

Title: Institutional diversity in Russian higher education system.

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The study is focused on the evolution of Russian higher education system and institutional differentiation. Targeted soviet higher education policy (especially in 30-s) shaped a very specific design of the system as a whole and created several unique types of higher education institutions. Rapid shift to the market economy in 90-s after the USSR collapse changed the landscape. Separate government decisions along with the growing public disappointment bring the question of institutional diversity on the table. The analysis resulted in a typology of the Russian higher education institutions based on the quantitative indicators. Besides the important objective of the presentation is to discuss the research questions for the future phase of the study. It will be focused on the diversity in higher education systems in post-soviet countries. Despite shared past these countries had different transformation experiences which are interesting to compare.