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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OUTCOMES IN THE AREA OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN UKRAINE

Анотація. The article under consideration deals with one of the urgent matters of contemporary society which is related to establishing, broadening, emphasizing the international cooperation between Ukraine and Europe. So, our methodological survey was directed to outline its modern opportunities, outcomes, advantages and shortcomings. On balance, these goals were achieved by means of theoretical and practical sections implementation in the form of review of contemporary situation of internationalization in higher

institutions of Ukraine; depicting main features of close interaction between Ukraine, Australia and Finland; exemplifying Kyiv International University in the scope of mentioned phenomena.

International cooperation of higher education is very topical. It can be discussed for hours, interpreted in multiple ways, praised or skewered, but it has always played a role in the development of higher education. In the recent century this process gained importance as an instrumental part of higher education serving the development of international relations of countries and regions, where international cooperation and exchange were aimed at political expansion.

In modern times Ukraine has actively sought new opportunities for international co-operation, including in education. The State encourages international co-operation in higher education and welcomes mutually beneficial bilateral and multilateral treaties and agreements of all types [5].

The Ministry of Education and Science co-operates with EU members and other neighbouring countries of the region. Most recently, the Ministry approached the ministries of education of EU Member Countries with the request to support Ukraine in its joining the Bologna Process. The Law of Ukraine On Higher Education (VRU, 2002a) encourages student and teaching staff mobility, and grants institutions the autonomy to start programmes of mutual staff and student exchanges [5].

The Ministry of Education and Science also supports the mobility of Ukrainian students and their studies in higher education institutions abroad through a system of grants. The mobility of students, academics, and researchers is increasing; the introduction of distance learning technologies continues, and the network linking Ukrainian higher education institutions to similar institutions abroad is expanding. These and other developments open new possibilities for joint efforts toward international integration [1,5].

In 1999, the Ukrainian Ministry of Education and Ukrainian higher education institutions had agreements with 46 countries; today there are 82 inter-governmental and 46 inter-departmental agreements signed with corresponding institutions in 60 countries. Inter-governmental agreements with sixteen countries – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, China, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Libya, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan – on the mutual recognition of academic degrees and titles are in force [1,4,5].

The humanitarian cooperation between Ukraine and Australia began long before the proclamation of the independence of our country. In 1985, H.E. Mr John Howard, former Prime Minister of Australia (then opposition leader), opened the memorial to the victims of Holodomor 1932–1933 in Ukraine at the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Canberra [2].

There are two centres for Ukrainian studies in Australia:

– centre for Ukrainian Studies at the University of Sydney (Director – Ms G.Kosharska);

– M.Zerov Centre for Ukrainian studies in Melbourne at Monash University (Director – Professor M.Pavlyshyn) [2].

In particular, the Australian students, interested in studying Ukrainian language and culture, have also the opportunity to improve their knowledge in this area in the M. Zerov Centre for Ukrainian studies in Melbourne as well as Ukrainian higher educational establishments [2].

Two specific projects in the humanitarian field has been successfully carried out:

1) opening of the sculptural composition “Shevchenko’s Thoughts”, presented by the Kyiv State Administration to the Ukrainian community in Australia in 2002, in Canberra, in the Ukrainian Orthodox Centre;

2) set of the layout of Kyiv Andrew’s Church in Museum of Ethnography of the popular historical miniatures “Cockington Green Gardens”. The official opening of the model was held December 16, 2007 [2].

The cooperation in cultural and humanitarian sphere is characterized by the essential traditions, variety of form of implementation; mainly it is realized by means of organizing art exhibitions, concert tours of creative collectives, lectures, thematic round tables. Ukraine and Finland have inter–university and inter–school ties [3].

With the assistance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education of Finland in September 2008 in the Aleksanteri Institute at the University of Helsinki the «Ukrainian Studies» were introduced. The program aims to spread knowledge about Ukraine among students and researchers in higher education institutions in Finland. Due to this the Finnish and foreign students have opportunity to study Ukrainian language, literature, history and cultural as well as to research on Ukrainian topics. Consultations and teaching are carried out in Finnish, English and Ukrainian languages. Institute provides programs on exchange students between Helsinki University and the universities of Ukraine [3].

From January 2007 the Ukrainian language is taught at the Department of Slavic and Baltic Languages and Literature at the University of Helsinki on the optional basis. Within the framework of the Agreement between the University of Helsinki and the National University of «Kyiv–Mohyla Academy» dated 15.09.2008 the exchange of students of both universities is realized [3].

The Finnish language is studied in a number of Ukrainian higher educational institutions, in particular, Kyiv National Linguistic University, National University of «Kyiv–Mohyla Academy». The Scandinavian Gymnasium in Kyiv provides the possibility to study Swedish and Finnish languages.

With regard to Europe, the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine co–operates with the EU in general within the framework of the Tempus programme, and on a bilateral basis with member countries and their education agencies. During the first ten years of Ukrainian involvement in Tempus, Ukrainian higher education institutions submitted about 500 applications for competition. Ukrainian authorities follow UNESCO recommendations regarding education and the spirit of international understanding, co–operation, peace and tolerance, e.g. in the national programmes Education in Ukraine in the 21st Century (CMU, 1993), Children of Ukraine (President of Ukraine, 1996), and the National Doctrine on the Development of Education (President of Ukraine, 2002) [5].

Today that Ukraine has begun to actively move towards European integration its education system is being extensively reformed in order to harmonize with modern European standards, the main purpose of the changes being to provide high quality education in Ukraine. The main directions of international co–operation among higher education institutions is the exchange of students, teachers and researchers for the purposes of joint research, international conferences, teaching programmes, joint publishing activities [5].

At present, over 10,000 Ukrainians study abroad and about 25,000 students from 110 countries study in Ukraine, including 28 from European countries, 40 from Asian countries, 30 from Africa, and 12 from Latin America. Some of the most active Ukrainian institutions in the process of internationalization are: Shevchenko National University and its Institute of International Relations; National Technical University of

Ukraine in Kyiv (formerly, Kyiv Polytechnic Institute), Kyiv National Economic University; the National Aviation University; National Technical University Lvovska Polytekhnika; Lvov National University; Kharkiv National University; Uzhgorod National University; Chernivtsi National University; Zaporizhia State University, and Kyiv National Trade and Economics University [5].

Kyiv International University is a higher educational institution of the IV accreditation level founded in 1994. Till 2002 its name was International Institute of Linguistics and Law. Appropriate level of training is provided first of all owing to the qualified management of educational process, staff policy of the University, original curricula, sufficient studying of two–three foreign languages, qualified academic staff. The priority of KIU activity is a research work of students and academic staff. Annually students' and teachers' scientific conferences are held which have acquired the international status; authors' methods and new technologies of studies are worked out and applied [6].

The international status of the University and its main aims are the basis of the program of international and public relations of KIU. In the framework of the program different kinds of international cooperation are carried out: creative contacts with embassies of different countries are established, cooperation with international organizations, funds are conducted, foreign specialists are involved into the educational process, the organization of training abroad in correspondent organizations is carried out. University UNESCO club, educational and cultural program «Ukraine and World», cooperation with the National commission of UNESCO, the British Council, the American House of the USA Embassy to Ukraine, the Egyptian Fund of Technical Cooperation, European Association of International Education, the Centre of information and documentation of NATO in Ukraine actively contribute to this program [6].

To sum up, internationalization implemented an enormous positive effect into the development of higher education in Ukraine. In the overall perspective it stimulated the modernization of priorities, goals, models and instruments. It can be stated that its effects are more visible at the institutional level. At the same time international cooperation provokes discussions concerning the necessity to balance the best national achievements of higher education with the progressive innovation that increase its relevance.

One of the most important implications for future actions concerning international cooperation of higher education in Ukraine is linked to policy and funding, both at the national and international levels.

Thus, it is paramount to conduct more research of international cooperation to be able to analyze its advantages and shortcomings for the development of higher national educational system.

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