

## INTRODUCTION



This issue of the Baltic region journal is dedicated to a topical problem that has been identified as a priority in Russian public policy — the innovative development of education and science. The publication of the Russian version of the issue was timed to coincide with the 4th Baltic Education Forum. These fora are annual meetings of rectors of Russian and European universities focused on the exchange of experience aimed to increase education quality and develop a common perspective on the central education issues both in Europe and worldwide. The forum helps combine the efforts of Russian and European universities towards solving the problems of higher education internationalisation in Europe. The fourth forum is truly remarkable, since it brings together high ranking education officials from various constituent entities of the Russian Federation. The joint efforts of the representatives of different levels of education system will facilitate solving the problems related to the integration of higher and general education in Europe.

The first section of the journal focuses on the topical issues of international cooperation in the field of higher education. It includes articles of the leading scholars from Russia (Moscow, Saint Petersburg, Kaliningrad, Murmansk) and Germany. This topic continues in the section *The experience of implementing international projects and programmes in education* with the analysis of results of the Baltic University programme and the cooperation between Slavists from IKSUR and the WMU in Olsztyn. Other section include works considering the features of education systems in the countries of the Baltic region in the past and present, as well as certain psychological aspects of innovative activity in the field of education.

*The editorial board*