The RAFU Summer Multidisciplinary University program for participants from Africa was held at RUDN University

19.11.2026

From 11 to 16 October 2026, the Institute of the Russian Language of RUDN University hosted training for 15 participants from 10 African countries under the program «A Synergetic Approach to the Development of Russian-African Cooperation in the Sphere of Higher Education». The classes were organized within the framework of the RAFU Summer Multidisciplinary University in cooperation between Peter the Great SPbPU and RUDN University.



The program combined the study of approaches to inter-university partnership, the analysis of practical cases and participation in scientific events. The substantive guideline is the synergetic approach: cooperation of universities through the pooling of educational, scientific and managerial resources.



The initial block was devoted to the higher education systems of Russia and African countries, the history of Russian-African ties and existing formats of cooperation (intergovernmental agreements, inter-university partnerships, academic exchanges). The topics of self-organization and joint work provided the basis for discussing how to take partners' interests into account and pool resources.



One of the events was a visit to a session of the scientific seminar «Ethnocultural Codes in Education» on the topic «A Single Educational Space Russia — Africa: School-College-University». Presentations were given by E. A. Sofronova («Strategic Paths for the Development of Academic Cooperation between Russian and African Universities») and V. A. Zhiltsov («The Concept of the Project «Russian Language. Vector – Africa»»). The central issues were the continuity of educational stages, the role of the Russian language and adaptation to the Russian-language environment.



On 14 October, the guests took part in the seminar «Digital Bridges of Academic Cooperation: Russia-Africa Cross-Cultural Dialogue» with representatives of RUDN University and universities of Cameroon and Niger. Welcoming remarks were delivered by Director of the Institute of the Russian Language of RUDN University N. V. Pomortseva, Rector of the University named after Zacharias Tanee Fomum Dieudonné Njamena and Dean of the Faculty of Philology of Abdou Moumouni University Lawali Dambo; the moderator was V. B. Kurilenko.



Topics of the presentations: the effectiveness of training African students under quotas of the Government of Russia, network consortia, digital academic diplomacy, mobility, the multilingual environment, AI ethics and digital teaching tools. Within the framework of the seminar, an expert round table was held, «Digital Bridges: From Strategies to Practices – Joint Formats of Cooperation within the RAFU Consortium».



The program also included a round table on RUDN University's scientific journals (the field of scientific communication) and a meeting with representatives of the RUDN Institute of Ecology, which demonstrated the multidisciplinary nature of the program — from language support to scientific communication and ecology.



The concluding block, «From Idea to Dialogue», was held in the format of an «Idea Workshop»: discussions and individual consultations helped the participants formulate their own proposals for cooperation — from describing the situation at their own university to choosing a format of interaction with Russian partners and determining the expected results.



Despite the intensive program, the participants visited Red Square and immersed themselves in the history of Russia.