

# CHANGES IN HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM OF UKRAINE

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«Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world» is well-known quotation of political leader and philanthropist, the President of South Africa Nelson Mandela.

The purpose of education is the full development of the person as an individual and the highest values of the society, the development of his/her talents and mental and physical abilities, education of high moral character, the formation of citizens who are able to realize an informed public option, enrichment of intellectual, creative, cultural potential of the nation, increasing its educational level, preparation for the national economy of qualified professionals.

Education today is not only and not so much the information broadcast, not only an appeal to the intellect, but an appeal to the senses, to the individual unique world of a person, his or her outlook.

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The most acceptable way of reforming the Ukrainian higher school today is modernization according to the European model. Ukraine's accession to the Bologna Process in 2005 meant for the national vocational school principal election of further development in the European direction. An important factor that determined this way was the prospect of equal cooperation and mutual adjustment of all European educational systems, the desire for unity while preserving the uniqueness of each of them.

This approach gives our country the opportunity not only to enter the European higher education system, but also to contribute to the enrichment of the European cultural and educational space, to demonstrate its strong position in the formation. The program of modernization of national vocational training requires the use of advanced and pedagogically effective achievements that can be used in the Ukrainian education. The implementation of priorities for the modernization of

vocational education structure in Ukraine is extremely important for further development.

According to the data of KAS Policy Paper, Higher Education in Ukraine: Agenda for Reforms there are the following painful issues that should be pointed out in this regard:

1. The content of the educational programs is often outdated; it poorly incorporates recent technological developments and is inconsistent with the up-to-date research.
2. The pedagogic approaches of the faculty aren't adjusted to the needs of modern students or to the new opportunities that appeared with the recent IT developments.
3. The outdated educational facilities and lack of resources to ensure their modernization. It makes high-quality education impossible, especially in engineering and natural sciences programs.

The survey conducted by Democratic Initiatives Foundation in December 2016 showed that the society considered the following to be the major problems of higher education:

1. The corruption among faculty (37% of the surveyed);
2. The non-recognition of diplomas of Ukrainian HEIs in the world (34%);
3. The divergence of higher education from the demands of the labor market (32%);
4. The poor infrastructure and facilities of the higher education institutions (32%).

This problems list stays mostly the same for the entire period when the survey was conducted. Nevertheless, some of the mentioned problems are gradually losing «popularity» among the population. Thus, the 37% support for the idea that the main problem of higher education is corruption is much lower compared to the way it was in 2015 when exactly half of the surveyed supported this idea.

In addition to the changes aimed at structural transformation of higher education, many other things can be mentioned, such as university mergers, active international cooperation (the main achievement there was joining the Horizon 2020 EU Program), facilitating communication with the students (primarily with the goal of promotion of the idea about expanding their opportunities regarding choice of courses) and many other things.

All these steps are aimed at gradually transforming higher education, introducing new ideas and approaches, creating new meanings and solutions. Clearly, it would be nice for these changes to be more evident. However, the task initially set is so broad that one cannot expect instant results.

Numerous round tables, presentations and discussions should be held to create a common understanding of the reform, to explain its philosophy and approach to funding the universities.