

## Summary

### The Russian Institute of University Sciences in Inter-war Latvia

In order to maintain the Russian education and culture in exile, on October 16, 1921, the Russian University Courses (further - RUC) were established by local Russian intellectuals.

On 1930 their name was changed to The Russian Institute of University Sciences (further — RIUS).

This educational institution consisted of three faculties: faculty of law; faculty of history and philology and faculty of commercial sciences and economics. The department of pedagogy was created as a separate structure within the institute, too.

Many well-known scholars like Professors K. Arabazin (till his death was the Rector of RUC), V. Sinaisky, R. Vipers, B. Brezgo, P. Mincs, K. Balodis, Private docent T. Celms as well as Lecturers K. Cakste and Z. Maurina worked at the institute at different periods of time. The legal environment of 1920s and early 1930s was relatively favourable for such an institution, as the autonomy in education for national minorities was guaranteed by the Latvian State.

Despite the fact that diplomas issued by RUC and RIUS were never regarded as equal to ones issued by University of Latvia, many Russians and Russian speaking people in Latvia felt pretty confident in choosing this institution for their studies. Vast majority of them did not know Latvian at sufficient level for studies in University of Latvia; others again simply preferred to continue education in their native — Russian, language.

During the entire period of RUC — RIUS existence, approximately 1000 students attended the institute.

RUC — RIUS took an active part in the cultural life of inter-war Latvia as well. Pub-

lic lectures and disputes were organized under the auspices of RUC — RIUS on a regular basis. The institute also tried to maintain relations with Russian exiles in other European countries. Among famous students of RUC — RIUS J. Klimov (artist), N. Istomin (poet) and J. Semionov (philologist and Professor of University of Latvia) should be mentioned.

In terms of finances, the institute was partly supported by the State, and partly it gained necessary resources from tutorial fees (150 lats per year per student), donations and organization of different fund raising cultural activities (public lectures, lotteries, etc.). Except for rather limited financial resources available to the institute, period of time between mid 1920s and early 1930s was stable finance wise.

Unfortunately, situation started to worsen in 1931. Due to hard impact of the global economic crisis the State initiated strict measures of thrift and monitored its expenditures with particular attention.

In 1932 the State terminated its financial aid completely, and till 1935 RIUS was supported only by small subsidies granted by the Municipality of Riga. The solvency of students also felt significantly. As the result of all the problems mentioned above the financial ability of the institute reached catastrophically low level.

Negative impact of extreme financial shortages was even more deepened after coup d'état of Karlis Ulmanis. Soon after the establishment of the authoritarian regime in Latvia, the autonomy of the national minorities in field of education was significantly decreased. Only support provided by society let the institute to continue its work till 1937.

Since year of its dissolution, RUC — RIUS was rarely mentioned in historical writings, although it remained an interesting and important phenomenon of the cultural life and education of inter-war Latvia.