There is a prodigious lack of information on Russian prospects in English language media. This project attempts to compare Russian skaters drafted in the first three rounds of the NHL Draft from 2020-2023 to NHL players of the same nationality with similar career trajectories. Player comparables are traditionally used to give frames of reference for prospects' styles of play and future performance. Directly comparing current NHL players to prospects with similar developmental trajectories narrowed by region can show the strengths of a country's development model.

I picked prospects from 2020-2023 as they are the players most affected by the lack of information as they were drafted in and around a series of situations that prevented regular amounts of viewing and comparison to their peers playing in other countries and are least likely to have begun their NHL careers. I only focused on the first three rounds because they have the highest likelihood of reaching the NHL and going on to have a career and also because all data is being copied by hand from QuantHockey and EliteProspects into Google Sheets. In the future, I may expand to include the fourth round as well.

I plan on building the model using players drafted from 2004-2012 who played solely within the Russian system in the leadup to being drafted and used players drafted from 2015-2019 as a control set, focusing on the first five years of their NHL careers. Goalies are not included in the dataset as there are too few to create meaningful analysis. The total dataset is 130 players.

Each league is represented numerically in the data (e.g MHL = 1, KHL = 2, etc) and each season is represented by only the first year in which it takes place (e.g. 2021-22 becomes 2021).

Currently, I have collected all of the data for the model and have made preliminary graphs in RStudio using tidy, dplyr, and ggplot2 packages to attempt to see trends in the data. The code for aforementioned graphs can be found on my GitHub which is linked in my resume.

I plan on using the tidymodel package to create a model using decision trees.