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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN HIGHER PEDAGOGICAL EDUCATION

One of the promising directions in ensuring the quality of higher pedagogical education is the development of international cooperation and exchange of experience between universities from different countries. This allows universities in Ukraine to use the advanced experience of global education leaders and implement it at the regional level. With the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion, the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine actively engaged international partners, creating a powerful coalition in support of domestic education and science. In 2023, this cooperation resulted in over 160 projects and programs, providing funding of about 1.2 billion euros, which became a significant contribution to the development of the educational and scientific spheres of Ukraine. More than 50 organizations and governments of foreign countries responded [4, p. 8].

In response to Russia's armed aggression, the European Commission provides significant financial support to the Ukrainian scientific community of higher education institutions. This is due to the active participation of Ukrainian scientists in European program competitions and the implementation of projects that contribute to the development of science and innovation in Ukraine.

Ukraine's obtaining of associated country status in the Horizon Europe and Euratom programs has opened up new opportunities for Ukrainian higher education institutions and research establishments. They can now participate in these programs on an equal footing

with entities from EU member states, receiving funding, access to advanced technologies and infrastructure, as well as the opportunity to collaborate with leading European research centers [4, p. 46]. This promotes the integration of Ukrainian science into the European Research Area and strengthens the country's scientific potential.

International cooperation among higher education institutions is a key factor in the development of education in the modern world. The main areas of this cooperation include participation in student exchange programs, conducting joint scientific research, organizing international scientific events, participation in international educational programs, joint publishing activities, providing educational services to foreign citizens, and much more. Ensuring the quality of higher pedagogical education is a multifaceted endeavor requiring the concerted efforts of universities, faculty, students, government, and society at large. Only through collaborative action can we establish a high standard of education that addresses the demands of the contemporary world.

The quality of higher pedagogical education is a reflection of the effectiveness and satisfaction of students, employers, and society as a whole with the educational experiences provided by higher education institutions. It encompasses various dimensions, including academic achievement, skill development, teaching excellence, accessibility, graduate employment, program diversity, and the cultivation of critical thinking and creativity.

The quality of higher education can be evaluated through various means, such as university rankings, program quality indicators, and student and graduate feedback. A nation's educational system is often judged by the quality of its higher education. It is evident in the ability of higher education institutions to equip students not only with the requisite knowledge and skills for professional and personal growth but also with the preparedness to navigate the challenges of the modern workforce and civic life.

Ukraine demonstrates its commitment to the fundamental values of global culture by integrating into the European educational landscape and fostering partnerships with other nations. This entails implementing European norms and standards in education, science, and technology, as well as disseminating its own cultural, scientific,

and technological achievements within the European Union. Ukraine advocates for parliamentarism, human rights, the rights of national minorities, liberalization, freedom of movement, and accessible education at all levels as essential components of a civil democratic society. These principles contribute to the development of a European cultural identity in Ukraine and its integration into the broader European intellectual, educational, and scientific-technical sphere. [1, p. 45–46].

To foster international cooperation in higher education and integrate Ukraine's system into the global educational landscape, the state is implementing several measures. One key initiative is establishing a robust quality assurance mechanism to build trust between Ukrainian institutions and international partners. Aligning Ukraine's quality assurance systems with those of the European Higher Education Area will facilitate mutual recognition of academic degrees, enhancing the competitiveness of Ukrainian graduates.

Moreover, harmonizing the National Qualifications Framework with the European Qualifications Framework will promote academic and professional mobility, as well as lifelong learning. This is crucial for raising educational standards and adapting to evolving labor market demands. Collaborating with the European Network of National Information Centers on Academic Mobility and Recognition will facilitate the exchange of experiences and provide valuable information and support services to students and faculty. [1, pp. 41–42].

The implementation of results from scientific, technical, technological, and other developments by pedagogical higher education institutions on the international market will contribute to attracting investments and increasing the attractiveness of Ukrainian science for international investors. Attracting funds from international foundations, institutions, and public organizations will supplement the financial resources of pedagogical higher education institutions, thereby fostering the development of scientific, educational, and innovative programs.

As a result of a competitive process, Drohobych State Pedagogical University Ivan Franko is currently implementing a collaborative Ukrainian-Austrian research project titled "Quality of Preschool Teacher Training in Austria and Ukraine: A Comparative Analysis"

(Order of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine No. 826 of 07.07.2023) [4].

Higher education reform is increasingly shaped by new approaches to the educational process that address contemporary challenges and technological advancements. Within the context of our research, the quality of higher pedagogical education warrants particular attention. This quality is not solely determined by the level of knowledge students acquire but also by their preparedness for the real-world challenges of the modern era, their development of critical thinking, creative abilities, and their capacity for self-learning and self-improvement.

The modern world demands individuals who possess not only knowledge but also the ability to adapt and learn continuously. The quality of higher education is a multifaceted indicator that reflects the success of the education system in each country and determines its competitiveness in the global educational landscape. The quality of education is influenced by a variety of factors, including academic programs, teaching quality, infrastructure, and student support.

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