

The Russian government is pushing on with plans to cut 40% of state-funded places in domestic universities in 2018 and to cut teaching jobs at state universities. These plans were first announced about a year ago. However, their implementation was postponed due to signs of the beginning of a recovery of the Russian economy from the economic crisis and the possibility of lifting of at least part of Western sanctions against Russia. Still, the beginning of a second wave of the financial crisis – fuelled in June by a resumption of the devaluation of the national currency, the ruble, and an awareness that sanctions against Russia would not be lifted soon – has forced the state to return to these plans. (Fonte: E. Vorotnikov, wired 13-07-17)