

# **“Cross - Border University” project as a case of Joint Degree Programs development with educational use of ICT**

Elena Nikonchuk

Head of International Educational Projects Department, St.  
Petersburg State Polytechnical University (SPSPU), Russia

Paul Fryer

Cross-Border University Project Manager, University of Joensuu, Finland

Vyacheslav Shkodyrev

Associate Vice-Rector, St. Petersburg State Polytechnical University  
(SPSPU), Russia

# Finnish-Russian cooperation and development within the Bologna Process

## 1999

- ✓ The Finland signed up the Bologna Declaration

## 2003

- ✓ The Russian Federation signed up the Bologna Declaration
- ✓ The Finnish Ministry of Education action program “Finland, Russia and international cooperation 2003-2007” - increasing micro-regional and cross-border cooperation

## 2004

- ✓ Official launch of the “CROSS-BORDER UNIVERSITY” project - development of joint degrees

# “CROSS-BORDER UNIVERSITY” (CBU) project

## **Overall objectives:**

- ✓ To increase the overall level of co-operation between Finland and Russia in Higher Education
- ✓ To develop further Finland's own participation in the Bologna Process highlighting ECTS and Joint Degrees
- ✓ To promote the objectives of the Bologna process in Russia , providing a working model of ECTS and the 3+2 (Bachelor's+Master's) programmes

## **Specific goal:**

- ✓ To develop educational cooperation and build high-quality Joint Master's Degree and doctoral training programs in English in the areas of strength of the participating institutions in accordance with the principles of the Bologna Process

# National Approaches

## Finland

“Strategy of Finnish Government for building “Information Society” for years 1995-1999 and afterwards for years 1999-2004”

## Russia

“National program of the Ministry of Education “Development of Common Informational Educational Area in years 2001-2005”

# Common priorities of Finnish and Russian National Strategies for building Information Society in Education

- ✓ Perfection of the quality of education on the base of educational use of ICT
- ✓ Increasing international collaboration in education and research
- ✓ Development of know-how (education and training, research, entrepreneurship)
- ✓ Equal opportunities for learning and free access to education

# CBU project participants

## **From the Finnish side:**

- ✓ University of Joensuu
- ✓ University of Helsinki
- ✓ Lappeenranta University of Technology
- ✓ University of Tampere
- ✓ University of Kuopio

## **From the Russian side:**

- ✓ St. Petersburg State University
- ✓ St. Petersburg State Polytechnical University
- ✓ Petrozavodsk State University
- ✓ The European University at St. Petersburg

***Expert authorities are from Russian and Finnish sides (ministries and universities).***

# Criteria for partner institutions selection

- ✓ Experience of cooperation and existing bilateral contacts with institutions of the other side of the border
- ✓ A commitment to the implementation of the Bologna Process at their own institution
- ✓ Availability of high levels of quality research and teaching, as well as technical facilities supported the modern educational technologies

# CBU project stages

Stage I – the feasibility study by the end of year 2004

Stage II – planning and implementation period in year 2005

Stage III – fully-functioning Master's Degrees by years 2006-2007



# Feasibility Stage: goals

1. Developing Joint Degree programs during the feasibility stage we have to define:
  - ✓ Fields of studies
  - ✓ Curricular
  - ✓ Qualifications
  - ✓ Courses and their combinations between the partner Universities
  - ✓ ECTS –basis
  - ✓ Quality assurance
  - ✓ Recognition
  - ✓ Diplomas
  
2. Educational arrangements:
  - ✓ Traditional/ Virtual

# CBU approach to e-Learning use

- ✓ It allows to involve in the project more participants – students and professors- from both sides of the boarder.
- ✓ It provides accessibility of the best courses and modules developed by partner universities within the project.
- ✓ It contributes to the perfection of the quality of education thanks to recruitment of more advanced and qualified professors
- ✓ The share of e-learning and choice of e-Learning methods in learning process depends on the subject
- ✓ Education quality guarantee: involved departments should develop programmes placing priority on quality rather than on methods
- ✓ Willingness and readiness of professors to use new technologies and their ability to do it.

# Institutional approach to e-Learning use by the example of St. Petersburg State Polytechnical University

**Centre of Distance learning** , established in 1995.

- ✓ Technical support for development of the tools for virtual studies
- ✓ Creation of virtual laboratories
- ✓ Carrying out video-conferences
- ✓ Information portal development

**Faculty of open and distance learning**, established in 1999

- ✓ Virtual studies
- ✓ Administrative support
- ✓ Educational services.

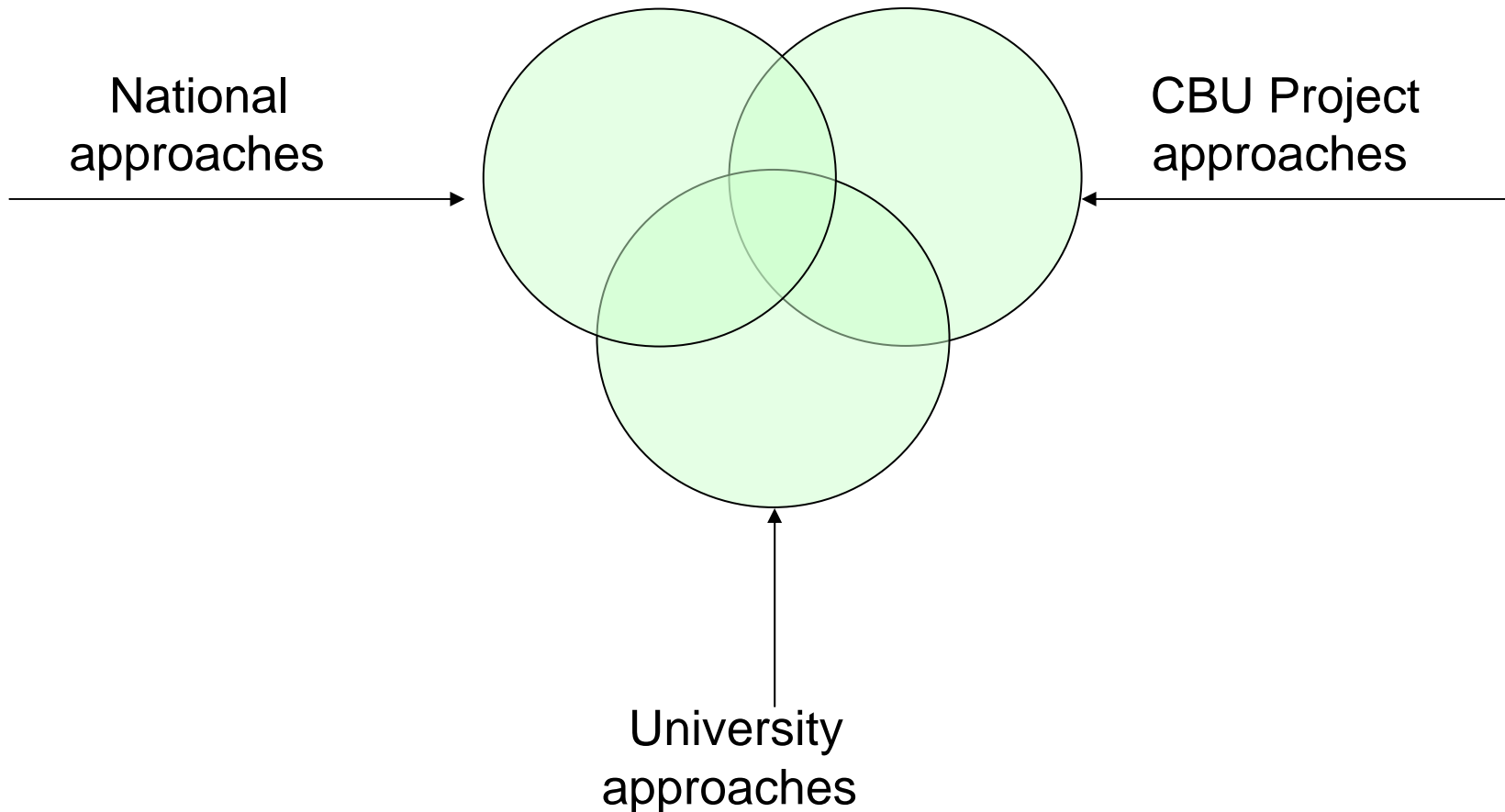
## **Electronic library**

- ✓ Free access to information worldwide

**Information Internet Portal** named “International Master Degree Programmes”.

- ✓ Advertising
- ✓ Communication with students
- ✓ Virtual trainings and testing

# Educational use of ICT in the Joint Programs development



# Thank you!

Elena Nikonchuk

Head of Department of International Educational Projects

St.Petersburg State Polytechnical University

[nikonchuk@imop.spbstu.ru](mailto:nikonchuk@imop.spbstu.ru)