

Shlomo Weber, Professor of Economics at the Southern Methodist University and Visiting Professor of the New Economic School, won a research grant for leading scholars

April 25, 2013, Moscow. Shlomo Weber, Professor of Economics at the Southern Methodist University and Pine Foundation Visiting Professor of the New Economic School (NES), won a research grant within the open grant competition of the Government of the Russian Federation designed to provide governmental support to research projects implemented under the supervision of the world's leading scholars. This is the only grant awarded in "Economics and Business" discipline. Grant application included research in the field of diversity and social interactions with the focus on Russian economics and society.

According to Dmitry Livanov, Minister of Education and Science of the Russian Federation, Chairman of the Grant Board of the Government of the Russian Federation established for the purpose of supporting research projects, they "... have seen unprecedented number of applications in the third grant cycle. More than 700 scholars, nearly half of which are foreign residents, have applied to participate in the competition jointly with Russian universities and research institutions. The Grant Board faced a difficult challenge which demanded detailed discussion of submitted research projects. Following this, the application ranking, considering the results of international assessment, was compiled".

The scholars submitted their applications jointly with the Russian universities and research institutions. The evaluation criteria included scientific achievements and research experience of the leading scholar; research prospects of the project; position of the organization and dynamics of its development; prospective image of the research laboratory to be established within the project. The grants of the Government of the Russian Federation are awarded for 3 years (2013-2015) with a possible renewal for another 2 years.

"The New Economic School was excited to learn that Shlomo Weber, PINE Foundation Visiting Professor at NES, was awarded a large grant of the Government of the Russian Federation, which will allow NES to establish a research laboratory in diversity and social interactions, – said the Rector of the School, Professor Sergei Guriev. – This grant will help NES to attract the world's leading scholars and hire a critical mass of full-time faculty in this field. The mission of the New Economic School is to benefit Russia's private and public sectors through excellence in economics education and research. The decision to award this grant to Professor Weber and NES recognizes our success in implementing the mission, and, at the same time, provides support for further development of the School's research capacity from the Russian Government".

Shlomo Weber agrees with the NES Rector: "The award of this grant is a remarkable evidence of NES's progress over twenty years of its existence. I'm grateful to the Government of the Russian Federation for the decision to support theoretical and empirical aspects of diversity and social interactions with the focus on Russian economics and society. This kind of support is quite unique in the world, and our team of Russian and foreign scholars, including NES faculty and students, will do the best to contribute to the study of the Russian social and economic development in the past, present and future".

The official press-release of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation, featuring information on awarding the grants and the winners, is published at the Ministry web-site минобрнауки.рф

About Shlomo Weber

A holder of Cum Laude degree awarded by the Moscow University, Mechanical and Mathematical Department in 1971, Shlomo Weber received a PhD in mathematical economics from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem in 1979. He published more than one hundred papers in major international journals in economics and political science, primarily on economic theory, public sector economics, political economy and game theory including the book *How Many Languages Do We Need: Economics of Linguistic Diversity* written together with Victor Ginsburg and recently published by the Princeton University Press. Shlomo Weber serves as an editor of the Handbook of the Russian Economy (together with Michael Alexeev) for the Oxford University Press.

Shlomo Weber was the Chair of the Economics Department and the Director of the Johnson Center for Economic Studies at the Southern Methodist University (Dallas, USA, 1994-2004), Research Director of the Center for Operations Research and Econometrics (CORE, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, 2004-2006) and the Academic Director of the International Economic School (Tbilisi, Georgia, 2007-2008).

He has been honored with a variety of awards in science including the Humboldt Award for outstanding foreign scientists (2002). Shlomo Weber has a wealth of experience of consulting in Eastern and Western Europe, Central and South East Asia and currently coordinates the development project at the National University of Mongolia. He served as a member of Academic Council of International Higher Education Support Program (HESP-OSI) and worked as an expert with the International Monetary Fund. Shlomo Weber is a member of the Board of Directors of the Global Development Network (GDN), and of the International Advisory Board of the Economic Education and Research Consortium (EERC).

Currently, he is the Robert and Nancy Dedman Trustee Professor of Economics at the Southern Methodist University (Dallas, USA) and the PINE Foundation Visiting Professor of Economics at NES.

About the New Economic School (www.nes.ru)

The New Economic School is a private graduate school in economics in Moscow founded in 1992. The mission of the New Economic School is to benefit Russia's private and public sectors through excellence in economics education and research. The core of NES is its resident faculty of 30 young economists with PhDs in economics and finance from the world leading universities, including Harvard, MIT, Columbia, NYU, LBS, Wisconsin-Madison. NES offers two-year masters programs in economics and finance. In 2011, it launched a small undergraduate program. It is also active in policy advice and executive education.

NES is ranked the best economics institution in the former communist countries in the research ranking by RePEc (Research Papers in Economics). SSRN (Social Science Research Network) ranks NES in the top 100 best economics departments in the world and the top economics department outside the OECD. NES's think tank CEFIR (Centre of Economic and Financial Research) is ranked a top 20 economic think tank in the world by RePEc. Besides, NES launched two other research centers in 2011: Center for Demographic Research and Center for New Media and Society.

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