

DIRECTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION REFORMING IN UKRAINE

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Summary. Education is favoured as a strategic resource for improving people's well-being, ensuring national interests, strengthening the credibility and competitiveness of the state on the international arena. However, the current state of education in Ukraine, the pace and depth of its transformation does not fully meet the needs of the individual, society and the state. Globalization, change of technologies, transition to the post-industrial, information society, the priorities for establishment of sustainable development, other peculiar features of modern civilization predetermine human development as the main goal, a key indicator and the main lever of modern progress, the need for radical modernization of the industry, put on the state and society the priority ensuring task of the education and science development, the priority of solving their urgent problems.

Key words: higher education, competitiveness, state, national interests, National Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education.

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НАПРЯМИ РЕФОРМУВАННЯ ВИЩОЇ ОСВІТИ В УКРАЇНІ

Анотація. Освіта має перевагу як стратегічний ресурс для покращення добробуту населення, забезпечення національних інтересів, зміцнення авторитету та конкурентоспроможності держави на міжнародній арені. Проте, сучасний стан освіти в Україні, темп та глибина її трансформації не повністю відповідають потребам особистості, суспільства та держави. Глобалізація, технологічні зміни, перехід до постіндустріального, інформаційного суспільства, пріоритизація сталого розвитку, інші особливості сучасної цивілізації зумовлюють розвиток людини як головну мету, ключовий показник та головний важіль сучасного прогресу. Необхідність радикальної модернізації галузі створює для держави та суспільства нові пріоритети, а саме забезпечення розвитку освіти та науки, а також вирішення їх нагальних проблем.

Ключові слова: вища освіта, конкурентоспроможність, держава, національні інтереси, Національне агентство із забезпечення якості вищої освіти.

An urgent problem for Ukraine is to ensure availability of quality education throughout the life for all citizens and to further strengthen its national character. The contents of education and the organization of educational process in accordance with democratic values, market principles of the economy, modern scientific and technical achievements must be constantly updated. The public funding of education and science remains critical, the remuneration level of education's employees and science is insufficient.

The improvement of economic mechanisms for the domestic higher education functioning is one of the main areas of state educational policy, which, moreover, is defined by the strategic educational program [1].

The 2019 year should become a decisive factor for the development and growth of all spheres from schools and professional education institutions to higher and academic institutions. The Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine implemented the reform of higher education, which is scheduled for 2017–2020 and involves the following measures [2]:

- development and approval of 125 standards of higher education in the educational level of the bachelor's degree; 127 standards of higher education for an educational master's degree; 117 standards of the educational-level level of the Doctor of Philosophy;

- introduction of a single entrance exam in a foreign language for admission to the magistracy and a single professional entrance examination for a magistracy for the specialties 081 Law and 293 International Law;

- introduction of a formulaic approach to placing a state order for a magistracy;

- Creation of an open register of higher education institutions, which will provide an opportunity to conveniently view statistical information and provide access for entrants to information about institutions of higher education;

- the rating indicators increase of the education management quality according to the results of the Global Competitiveness Index of the World Economic Forum;

- an application submission for inclusion of the National Agency for the Quality Assurance of Higher Education into the European Register of Quality Assurance in Higher Education.

One of the main reforming innovations in the field of higher education has changed the approach to financing higher education institutions (HEIs). It expected that the competition for resources would be increased. More funds are received by universities, which are entrants with high scores, with a larger student contingent, higher rates of master's programs popularity. It has brought some positive results. «Competition for an entrant» and efforts aimed at preserving the contingent and developing attractive educational programs intensified [1].

However, the realities of university life demonstrate other tendencies. Concerning the quality of the contingent and the availability of resources for program implementation remain very problematic. An important criterion was the number of lecturers' scientific works publications in international science and technology databases. Accordingly, there has been an increase in the number of «requests» to teachers regarding publications, the cost of which is often higher than the monthly salary of a teacher. The overall result of such a «reform» can be defined as an increase in the academic, scientific and bureaucratic burden on teachers, and a sharp decline in real requirements to the level of student knowledge [3, 4, 5, 6].

A clear picture of the education and science priority, the «increase» of public investment in the potential national elite and the scientific and technological breakthrough gives a comparison of the budget financing of higher education in 2018 and 2019. According to the Law of Ukraine «On the State Budget of Ukraine for 2018», 95.47 billion UAH was allocated for financing by the Ministry of

Education and Science of Ukraine, which is 10.04 billion UAH. more than in 2017. The distribution of these funds gives an idea not only of the share intended for the preparation of a potential national elite, but also about the future qualities and competences of the «elite» as a result of such investments [1].

As can be seen, the training of staff at universities, including the provision of their practice bases, is almost 2.5 times lower. The Cabinet of Ministers is reducing the amount of public procurement, but even those remaining places are not sufficiently funded. On the methodological and logistical support of educational institutions, on the scientific and scientific and technical developments allocated tiny amounts. Of course, universities and individual scholars have become more active in finding grants for the implementation of individual projects. However, the lack of a state policy for reforming higher education, the development of science and its financial support can not be offset by the efforts of universities and donors [2].

Therefore, the size of budget expenditures for higher education shows not only the financial insecurity of reform intentions, but also the absolute ignorance of the authorities' need to invest in human capital, in creating prerequisites for economic growth and sustainable development of the country.

Dependence of funding on the number of students, formal quality indicators of knowledge, multi-vector savings on the wages of teachers strengthen the tendencies of simulating the educational process. Thus, a fundamental change in the approaches to funding universities. Funding should be one of the tools for reforming higher education, stimulating the mission fulfillment of the university, and be sufficient to ensure an effective educational process and achieve the necessary indicators of the quality of knowledge of education applicants.

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