Current International Activities of the IU Business School

♦ Ryazan Banker Training Program ♦

In 1992, Indiana University was approached by an academic/business/government consortium in Ryazan, Russia, to help the region develop educational programs to support the economic and cultural growth of the area. IU administrators, including former International Programs Dean Alex Rabino-witch, Center for Excellence in Education Director Howard Mehliger, and SPEA’s Institute for Developmental Strategies Director Charles Bonser played key roles in the initial discussions and visits between IU and Ryazan. In 1993, Ryazan identified banker training as one of its most vital needs and asked the IU School of Business to develop a program for managers in its thirteen regional banks. In 1994, Project Director Michele Fratianni (Business, IUB), and Business School International Programs Director Patricia Eoyang secured significant financial support through a grant from the Eurasia Foundation, a branch of USAID. The Ryazan business community provided a modest commitment fee and agreed to cover local expenses.

The three-phase, 18-month Ryazan banker training program developed at IU is currently being implemented in Ryazan. Business School faculty teaching in the program are Fratianni, John Hill, Business Economics and Public Policy Chair Bruce Jaffee, Associate Dean of Research and Operations Robert Klemkosky, James Pratt, International Activities Chair William Sartoris, Mikel Tiller, and Juergen Von Hagen. IU Bloomington MBA student Svetlana Tsygan-kova of Belarus and Business Economics doctoral student John Velis also have important roles in the project. The participation of practicing U.S. bankers forms a key component of the IU training program. David Baer, President of Bloomington’s Monroe County Bank, is writing an article on his experience in the Ryazan project at the request of the American Bankers Association.

Last June, Ryazan Mayor Vladimir Markov, Central Bank President Tamara Pigilova, and Rector Anatoly Liferov of Ryazan State Pedagogical University came to Bloomington for project planning meetings and a study tour of U.S. banking institutions and regulatory agencies in Louisville, Kentucky, as well as in Washington, D.C., where they met with Rep. Lee Hamilton, House Foreign Relations Committee Chair.

By the conclusion of the banker training program, the IU School of Business will have trained top-level managers from 28 business and financial institutions in the Ryazan region. Each trainee will receive a resource guidebook prepared by project staff, who are currently assembling a Russian-language bankers’ training manual for distribution throughout the Russian-speaking republics of the Newly Independent States.

♦ Hungarian Management Training Grant ♦

Building on joint management training and related activities with the Budapest University of Economic Sciences (BUES) since 1990, the IU School of Business has just received a four-year, $2.38 million dollar grant for a management training partnership with BUES in Budapest. The goal of the Management Training Cooperation in Hungary (MATCH) program is to build the client base and faculty training capabilities for professional and executive education programs at the BUES Management Development Center through in-company, partnership, and specialized programs.

IU Project Director is Business Economics and Public Policy Chair Bruce Jaffee, with Business School International Programs Director Patricia Eoyang serving as project evaluator. A unique feature of the MATCH program is a seminar program for women entrepreneurs, developed with the assistance of the National Women’s Economic Alliance.