institutions with additional functions (training in continuous life-long vocational education courses, autonomy of administrative and economic activities, etc.). The pilot project of this reform was transformation of the Faculty of Engineering and Economics into the Institute of Economics and Finance, thus the traditional abbreviation IEF was retained. The first director of the IEF Institute was Professor M. E. Mandrikov (1997), after his untimely death the Institute was headed by Professor N. P. Teryoshina (1997–2004), in 2004–2017 the Institute was headed by senior researcher V. P. Chuprikov. Since 2017, the Institute has been headed by Professor Yu. I. Sokolov.

The transition of our country to the market economy in the early 1990s created a demand for new economic knowledge and competencies. Responding to the demands of society and economics, the IEF departments began to develop and include in the curricula such new disciplines as «Marketing», «Management», «Exchange Business», «Investments», and others. To be able to deliver lectures at the highest scientific and methodological level, IEF lecturers actively improved their qualifications, underwent professional retraining, and involved practical economists, who had successfully mastered the new system of economic relations, in the educational process. New specialties were opened at the IEF, such as «Commerce», «Entrepreneurship», etc. The number of students increased significantly due to the start of fee-paying enrollment.

In 1995, Professor of the department «Economics and Management in Transport» R. M. Tsarev after graduating from additional course of education in finance and banking and, in accordance with the decision of the

Academic Council of the University, licensed training of financial and banking employees, created a new graduating department «Banking», later renamed «Finance and Credit». On the initiative of Professor V. G. Galaburda, the specialty «Marketing» was opened for students, on the initiative of Professor N. P. Teryoshina – «World Economy». It is important to note that these and other specialties were opened for training in agreement with the founder – Ministry of Railways, with allocation of budget funded places for them and issuance of a state diploma to graduates.

During this period, a difficult search and approbation of working methods in the market environment was going on in the railway transport. This created the conditions for effective application on the railways of the ideas put forward by the IEF scientists, for integration of economic theory and practice. During this period, our scientists confirmed their leadership in study of cost management, promotion of the sale of transport services, formation of financial models of cargo and passenger transportation and other topical research problems.

The most important area of work of the Institute since its inception has been the economics of the transport complex and its subsystems (assessing the costs and benefits associated with the transportation process, pricing for transportation and related services, forecasting and stimulating demand for transportation, etc.). Pedagogical and research work in this direction is carried out by the department «Economics and Management in Transport» (previously – «Economics of Transport», created simultaneously with the Institute in 1930).

The first head of the department was Professor I. V. Ivliev. In subsequent years, the department was headed by Ph.D. (Economics) L. S. Cherkassky, V. I. Ledovsky, Academician T. S. Khachaturov, Professors S. K. Danilov, E. D. Khanukov (1962–1974) and I. V. Belov (1974–1989), M. E. Mandrikov (1989–1997), V. G. Galaburda (1997–2002), since 2002 the department has been headed by Professor N. P. Teryoshina. The department implements a wide range of educational programs for bachelor's and master's degrees, which have both transport and general economic focus. The department is one of the leaders of the University in the field of scientific research, its developments are in demand by the departments of economics, economic conjuncture and strategic development, marketing, and tariff

policy of JSC Russian Railways, as well as other transport organizations.

Another traditional and extremely important area of work of IEF scientists and teachers is associated with economic support of technical and technological developments in transport (feasibility study of investment projects, assessment of their economic efficiency, etc.). These tasks are carried out by the department «Economics of Transport Infrastructure and Management of Construction Business», founded in 1954 under the title «Economics of Construction Production».

The founder and the first head of the department was a representative of a well-known dynasty of transport scientists, D.Sc. (Eng), Professor A. E. Gibshman. He headed the department until 1970. From 1970 to 1992, the department was headed by the Honored Worker of Science and Technology of Russia, D.Sc. (Eng), Professor V. Ya. Shulga.

In 1992–2012 the department was headed by Professor B. A. Volkov. At present, the department is headed by Professor D. A. Macheret, who is also the First Deputy Chairman of the Joint Scientific Council of JSC Russian Railways.

The department has repeatedly developed methods for assessing economic efficiency of investments in transport, adopted and approved by the Ministry of Railways of Russia, JSC Russian Railways and other transport organizations.

In its scientific and pedagogical activities, the department successfully interacts with the specialized departments of JSC Russian Railways, JSC Transmashholding, PJSC Mostotrest, and other transport and construction organizations.

The basis of any economic activity, both scientific and practical, is accounting of costs and results, production indicators, tangible and intangible assets, etc. Understanding of this fact led to creation of the department «Statistics and Accounting» at MTEI in 1931. It combined all the accounting and statistical disciplines taught at the institute: theory of statistics, railway and industrial statistics, road, water transport and labour statistics, accounting theory, accounting and analysis of the balance sheet by mode of transport. The first head of the department was Professor L. V. Nekrash (1931–1932), in subsequent years the department was headed by Associate Professors F. A. Puzanov, M. P. Romanov, Professors I. V. Kochetov, T. I. Kozlov. In 1948, the new



department «Accounting and Cost» left the structure of the department, the newly created department until 1959 was headed by Associate Professors A. S. Chudov, V. E. Umbliia and A. P. Polikarpov.

The department «Finance and Accounting» was organized in 1959 after the merger of the department «Accounting and Cost» with the department «Financing of railways» (founded in 1952). Its head from 1959 to 1984 was Professor, D.Sc. (Economics) N. G. Vinnichenko. From 1984 to 1988 the department was headed by Ph.D. (Economics), Professor V. F. Danilin.

In 1988, the departments «Finance and Accounting» and «Statistics and Accounting» were merged into a single one: «Accounting and Statistics». Until 2015, the single department was headed by Professor V. F. Danilin.

In 2013, in order to train highly qualified specialists in the field of international financial and management accounting and international financial reporting standards, accredited by the International Association of Professional Accountants (ACCA), the department «International Financial and Management Accounting» was created at the Institute. The department was headed by the chief accountant of JSC Russian Railways, D.Sc. (Economics), Professor G. V. Kraft. In 2016, the department was merged with the department «Accounting and Statistics» (in terms of accounting disciplines, statistical disciplines were transferred to the department of Information systems of the digital economy). Since 2018, the department has been headed by Ph.D. (Economics), Associate Professor E. Z. Makkeeva, who is also acting Deputy Director of the Institute for continuous professional education.

The department successfully cooperates with the Accounting Service of JSC Russian Railways, a number of subsidiaries, international professional communities such as the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), etc.

The amount of computation required in the work of a transport economist has always been significant, primarily due to the size of the industry. Therefore, attempts to mechanize and automate such work have been undertaken for a long time. In this regard, back in 1940 training of specialists in mechanization of accounting and computing began at IEF at the department «Accounting and Statistics». In 1961, the department «Mechanization of Accounting

and Computing Work» was formed. The first head of the department was Professor, D.Sc. (Economics) V. I. Isakov, one of the outstanding specialists in mechanization of accounting. In 1967 the department received the name «Mechanized Processing of Economic Information», and in 1969, after separation of the department «Means of Mechanized Processing of Economic Information» (MMPEI) it received a new name: «Automated Planning and Accounting Systems» (APAS). From 1969 to 1985, the MMPEI department MMPEI was headed by Professor, D.Sc. (Economics) N. M. Surin, a leading specialist in mechanization of accounting. From 1976 to 1984, the department APAS was headed by Professor, D.Sc. (Economics) S. A. Abramov, a prominent specialist in the field of substantiation of large complex systems.

In 1985, the department «Organization of Machine Processing of Economic Information» (OMPEI) was organized on the basis of two departments (APAS and MMPEI), which until 1996 was headed by Professor B. N. Makarovskiy.

In 1996–2016 the department was headed by Associate Professor O. A. Grigoriev. During this period the department was called «Information Systems in Economics», then – «Economic Informatics». Currently, the department is called «Information Systems of the Digital Economy», and it is headed by Professor L. A. Kargina. On the initiative of the department, the university was licensed in the specialty «Applied informatics» (specialization «Applied informatics in economics»). Currently, the department trains bachelors and masters in applied and business informatics, widely cooperates with domestic and foreign organizations in the field of digitalization of economic processes (SAP, League of Digital Economy, etc.).

In the 1990s, with development of market relations and of the banking and financial sector of the economy, a demand for specialists with financial competencies began to form. In this regard, in 1995, the department «Finance and Credit» was established at the IEF. Its founder and first head was Professor R. M. Tsarev (1995–2000), then the department was headed by Professor R. A. Kozhevnikov (2000–2015, currently Professor of the department), Yu. I. Sokolov (2015–2017, currently Director of the Institute). Since 2017, the department is headed by Professor Z. P. Mezhokh. The department was the first in the Institute and university in 1999 to switch to training of Bachelors and Masters [for many

years in former USSR only specialists (engineers, etc.) were trained], the teaching staff of the department under the guidance of Professor I. N. Dedova in 2007 organized training within the programs of the second higher education in the field of «Economics», which was later joined by some other departments of the Institute. In 2014, the department began training specialists within the program «Economic security», since 2016 the department has been participating in the distance training of Masters.

The key partners of the department are JSC Federal Cargo Company, JSC Federal Passenger Company, PJSC VTB Bank, and other transport and financial organizations.

Considering the needs of the transport industry and the requests of applicants, in 2009 the department of Labour economics and human resource management that existed in the 1930s was restored. The first head of the department was D.Sc. (Eng), Professor N. M. Sheremet (currently a Professor of this department). Since 2011, the department has been headed by Ph.D. (Economics), Associate Professor I. A. Epishkin (since 2019 – also Director of Russian Academy of Railways which is also part of Russian University of Transport). When implementing educational programs, the department extensively interacts with specialized departments of JSC Russian Railways (Department for organization, remuneration and motivation of labour, Department of human resources management), trains corporate student groups recruited from the company's employees. In 2018, the department carried out the first recruitment of students for the new program «50 to 50», under which JSC Russian Railways pays the student half of the cost of training and after graduation provides a job according to the specialty obtained.

With the aim of widespread introduction of modern educational technologies (including distance ones) into the educational process, in 2015, the department of Modern technologies of socio-economic education was created within the Institute. The first head of the department was Ph.D. (Economics), Associate Professor A. A. Nagrallyan. Currently, the department is headed by Ph.D. (Economics), Associate Professor I. I. Sokolova. The developments of the department in the field of digital educational technologies are widely used not only at the Institute. JSC Russian Railways is the customer of the work carried out by the department in the field of virtual and augmented

reality, both in the field of economics and in terms of technology of transport processes. The department has many medals and diplomas of the winners of all-Russian and industry exhibitions on digital transformation in transport and education. In 2019, it was the educational platform created by the department that was selected for development and implementation of advanced training programs within the framework of the national project «Safe and High-Quality Roads».

In 2018, the department «Economics, Organization of Production and Management» returned to the Institute (previously in 1962 it separated from the department «Economics of Transport») to teach economic disciplines in technical specialties. Since then, the department was headed by Professors S. K. Danilov (1962–1974), V. A. Dmitriev (1974–1989), A. D. Shishkov (1989–1996), I. S. Besedin (1997–2002), A. V. Bolotin (2002–2007), G. V. Bubnova (2008–2019). At present, the department is headed by D.Sc. (Economics), Professor O. V. Efimova, who also acts Deputy Director of the Institute for research. The department actively conducts research and implements programs of continuous professional education in the field of digitalization of business processes, organization of lean production in transport. The partners of the department comprise the Center for Corporate Transport Services and the department of Corporate Informatization of JSC Russian Railways, and other transport organizations.

Over the past two decades, a number of university-wide departments have become part of the Institute. The department «Applied Mathematics-2» (currently – «Mathematics») traditionally taught mathematical disciplines for economists. For many years, the department was headed by a world-renowned scientist, member of St. John's College (Cambridge, Great Britain), D.Sc. (Physics and Mathematics), Professor, honored scientist of the Russian Federation F. I. Karpelevich, whose scientific interests included, besides other things, development of mathematical methods in economics. Currently, the department is headed by Ph.D. (Eng), Associate Professor L. F. Kochneva, Professors of the department, among other disciplines, teach econometrics, financial mathematics, methods of optimal solutions.

The IEF also includes the oldest department of the University, counting its history from the moment of its foundation, «Political Economy»



(now «Economic Theory and World Economy»). For many years, the department was headed by the prominent scientist, D.Sc. (Economics), Professor A. V. Orlov. Then the department was headed by Associate Professors A. G. Voitov and L. F. Pavlyukova. Currently, the department is headed by Ph.D. (Economics), Associate Professor M. A. Yakovleva. The staff of the department, besides teaching, is working on application of economic laws to transport, taking into account the industry specifics, and also methodically contributes to improvement and implementation of educational programs in the world economy.

The institute also got the department «Linguistics», which is headed by D.Sc., Professor L. A. Chernyshova. The department is the only one that graduates among the language departments of the university, it trains specialists in linguistics and intercultural communication. The lecturers of the department also contribute to development of relevant skills of the lecturers of the Institute, which made it possible from 2018 to begin implementation of the Master's program «Business Administration», implemented in English. The role of lecturers of the department is also great in implementation of international activities at the IEF.

The main activities of the Institute currently include:

- educational work coordinated by the educational department (dean's office) under the leadership of the First Deputy Director, Ph.D. (Economics), Associate Professor I. M. Lavrov;
- scientific work supervised by the Deputy Director, D.Sc. (Economics), Professor O. V. Efimova and by Ph.D. (Economics), Associate Professor O. A. Yusupova, responsible for student science;
- educational and methodical work, headed by the Deputy Director, Ph.D. (Physics and Mathematics), Associate Professor M. V. Ishkhanyan;
- continuous professional education for professors and transport employees (Deputy Director, Ph.D. (Economics), Associate Professor E. Z. Makeeva);
- educational work with students and youth policy (Deputy Director A. S. Matveeva);
- international activities (Deputy Director L. B. Rybakov).

Besides scientific work carried out by lecturers at the departments of the Institute, significant volumes of research are carried out

in specialized scientific and educational research laboratories.

Educational and scientific laboratory «Economics of innovations in transport», which is a part of the department «Economics and management in transport» was established in 1958 as the Sector of technical and economic research. At various times, the Sector was headed by V. G. Galaburda, E. B. Baboshin, M. V. Sugrobova, V. A. Podsorin. The main scientific research of the sector was associated with rationalization of transportation of various goods, calculation of the cost of transportation of goods. At present, the laboratory is headed by senior researcher N. M. Shishkina, research is being conducted in the field of effectiveness of implementation of innovations in transport, improving tariff policy, cost management, etc.

Educational and scientific laboratory «Modelling of business processes» was created in 1967 under the name «Automation of accounting». A significant contribution to development of the laboratory was made by senior researchers V. P. Chuprikov (former vice-rector of MIIT and ex-Director of the IEF) and V. G. Dedov, who headed it.

At present, the laboratory is headed by senior researcher A. N. Butorin.

Laboratory's developments include automated workstations for accountants, electronic accounting systems for linear enterprises of railway transport, software systems for accounting for various types of resources, rolling stock, etc., implemented at JSC Russian Railways, and at the company's branches.

In 2005, the Higher Transport Business School was created as part of the IEF, a unit that implements business education programs for transport employees. Over the 15 years of its existence, more than 500 MBA students has graduated from HTBS, many of whom have occupied leading positions in transport organizations. This direction is headed by Professor Z. P. Mezhokh.

In 2018, on the initiative of Professor O. V. Efimova, the research and educational center «LEAN-Academy» was formed as part of the Institute. Its staff are involved in scientific substantiation and applying of methods for identifying and eliminating losses in implementation of business processes of transport companies, as well as in implementation of programs of life-long professional education in this area.

Currently, the IEF trains specialists, Bachelors and Masters in the fields of

economics, management, trade, business informatics, applied informatics, linguistics.

The Institute, like the entire University, in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation of April 13, 2018 No. 156, conducts training according to independently approved educational standards. All educational programs of the Institute are original, their content and methods of implementation, as a rule, correspond to the best domestic standards. Among the total mass of programs, the following are especially interesting:

- specialty «Economic security» (specialization «Financial and economic support of federal state bodies ensuring the security of the Russian Federation»): a unique program in the field of «Economics» with a traditional five-year study period, one of the most in demand among applicants;

- Bachelor's and Master's studies in International Financial and Management Accounting, implemented by the department of the same name, accredited by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and including training for passing 9 of 14 stages of the ACCA exam, which is unique in Russia;

- English-language Master's program «Business Management», implemented by the department of Economics and Transport Management, with involvement of teachers from other departments of the Institute. All training is conducted in English, currently an agreement has been signed on a double degree program with the Higher School of Technology and Economics (Dresden, Germany) based on that program;

- programs with reduced terms of study on the basis of previously obtained secondary professional education in that field, implemented in the framework of «Economics» Bachelor's degree program, allow students to master the curriculum in 3,5 years, studying on Saturdays, which makes it possible to successfully combine study with work;

- several programs are implemented with distance learning technology, which is convenient for transport employees who are improving their educational level. Full unification of classroom and distance programs allows the full-time students not to quit their studies if they get a job or move to another city;

- training under the program «Applied Informatics» includes a double degree program with the University of Applied Sciences in Augsburg (Germany).

Scientific and educational-methodical work of the Institute is reflected in a large volume of

publications. Every year, more than 100 articles are published by IEF staff in leading national peer-reviewed journals and more than 50 in journals included in international citation data bases (Web of Science, Scopus, etc.). Among many textbooks published in recent decades, it is especially worth noting such publications as «Economics of Railway Transport» (ed. by N. P. Teryoshina, B. M. Lapidus, 2001, 2006, 2011, and 2019), «Transport Marketing» (ed. by V. G. Galaburda, 2001, 2006, 2011), «Product Quality Management for Railway Transport» (ed. by Yu. I. Sokolov, 2008, 2014, 2019), «Economic Security of Railway Transport» (ed. by R. A. Kozhevnikov, Z. P. Mezhokh, 2005, 2015), «Commercial Activity» (ed. by D. A. Macheret, 2016), «Tax Accounting» (ed. by E. Yu. Nekrasova, E. Z. Makeeva, T. N. Kuzminova, 2019), «Financial Accounting in Railway Transport» (ed. by E. I. Kharybina, E. Z. Makeeva, D. P. Ustich, 2019).

In general, the disciplines of the professional cycle taught at the IEF, as a rule, are provided with the own textbooks of the academia of the Institute.

The results of the research are published in scientific monographs (as a rule, more than 10–15 per year). Among the latter and the most significant are the following:

- «Economic Substantiation for Development of an Integrated Information Space for Interaction between Transport Companies and Customers» (Yu. I. Sokolov, O. V. Efimova, I. M. Lavrov, 2019);

- «Innovation Economics in Transport Industry» (N. P. Teryoshina, V. A. Podsorin, 2019).

- «Management of Economic Efficiency of Operational Activity of Railway Transport using Innovative Approaches» (ed. by D. A. Macheret, A. V. Ryshkov, 2018).

- «Digital Technologies of Economic Processes in Transport» (ed. by L. A. Kargina, A. V. Rezer, 2019).

- «Quality Management of Transportation Services for Cargo Owners: Analysis, Assessment Methods, Efficiency» (I. M. Lavrov, 2019).

- «Methods of Economic Assessment and Tools for Improving Quality of Service for Cargo Owners in Interaction with Transport Companies» (Yu. I. Sokolov, E. V. Rogova, I. M. Lavrov, 2018).

As part of their international activities, IEF lecturers periodically travel abroad to deliver lectures in a foreign language. In 2018–2019 such lectures were delivered by: Professor



Yu. I. Sokolov (Valladolid, Spain), Associate Professors I. M. Lavrov, E. A. Ivanova, senior lecturer Ya. V. Podoplelova (Valenciennes, France), Professor L. A. Kargina (Augsburg, Germany), etc.

The Institute has an approved council for defense of Ph.D. and D.Sc. theses in the specialty «Economics and management of the national economy», specialization «transport» and «construction». The work of the council in different years was supervised by Professors I. V. Belov, M. E. Mandrikov, N. P. Teryoshina. After reorganization of the council in 2018, it was headed by Professor Yu. I. Sokolov. The council considers theses of researchers and academic staff from Moscow, St. Petersburg, Rostov-on-Don, Novosibirsk, and other Russian cities, as well as of representatives of foreign countries. Over the past ten years, four doctoral and 96 master's theses have been defended in front of the council.

The council promptly responds to the requirements of the Higher Attestation Commission [of the Ministry of Higher Education and Science] to improve quality of defense: all the theses submitted to the council undergo a thorough examination to determine weight of scientific results submitted for defense, and are also checked for the absence of incorrect citations. All the defenses are filmed, the recording is sent to the Higher Attestation Commission along with the attestation file.

In compliance with the vector of the University's development towards the demand of all modes of transport, in recent years IEF has been expanding the range of scientific and pedagogical work, establishing cooperation with organizations of various modes of transport. At present, the Institute's researchers are actively involved in implementation of the national project «Safe and High-Quality Highways» in terms of developing a system of advanced training for road employees, focused on teaching the use of new and best technologies. An «Introductory Course» was developed for advanced training using distance learning technologies. More than 500 attendees have been trained. Avtodor State Corporation [Road State Corporation], RosDorNII [Research Institute of Road Construction], Sheremetyevo and Domodedovo airports, PJSC Aeroflot and other transport organizations were added to the wide range of the partner organizations of the Institute.

In 2018, IEF became a member of the National Platform for Open Education and developed, the first at the University, a massive open online course (MOOC) «Economic Foundations of Transport Activity», which currently trains more than 1000 people.

In 2019, lecturers and researchers from various universities (over 700 people) were trained using IEF educational information platform in 12 different professional development programs within the framework of the national project «Education».

Thus, at present, the institute makes a significant contribution to development of not only Russian University of Transport, but also of the entire system of transport and economic education in the country. Many educational and scientific developments correspond to the advanced domestic standards. The current positioning of the Institute, based on the results of the work of many generations of our predecessors, allows us to hope that the Institute will continue to maintain and strengthen its positions in our dynamically developing world, and our developments will continue to be widely demanded by the state, society, and business.

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