

CURRENT TRENDS IN INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC MOBILITY OF STUDENTS FROM UKRAINE WITHIN THE EUROPEAN UNION

The Regulation on the Implementation Procedure of Academic Mobility Right [1] approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine in 2015, which complies with the 1999 Bologna Declaration [5], signified national recognition of the XXI century global education strategies [1]. The urge for such document, establishing the procedure of academic mobility (AM) programs organization for national higher education institutions (HEIs) and those outside Ukraine, arises from the demand for higher education which has increased by almost 50% since the beginning of the century [2, p. 127] and low competitiveness of Ukrainian HEIs among the EU countries. According to 2013–2014 Global Competitiveness Index, Ukraine ranks 43 out of 148 in the area of “Higher education and training” [2, p. 14].

Poorly functioning economy, political and social instability in the transitional society deeply affect the higher education system of Ukraine. Insufficient funding of higher education often leads to inadequate academic facilities and low quality of instruction by unmotivated and poorly rewarded faculty. One way to accelerate the integration of Ukraine into European education community is to develop the framework and opportunities for international AM of students whose experience would bring positive changes to the national economy. The predicted impact cannot be underestimated since the number of students in Ukrainian HEIs is quite large (over 1,3 mln in 2015-16 exclusive of the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine) [6].

Different sources give divergent estimates of the average number of students from Ukraine involved into international mobility programs. Inter-institutional agreements between HEIs of Ukraine and other countries contribute to 4 000 people participating in international programs and internships annually. According to the EC report, 9 642 students from Ukraine studied abroad in 2012-13 [3, p. 30]. Other international AM

opportunities in Ukraine are extensively associated with individual students' efforts and their financial self-sufficiency. UNESCO indicates that as many as 39,670 students from Ukraine studied abroad in 2012. The leading destinations for Ukrainian students are (data as of 2013–2015): Poland (9,485 students), Russia (12,043), Germany (5,850), the UK (1,035), Austria (1,099), Italy (2,063), France (1,131), and the USA (1,509) [4].

While students' AM is well organized, granted and fostered in economically developed countries, this practice doesn't seem commonplace in Ukraine. Even though a number of projects have been implemented to initiate a sustainable dialogue on higher education institutional reforms among European and Ukrainian stakeholders ("Erasmus", IAESTE, "Socrates", "Tempus", DAAD, LEAD), students from Ukraine demonstrate low level of involvement. Simple calculation shows that the overall number of students engaged in international AM programs doesn't exceed 2%, which doesn't support the Bologna goal that by 2020 at least 20 % of all European graduates should have spent a period of time studying or training abroad [3, p.4].

Literature

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