

## International Festival of Student Films as the Innovative Means of Legal Education and Multimedia Training of Future Lawyers

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### ABSTRACT

The main purpose of the article is to ensure further modernization of the educational activities in law universities based on the use of multimedia technologies as well as development of tools for legal education through implementation of the project of international student film festivals. The methodology is based on the concept and methods of use of multimedia technologies in education, as well as the methods of inter-branch legal studies and comparative law. The most important findings and their meaning: the article analyzes theoretical and methodological, didactic and practical means and results of three international festivals of student films on criminalistics "Golden Trace" held by Novosibirsk Law Institute (branch) of National Research Tomsk State University (Russia) in 2014-2016. The importance of the festival is underlined as a bright example of successful application of the methodology of use of multimedia technologies in education of lawyers. The results of this youth forum are indeed invaluable for solution of problems related to legal education of minors, young people and general public as well. In 2016, the Third Film Festival received even broader representation of leading universities of Russia and other countries, compared to previous years: from Egypt to Mongolia, which has contributed to the increase of massiveness of participation and entertainment of the youth event. The organizers are planning to hold this forum every year (in April) and invite institutions of higher education from around the world. The authors conclude that such international and local film festivals should be initiated and held by universities of other countries, focusing on various legal sciences and academic disciplines. The findings obtained provide a conclusive proof that clear and scientifically grounded organization of the educational process in a higher education institution is a prerequisite for the formation of a professionally orientated psychologist as an individual. The contents of the educational process must be interrelated, complementing each other, which will allow for comprehensive and purposeful development of the process.

### KEYWORDS

multimedia technologies in education, legal culture, legal education, legal awareness, legal upbringing, anti-criminal education, criminalistics, international film festival, student films, the Siberian regions of Russia.

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## 1. Introduction

In XVII century, the famous theologian and educator, J. A. Comenius recommended starting training “with the contemplation of things, rather than their verbal description”. In support of this thesis, he provided his educational publications with pictures (Weimer and Jacobi, 1992, p 81; Scheuerl, 1991, pp 67-82). Due to the achievements of modern IT-information technologies, such terms as “e-learning”, “tele-learning”, “multimedia training” (and, accordingly, didactic means), etc. have firmly become a part of educational activities. Although the discussions about the benefits and dangers of this kind of innovations in didactics have been initiated (Hentig, 2002) long time ago and are still far from being over in scientific literature, it is undeniable that legal science, legal education must not and may not ignore the obvious tendencies.

To be more precise, it is not the matter of tendencies already, but the matter of modernization (and, perhaps, of changing) of the paradigm of educational activities. As E. Hilgendorf (2005, p. 367) rightly noted, in some sectors, computers and multimedia have replaced a book, and a growing number of young people have a hard time understanding large texts. In many spheres of life, the imagery began replacement of live speech. The author is categorical: instead of passively putting up with this phenomenon, the university education ought to pick up this trend and learn how to manage it (Garmaev and Chumakova, 2015b).

## 2. Methods

“In the end of the last century almost all developed countries faced serious systemic problems in the field of professional vocational education, making it possible to characterize these problems in no other way, but as educational crisis” (Filatov et al., 2013, p. 54). Speaking of growing lag between the entire system of education from other spheres of activity (in line with indicated tendency), E. Hilgendorf (2005, p. 369) writes about a particularly deplorable state of legal education both in his home country (Federal Republic of Germany) and all over the world: “Teaching methods in jurisprudence remained almost unchanged since the time of the Imperial Supreme Court” (in German – Reichskammergericht – the highest judicial authority of the Holy Roman Empire, established in the framework of imperial reform in 1495. It was located in Wetzlar (Germany) before dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire in 1806) (“Imperial Cameral Court”, 2016).

We suggest intensifying the process of introduction, to all legal sciences, of methodology of multimedia teaching technologies’ use, the paradigm of priority for the creation and widespread application of multimedia cross-sectoral developments (movies, electronic memos, short manuals, booklets and other publications), understandable for the perception by a wide range of persons, through modern information and Internet technologies. We consider this paradigm to be one of the most important directions for further development of legal sciences and the entire legal education system (Garmaev, 2014).

However, we probably ought to look at the problem even wider. The above-mentioned methodology and paradigm, technologies of “e-learning”, “tele-

learning” and multimedia training, in our opinion, should firmly enter not only into legal education as such, but also into the system of measures of legal education and legal awareness of different segments of the population.

The problem of legal education in different areas of legal relations is paid much attention in many countries and at the international level. Thus, several developed countries, including Russia, have been implementing large-scale international projects on anti-corruption education of the population (“Project EDUCATION AGAINST CORRUPTION”, 2004). In Western European countries (Germany, the UK and others) a lot of attention is paid to education in the field of environmental law. Special sections in the textbooks are devoted to this issue (Kloepfer, 2004; Kraemer, 2007; et al). In the USA, considerable attention is given to legal education in regard to prevention of violent criminality. Such work is underway in Russia as well. The leading law universities of our country, besides traditional forms (grant programs, conferences, competitions, contests, etc.) have been searching, finding and successfully implementing new, innovative forms of learning and education of fundamentals of legal culture (Garmaev and Chumakova, 2015b).

### 3. Results

The team of Novosibirsk Institute of Law (branch) of National Research Tomsk State University (NIL (b) TSU), Novosibirsk, Siberian Federal District, Russia) also intends to search for innovative methods, new and effective forms of training of students, as well as legal education of minors, youth and wider population. One of such extraordinary forms was found in 2014. Here we talk about the idea of holding an international festival of student films on legal subjects.

It is to inform the scientific, university legal communities and law enforcers that on April 21-22, 2016 there were held the Third International Festival of Student Films on criminalistics “Golden Trace” in Novosibirsk. As in previous years (2014-2015), the festival was organized by NIL (b) TSU, with participation of the Public Council of the General Directorate of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs in Novosibirsk region and the Novosibirsk regional branch of the Association of Lawyers of Russia.

The goal of the International Film Festival is to increase efficiency of legal education and legal awareness of students, undergraduates, graduate students of law schools, as well as other citizens – the public, including a wide range of people – the Internet users, their education in spirit of respect for the law, justice, intolerance to any manifestations of crime activity.

The Organizing Committee formulated the following objectives of the event:

- Increasing the interest of students to the studies of not criminalistics only, but also of all the sciences of anti-crime cycle, identification and development of their creative abilities;
- Approbation and introduction of innovative forms of training future lawyers;
- Creation of a system of production and wide distribution of training and educational films on criminalistics for further use in educational process, in scientific and enforcement activities, as well as in the system of measures of the state policy on improvement of legal literacy and legal awareness of citizens;

- Inter-university exchanges, international and interregional cooperation in the field of legal education;
- Improving the efficiency of interaction of law schools with law enforcement and judicial authorities;
- And, certainly, – popularization of academic discipline and science “Criminalistics” among youth and other different groups of population.

As it is known, the unique feature of this science and academic discipline is related not only to applied nature of knowledge and skills, which is very important for young people striving to assert themselves in practice, law enforcement, but also to some significant moral foundation, since “the interest of criminalistics to the crime, the offender and his/her defense counsel is caused by aspiration to create scientific means which would help to establish the truth in criminal proceedings” (Eksarhopulo, 2004, pp. 33-34). Thus, the search and establishment of truth in every criminal case using modern technical, tactical and strategic tools, methods and techniques, which are universal for any country – all this favorably distinguishes criminalistics and emphasizes its moral foundation and versatility in the fight against crime. Students all over the world – the young people of new formation, free from ideological and other settings of preceding generations, perhaps, feel this unique feature particularly sharply. That's why the interest of young people from different cities and regions of our country and neighboring countries to this Film Festival remains very high.

Every movie is created mainly by the students themselves, this being one of the requirements of the Festival Organizing Committee. That is, everything – from writing the script and directing – to acting and editing – indeed bears the imprint of free creativity of law students who are learning the norms of substantive and procedural laws, criminalistic tools and methods.

### 3.1. From the history of the Festival

The foundation of the project “International film festival of student films on criminalistics “Golden Trace” was laid in December 2013, when the students of the third and fourth years of NIL (b) TSU formed the teams, and each one of them, in frame of the contest, tried to create short instructional video on criminalistics. The idea was implemented at a high level and turned out to be very perspective. The project raised interest of the General Directorate of Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in Novosibirsk Region and the Public Council, the Novosibirsk regional branch of the Russian Association of Lawyers. In April of 2014, the I International festival of student films on criminalistics “Golden Trace” was organized and held successfully. In 2015, the number of films of the festival contest program had doubled, and many non-resident film crews attended and took part in the festivities (Garmaev and Chumakova, 2015a).

And then, in April 2016, there was held the Third Festival which finally proved that the youth forum has become a traditional and prominent international event. Here is a brief overview of timeline and results of the film festival.

### 3.2. Chronicle of the Third International Film Festival

The 21st of April. The festive atmosphere is felt long before the official opening. On the front of one of the best movie theaters in Novosibirsk – “Pobeda” (“Victory”), the banner flaunts in blue colors notifying of the event (it is also one

of the oldest movie theaters in Novosibirsk, built in 1926 as part of the complex of the Palace of Labor. It is located in the central part of the city, on Lenin Street. The total capacity of the theater is 1,149 seats. The building is an architectural monument of regional value) (“Novosibirsk. Metamorphoses of “Victory”, 2011). Before the main entrance of the theater, the guests and participants are greeted by young people on jumpers (spring-loaded stilt walkers with shock absorbers) waving the festival flags (“Golden Trace – from Cairo to Ulan Bator”, 2016). Those gathered in the foyer can go along the “red carpet path” and make memorable pictures with the famous character of the Soviet movie, Ostap Bender and the cinematography master Charlie Chaplin.

At 10.00 the auditorium is full. The moment of grand opening of the Film Festival has finally arrived. From the stage, the welcoming speech to those gathered is pronounced by L.P. Chumakova, the Director of NIL (b) TSU, PhD in Law, the Associate Professor. She emphasized that the Film Festival, which was held for the third time already, has successfully contributed to rapprochement of legal science and practice thus providing for increase of quality of higher legal education and preparation of future lawyers to the work in law enforcement authorities enabling to position the region as a territory where the educational communities use innovative means of education. The guests and participants of the festival were also welcomed by I.V. Manuylova, the Deputy of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation of the 6th convocation, the Deputy Chairman of the Committee on education. She expressed confidence that the project of such a high level will become one of the most important and perspective forms to improve the legal culture and legal awareness of young people, which will further promote the overall build-up of the law-governed state.

Among the honored guests of the festival were the heads of almost all judiciary and law enforcement authorities of the region, many other bodies of state power and administration, as well as the Commissioner for Human Rights, the Commissioner for Children's Rights, the representatives of the Board of the Association of Lawyers of Russia and other officials, prominent figures of science, culture and education.

Upon completion of ceremonial part of the festival, the viewing of the contest films began. As in the past year, not only the opinion of the jury members was accounted for in evaluation of the films, but the opinion of the audience as well. They could vote “pro” or “con” any particular film work by raising the pre-issued notepads open at the relevant page – green or red.

Within the framework of the festival, there was held the creative meeting with S.A. Trahimyonok, member of the festival jury, Doctor of Law, Professor, writer, screenwriter. At a master class, Sergey Aleksandrovich presented his auteur film “The attraction of Albert Veinik” evoking a positive response of the audience. During conversation that ensued, he entrusted the audience with some of his professional secrets of a scriptwriter, commented on certain aspects of the content-related side of the work on creation of films.

On the second day, April 22, the surprise awaited the audience – the screening of films outside the program of contest. Among the student film-works submitted for the contest were those that did not meet the regulations of the contest, but, in opinion of the organizers, deserved attention. Among them a

professional work from Egypt was presented, which turned out to be a big hit with viewers.

This year the list of participants was extended: more than 40 student films were demonstrated in 2 days by creative teams from leading universities of Russia, neighboring CIS-countries and other countries: from Egypt to Mongolia. After the contest screening had ended, the jury began working strenuously to summarize the results. The jury consisted of prominent scientists in the field of criminalistics, criminal law and criminal procedure and experienced criminologists-enforcers.

#### **4. Discussion**

##### **4.1. Jury of the Festival**

The strict jury of the event was formed on professional basis, and traditionally it included renowned forensic scientists, experienced teachers and practitioners, specialists in the field of cinematography. Here we are introducing the competent jury of the Festival:

- Veniamin K. Gavlo (the most renowned scholar, wise mentor and a wonderful person, died on June 2, 2016), Doctor of Law, Professor, the Head of Chair of Criminal Procedure and Criminalistics of Altai State University, the Honored Lawyer of the Russian Federation, the Honored Worker of Science of the Russian Federation, the Corresponding Member of the Siberian Branch of the Academy of Sciences of the Higher School – the Honorary Member of the jury (“Prof. V.K. Gavlo passed away”, 2016);

- Sergey I. Davydov, Doctor of Law, Professor of Criminal Procedure and Criminalistics of Altai State University;

- Dmitry V. Kim, the Deputy Head of Barnaul Law Institute of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia on educational work, Police Colonel, Doctor of Law, Professor;

- Sergey A. Trahimyonok, Doctor of Law, Professor, writer (member of the Union of Writers of Russia and Belarus), scriptwriter, a graduate of NIL (b) TSU;

- Sergey S. Shevchyk, the Deputy Head of the Main Investigation Department of the Main Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in Novosibirsk region, Colonel of Justice;

- Gennady N. Doronin, PhD in Law, the Associate Professor, the Head of Criminal Law Department of the Novosibirsk Institute of Law (branch) of Tomsk State University;

- Tatyana L. Zhuravleva, the Head of the Public Project “Video archive of Novosibirsk Region”, the Chief Film-director of the studio of the documentary films “Chronograph”, a volunteer of the charity fund “Constellation of Hearts”;

The Chairman of the Jury – Yury P. Garmaev, Doctor of Law, Professor.

During the solemn award ceremony, the members of the jury emphasized that the presented video materials gave a chance to look from the other, “non-academic” side, at some of the problems of criminalistics; they also noted the quality of the films. The warm words were voiced and addressed to the organizers and participants of the Festival.

In the process of evaluation, the professional jury took into account some shortcomings of screen performances. In some films, on the whole brilliantly made, there were noted some discrepancies and unintentional mistakes:

- Authors provided no comment at all on violations of the law;
- There were fragments bearing resemblance to the “product placement” and / or some “romanticization of criminal activity”.

Besides, in some films, the emphasis was mainly put on criminal-procedural component, but not on the criminalistic part of the work of investigators and other law enforcers, which is not fully consistent with the declared themes of the Film Festival.

The Jury has decided to make appropriate amendments to the Regulation on International Festival of Student Films on Criminalistics “Golden Trace” (2016).

#### 4.2. The Awards of the Film Festival

Traditionally, the festival awards were numerous, diverse and highlighted upon the following criteria: the Grand Prix of the Festival; awards in several thematic categories (this year there were five, for each of them there were awarded the 1st, 2nd and 3rd places); special prizes of the Festival; audience choice awards in a contest program and non-contest program; Jury prize; the prize from the Organizer – the General Directorate of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs in the Novosibirsk Region.

Here we are presenting the winners and prize-winners of the Festival:

**Grand Prix** of the III International Film Festival “Golden Trace”:

“**Three notches**”, the team of the Faculty of Law of Taurida Academy of V.I. Vernadsky Crimean Federal University, Simferopol (hereinafter referred to as the teams formed under the guidance of relevant departments of law faculties (institutes) of the cited high schools).

**The Nomination “Tactical Techniques in Performance of Investigative Actions”**

**1st place: “Vanished”.** The Ural State University of Law, the Institute of Prosecution, Yekaterinburg.

**2nd place: “Everything new is accidentally-forgotten old”.** Barnaul Law Institute of the MIA of Russia, Barnaul.

**3rd place: “The tactics of the search in the house”.** Siberian Law Institute of the Federal Drug Control Service of the Russian Federation, Krasnoyarsk.

**Nomination “Criminalistic versions”**

**1st place: “Two Romans”.** St. Petersburg Law Institute (branch) of the Russian Academy of General Prosecutor's Office, St. Petersburg.

**2nd place: “On the trail of the sea wolf”.** South Ural State University, Chelyabinsk.

**3rd place: “From the fact to the version – a single step”.** Tomsk State University, Tomsk.

**Nomination “The investigative situations”**

**1st place: “From love to hate, or Part 1 of Art. 105 of the RF Criminal Code”.** Altai State University, Barnaul.

**2nd place: “On the hook”.** Moscow State Institute of International Relations (University) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia, Moscow.

**3rd place: “Lethal dose”.** Novosibirsk Institute of Law (branch) of Tomsk State University, Novosibirsk.

**Nomination “Criminalistic characteristics of crimes”**

**1st place: “The last call”.** Buryat State University, Ulan-Ude.

**2nd place: “GTA”.** Novosibirsk Institute of Law (branch) of Tomsk State University, Novosibirsk.

**3rd place: “Ridik”.** Altai Branch of the Russian Academy of National Economy and Public Administration under the President of Russian Federation, Barnaul.

**Nomination “Criminal frame-ups”**

**1st place: “Aberration in Dubrovino”.** Novosibirsk Institute of Law (branch) of Tomsk State University, Novosibirsk.

**2nd place: “Criminal staging of kidnapping”.** Higher School of the KAZGUU University, Astana.

**3rd place: “The hackers”.** Tambov State University named after G.R. Derzhavin. The Institute of Law and National Security, Tambov.

**Special prizes of the festival**

**For the best main role: “Tineola”.** Novosibirsk Institute of Law (branch) of Tomsk State University, Novosibirsk.

**For the best supporting actor: “In the shade of a weeping willow”.** Orenburg State Agrarian University, Orenburg.

**For the best director: “Small error occurred”.** Novosibirsk State University, Novosibirsk.

**For the best actor: Poletaev Vladislav, “Ninhydrin reflection”.** Udmurt State University, Institute of Law, Social Management and Security, Izhevsk.

**For the best original screenplay: “The tactics of presenting the person for identification”.** Ural State University of Law, Institute of distance and accelerated learning, Yekaterinburg.

**For the best camerawork: “The role of criminalistic thinking in process of generating versions”.** Kazan (Volga) Federal University, Kazan.

**For the best film-editing: “Looting and robbery”.** Ural State University of Law, Institute of Law and Business, Yekaterinburg

**For the best music to the film: “On the trail of the sea wolf”.** South Ural State University, Chelyabinsk.

**For the best sound-editing: “Presenting a person for identification (Article 193 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of RF)”.** Novosibirsk State Technical University, Novosibirsk.

**For the best actress: Zyazeva A.V., Shumikhina A.S. “Investigative action for the execution of search of the vehicle”.** Ural State University of Law, Institute of Justice, Yekaterinburg.

**For the best acting cast: “Peculiarities of tactics of conduct of interrogation of a minor”.** Orel Law Institute of the Russian Interior Ministry named after V.V. Lukyanov.

**For the best costumes: “From love to hate, or Part 1 of Art.105 of the Criminal Code of RF”.** Altai State University, Barnaul.

**For the best decorations: “Non-verbal sources of information in investigation of bribery”.** State Social-Humanitarian University, Kolomna, Moscow Region.

**For the best adapted screenplay: “The return of Sherlock Holmes”.** Ural State University of Law, Institute of Prosecution, Yekaterinburg.

**For the best crowd scene: “It happened in Samara...”.** Samara State Economic University, Samara.

**For the most dynamic plot: “The subtleties of handicraft”.** Southern Federal University, Rostov-on-Don.

**For the best make-up: “The Three Little Pigs. Retribution”.** Northern (Arctic) Federal University named after M.V. Lomonosov, Arkhangelsk.

**For creative approach in development of the theme: “Dasha – the investigator”.** Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow.

**Audience choice award, non-contest program: “Layla”.** Institute of cinematography, Egypt, Cairo.

**Audience choice award, contest program: “The tactics of the search in the house”.** Siberian Law Institute of the Federal Drug Control Service of the Russian Federation, Krasnoyarsk.

**Film festival jury prize: “Criminalistic characteristic of the murders made for hire”.** KAZGUU University, Astana.

**Special prize of the organizer – the Main Directorate of the Russian Interior Ministry in the Novosibirsk region: “In hot pursuit”.** University of law enforcement service of the Ministry of Justice of Mongolia, Ulan Bator.

During the awarding procedure the cheers in the room were endless. Especially when at the closing of the festival, the audience was offered the concert program. The guests duly appreciated the talent and skills of dance and vocal ensembles, admired virtuoso performance of the string trio “Silenzium”.

## **5. Conclusion**

### **5.1. Results of the film festival in Novosibirsk**

Summarizing the work of three forums, we can conclude the following: the International festival of student films on criminalistics "Golden Trace" should be considered not only as an innovative means of learning criminalistic science by the students thus improving the quality of legal education, but also as a unique form of legal education and legal upbringing of the broad layers of population, – in accordance with the Principles of State Policy of the Russian Federation in the field of improvement of legal literacy and legal awareness of citizens (2011). Besides, this project can truly be considered as the effective tool of popularization as well as the form of promotion of the city of Novosibirsk and Novosibirsk region, of all Siberian regions of Russia for the purpose of organizing various interregional and international cooperation, expanding

cultural, educational, economic, investment and other ties of the Siberian regions of Russia (Chumakova, 2015).

With the help of this article we would wish to draw attention of all our colleagues and allies – representatives of the legal community, to the idea of participating in the annual international festival of student films on criminalistics “Golden trace” (Garmaev and Chumakova, 2014).

The next festival will be held in April 2017. Terms, conditions of participation and other issues can be clarified at the official site of Novosibirsk Institute of Law (branch) of TSU: [www.n-l-i.ru](http://www.n-l-i.ru).

The organizing committee of the film festival has been systematically creating an open collection of video films for their use in the educational process and for anti-criminal education of minors, youth and broad layers of population.

### 5.2. Further perspectives of the concept of conduct of the film festivals

The above-said enables us to conclude that in terms of further development of the methodology of use of multimedia technologies in legal science and education, such international and regional (local) student film festivals should be initiated and held all over the world, by national law schools (schools of law) focusing, besides criminalistics, on other legal sciences and academic disciplines.

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