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The challenges of the Bologna-process in Ukraine

Ukraine joined the Bologna-process on European Conference of Ministers in May 2005 in Bergen. It is an evident fact of international recognition of our higher education system. Participation in the Bologna-process it is a response to common challenges facing higher education systems in Europe. In the framework of the Bologna-process formed European Higher Education Area (hereafter - EHEA), which is defined by the geographical and institutional norms of the European Cultural Convention. EHEA - it is not the only system of higher education, but associations of 46 national systems, developing according to jointly agreed principles. EHEA promotes coordination, compatibility, comparability and recognition of various systems of higher education.

European integration process involves the creation of European educational and scientific area based on uniform criteria and standards in education and science to recognize periods of training and terms of higher education that will promote cooperation between universities of Europe, the mobility of faculty and students. Introduction of the main positions of the Bologna-process involves incorporation of national approaches to training, education content, traditions in the preparation of future specialists with higher education. In many European managing documents concerning with the development of higher education says that universities should largely keep their own traditions, heritage, and experience.

After Ukraine's accession to the Bologna-process in higher education were made important changes implementing its provisions:

- introduced the Program of Action for implementation of the Bologna Declaration in higher education and science, 2004-2005;
- formed an inter-departmental commission controlling implementation the Bologna process in higher education and national Bologna promoters group (National Team of Bologna Promoters) (2006);
- Ukrainian student council at the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine became a candidate for membership in the National Unions of Students in Europe (The National Union of Students in Europe (ESIB) (2006);
- arranged a pilot European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) in higher educational institutions of Ukraine III-IV accreditation levels (2006/2007 BC. City);
- written the "National Report - 2005-2007" to the London Conference of European countries (May, 2007).

After the Conference of European states in London in Higher Education of Ukraine were taken the following steps to implement the Bologna process:

- approved the Plan of Action to qualify the higher education in Ukraine and its integration into European and world educational community until 2010 ";
- made the draft Law concerning the "Introduction of alterations to the Law of Ukraine" About Higher Education " regarding the standards and recommendations of the Bologna process;

- Ukraine became a full member of the European quality assurance register (EQAR) (April, 2008);

- introduced a system of ranking universities according to the Berlin Principles;
- Ukrainian Association of Student Unions joined the European Union student ESU (European Student's Union) (December,2007);

- was created a working group of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine in a national framework for qualification of higher education;
- written the "National Report - 2007-2009" to the European Ministerial Conference in Leuven (April, 2009).

Modernization of higher education structure involves a series of reforms. Innovation should be gradual in order to maintain the national heritage and prevent the destruction of the national system of higher education.

Firstly, the reform of higher education provides optimization of universities network. Today in Ukraine training specialists with higher education perform 920 higher educational institutions of all accreditation levels and forms of ownership. They are subordinated to 28 ministries and departments, 10 of which are subordinated to only one institution. None European country has the same practice. Analysis of foreign experience shows that in countries with identical demographic indexes average students amount in a university is, for example, in Spain - 22 thousand, in Italy - 23 thousand, in Greece - 14 thousand students, in Slovenia - 8 thousand students, and Ukraine – only 6.5 million people.

Secondly, modernization of the structure of higher education involves the introduction of the national qualifications framework compatible with the fields of education and training in the European Higher Education Area. Formation of national qualifications in the European Higher Education Area will ensure, firstly, transparency, openness and acceptance of terms and periods of training specialists with higher education in Ukraine and, secondly, the national qualifications framework will be certified by the appropriate European structural bodies, allowing introduced in higher education in Ukraine a new addition to the European standard diploma. And in the end the national qualifications for all three cycles are need to be developed, which is consistent with the European Qualifications EHEA and the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning.

Thirdly, it is the introduction of three-cycle system of education.

Ukraine has already had an experience in organization, training of the experts and professional Bachelor and Master, but skills mismatches of awarded graduates remain the main problem on the labor market. Today the Ministry, universities and employers discuss issues concerning the definition of bachelors as training specialists with higher education. Public opinion in the staff departments must be formed to characterize the competence of bachelor, able to fulfill their responsibilities in accordance with modern requirements of production or social services.

There is also a problem of training at the third cycle - Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). The traditional existence in Ukraine two scientific degrees (Ph.D., Ph.D.) is the main reason of this problem, and also that these degrees in Ukraine can be obtained not only in universities but also in research institutions. It is not necessary to study in the university to get this degree – enough to work on scientific theme independently or under the direction of leading scientist.

As a rule, in many European countries the total term of university education, which allows you to get PhD must be at least 8 years (3-4 years – bachelor, 1-2 years - Master, 3-4 years - studies) [2]. In Ukraine, adaptation the final version of specialist training on the third cycle has not been identified and this problem is still discussed. However, modernization of the structure of higher education in Ukraine requires changes in legislation and legal regulation of higher education to meet the requirements of European standards and certification. It is clear that all actions to modernize higher education may be positive if they are in the legal field.

However, modernization of higher education structure in Ukraine requires changes in legislation and legal regulation of higher education according to the required standards and certification of European system. Evident that all actions directed on modernization of higher education may be positive if they are legal. However, nowadays our legal framework - the

Law of Ukraine "About Higher Education" doesn't fulfill the needs of higher education, economy and society and significantly slows down education reforms. At the same time in Parliament for two years is registered a draft Law of Ukraine "Alterations to the Law of Ukraine" On Higher Education ", which was prepared according to the standards and recommendations of the Bologna process and national peculiarities of education in Ukraine.

Never the problem of higher education quality in Ukraine had such a great ideological, social, economic importance, as it is today. And while the universities will be working by the principle "more students - more money", quality of education will suffer. Therefore, appropriate to develop comprehensive criteria which rates the quality of the educational process, such as: rating the content and technology of training used during the studying; rating knowledge of student; requirements for organization and monitoring of the educational process; modern requirements for the competence of teachers and students; clear and transparent procedure of self-examination of university as the basis of quality assurance system.

Harmonization of higher education in Ukraine according to the EHEA requirements and its development will be achieved by certain principles. First of all it is introduction of innovative achievements in education and science. It is well known that the innovative way of society development might be achieved by forming generations of people who think and work in new ways. As a result, development of personality, and its cultural and communicative qualification, ability to acquire and develop knowledge independently, form and develop social skills will be focused.[1].

In modern terms, as the participant of Bologna process, Ukraine has to solve a number of primary tasks imposed before the year 2010 standards, guidelines and basic instruments of the EHEA: National Qualifications Framework, the innovative European Credit Transfer System, Diploma Supplement European model. The ultimate aim of the Bologna process is to provide quality of higher education corresponding to social, personal and business needs and creation of competitive professional who can easily adapt to European economic space. Therefore, the period from 2010-2020, should be key in realization of long term strategies for sustainable development and improvement of higher education in Ukraine, and its recognition in European and world space in the context of quality assurance.

References:

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Abstract:

Analyzed Ukraine's steps in higher education system for realization the Bologna-process. The main reforms of modernization the structure of higher education were determined, such as: optimization of universities network, an introduction of national qualifications and three-cycle system of education. Discussed the problems of introduction the Bologna Process in Ukraine: an imperfection of legislative framework, skills mismatches of Bachelor on the labor market, the traditional existence of two scientific degrees (Ph.D., Ph.D.), and imperfection of criteria rating the quality of university.

Keywords: Bologna process, the structure of higher education, modernization, optimization, European Higher Education.