

Майя Сіцінська, Анатолій Сіцінський

*Відділ з координації наукових заходів
міжнародного співробітництва та грантової діяльності
Хмельницький університет управління та права імені Леоніда Юзькова
Хмельницький, Україна*

Владислав Ніколаєв, Світлана Хаджірадєва

*Кафедра публічного управління та публічної служби
Національна академія державного управління при Президенті України
Київ, Україна*

Ігор Гасюк

*Відділ з питань законотворчості і наукових експертиз
Хмельницький університет управління та права імені Леоніда Юзькова
Хмельницький, Україна*

ЮРИДИЧНІ ТА СОЦІАЛЬНО-ЕКОНОМІЧНІ АСПЕКТИ РЕФОРМУВАННЯ СИСТЕМИ ВИЩОЇ ОСВІТИ УКРАЇНИ

Анотація. *Ціль статті полягає в критичному огляді ефективності процесів реформування системи вищої освіти України у світлі інтеграції до європейського освітнього простору. Визначальним теоретичним концептом розвитку вищої освіти в Україні є її провідна роль у забезпеченні сталого соціально-економічного розвитку держави шляхом реалізації невід'ємного права громадян на освіту, отримання якісних освітніх послуг, усебічного інтелектуального та духовного розвитку. Основними методами дослідження є метод частотного аналізу та методи математичної статистики, за допомогою яких здійснювалась обробка вихідних даних анкетування державних службовців. Визначено, що в умовах соціально-економічної, суспільно-політичної, адміністративно-управлінської кризи, підвищення конкурентних вимог до системи вищої освіти України провідною метою її модернізації є формування нового змісту та стандартів якості освітніх послуг, які забезпечать максимальну інтеграцію України у світовий та європейський освітній простір. У контексті проведеного соціологічного опитування державних службовців окреслено коло загроз, структуру їх взаємозв'язків та джерел виникнення, які є першочерговими цільовими пріоритетами державного управління, метою якого є забезпечення сталого розвитку системи вищої освіти України. Новизна дослідження зумовлена проведенням соціологічного опитування державних службовців з метою визначення експертної думки щодо ключових питань. Практичне значення визначається необхідністю окреслення пріоритетних напрямів щодо протидії наявним і більш потенційно небезпечним загрозам сталому розвитку вищої освіти в Україні*

Ключові слова: *освітня політика, розвиток вищої освіти, система вищої освіти, сталий розвиток, державне управління*

Maya Sitsinska, Anatoliy Sitsinskiy

*Department of Coordination of Scientific Events
International Cooperation and Grant Activities
Leonid Yuzkov Khmelnytskyi University of Management and Law
Khmelnyskyi, Ukraine*

Vladislav Nikolaiev, Svitlana Khadzhyradieva

*Department of Public Administration and Public Service
National Academy for Public Administration under the President of Ukraine
Kyiv, Ukraine*

Igor Hasiuk

*Department on Issues of Lawmaking and Scientific Expertise
Leonid Yuzkov Khmelnytskyi University of Management and Law
Khmelnyskyi, Ukraine*

LEGAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF REFORMING UKRAINE'S HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

Abstract. *The aim of the article is to critically review the effectiveness of the processes of reforming Ukraine's higher education system in the light of integration into the European educational space. Also, the goal is to define the boundaries of the legislative control of the education system at the state level. The defining theoretical concept for the development of higher education in Ukraine is its leading role in ensuring the sustainable socio-economic development of the country through the implementation and legal protection of the inalienable right of citizens to education, obtaining quality educational services, comprehensive intellectual and spiritual development. The main research methods are the frequency analysis method and the mathematical statistics methods, which were used to process the data of the questionnaire of public officials. It has been determined that in the conditions of socio-economic, socio-political, legislative, administrative and managerial crisis, increasing competitive requirements for the higher education system of Ukraine, the leading purpose of its modernisation is the formation of new content and quality standards of educational services, which will ensure the maximum integration of Ukraine in the world and European educational space. In the context of a sociological survey of civil servants, the circle of threats, the structure of their relationships and sources of origin are outlined, which are the first priorities of the state administration, aimed at ensuring the sustainable development of the higher education system of Ukraine. The novelty of the study is due to a sociological survey of public officials in order to determine the expert opinion on key issues. It is important to find out what legal responsibility people will bear for opposing the laws of Ukraine on education. The authors also collected an expert opinion on key issues that will improve Ukrainian legislation in the field of higher education. The practical importance is determined by the necessity to outline priority areas to counter the existing and more potentially dangerous threats to the sustainable development of higher education in Ukraine*

Keywords: *education policy, higher education development, higher education system, sustainable development, public administration*

INTRODUCTION

Since Ukraine's proclamation as a sovereign and independent state, the processes of modernization of the higher education system have been going on. Ukraine's accession to the Bologna Process in 2006 led to a systematic review of the legal framework for regulating the relations of participants in the educational process, revision of state standards of higher education content, establishing new rules and procedures for access to higher education in Ukraine, improving the quality of educational services. As a result, the uncoordinated state policy of reforming Ukraine's higher education that consisted of ignoring its adaptive capacities to the new requirements and standards of the European education system, which were caused by

insufficient financial resources, fundamentally different organisational and legal norms of its construction, lack of clear and transparent rules of functioning educational institutions of different forms of ownership, led to the deepening of the systemic crisis in higher education.

According to independent statistics [1], the devastating processes of destruction of its scientific and technical potential, the decline of science and a significant influx of scientists and teaching staff abroad are deepening in Ukraine. According to the Human Development Index, according to the World Economic Forum in 2016, Ukraine ranked 26th among 130 countries in the world, and in the global competitiveness index in 2016-2017, Ukraine ranked

85th among 138 countries. Ukraine's European integration processes have led to new challenges and threats to higher education, which are exacerbated by competition from higher education institutions (hereinafter referred to as HEIs) from foreign countries. In which the higher education system of Ukraine demonstrates the inability to create a decent competition in the international market of educational services, which is caused by high tuition fees in a number of Ukrainian HEIs, corruption, low quality of education, as well as in the subsequent emigration of specialists and students due to their inability to find employment with decent pay conditions. According to independent experts, the number of Ukrainians in foreign universities in 2014-2015 amounted to 59 thousand, and in the 2015-2016 academic year – 68 thousand citizens of Ukraine (an increase of 9,000), among which more than 60% of future students have chosen Polish universities. In the 2015-2016 academic year 30041 Ukrainian students studied in Poland [2].

The permanent problem for Ukrainian society and higher education is the influx of scientists abroad. Ukraine ranks 54th out of 55 countries that participated in the survey in terms of scientists' outflows. For Ukraine, such an outflow of scientists annually costs 40-90 million UAH for the country's economy. As a rule, scientists mainly travel to EU countries and the USA. During the years of independence, 45,000 people moved from Ukraine to the United States [3]. According to the state statistics, only during 2010-2016 there is a catastrophic reduction in the number of researchers in educational institutions, among which there were 11974 doctors of science, and as of 2016, only 7091 (a decrease of 40.7%), PhDs (Candidates of Sciences) in 2010 were 46,685 people, and in 2016 – 20208 people (a decrease of 56.7%), and for all categories of staff there was a reduction of employees by 46.3%. It is worth noting the systematic reduction in the number of higher education institutions in Ukraine, which in the beginning of 1991 were 910, and in 2016 – 657 units [4; 5].

The results of many years of scientific research undoubtedly prove [6-10] the leading importance of the educational policy of the country in the processes of

creating new knowledge, effective introduction of new technologies and innovations in the field of economic activity in order to ensure sustainable economic development of society. The recently adopted new version of the Law of Ukraine “On Higher Education”¹ introduces significant changes to the system of organisational and legal regulation of the activity of the higher education system of Ukraine, which substantially approximates the standards and norms of functioning of the European higher education system. The main innovations are the adaptation to the European norms of the system of educational and qualification levels, the procedure for issuing diplomas of higher education, including jointly with foreign HEIs, expanding the autonomy of higher education institutions, the establishment of a national agency for quality of higher education, procedures for accreditation of educational and scientific programs, admission rules and regulations to study. As defined in Art. 3 P. 3 of this Law², formation and implementation of the state policy in the field of higher education is ensured by maintaining and developing the higher education system and improving its quality, development of autonomy of institutions, ensuring the development of scientific, scientific and technical and other activities of higher education institutions.

Conducting this study on the challenges and threats to the sustainable development of Ukraine's higher education system, given its critical state and reform policies to modernise it pursued by the country's government, will allow to outline directions for finding scientifically sound answers to a number of key questions. The research the authors have organised and conducted will allow to outline priority directions to counter the existing and more potentially dangerous threats to the sustainable development of higher education in Ukraine.

1. METHODOLOGY

Respondents are public officials between the ages of 20 and 67 who are administratively involved in the humanitarian field of education and culture. Given the gender aspect, the distribution of respondents is as follows: 53 male and 207 female (Table 1).

Table 1. Demographic indicators of the studied sample population

The name of oblast	Region of Ukraine	Age			Sex, number of respondents		
		min	max	Average	M	F	Num
Volyn	West	23	67	39.8	6	25	31
Ternopil	West	23	57	40.8	4	27	31
Ivano-Frankivsk	West	21	58	38.9	4	30	34
Khmelnyskyi	West	25	60	41.6	8	20	28
Kyiv	Centre	24	67	46.4	7	18	25
Zhytomyr	Centre	20	56	33.5	4	26	30
Poltava	Centre	29	54	42.8	6	21	27
Odesa	South	22	56	38.3	5	25	30
Kharkiv	East	24	67	46.7	9	15	24
In total					53	207	260

1. Law of Ukraine No. 1556-VII “On Higher Education”. (2014, July). Retrieved from <http://zakon5.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1556-18>.

2. Ibidem, 2014.

The questionnaires were formulated in a closed type and provided yes and no answer options, which made it possible to clarify subjective considerations of civil servants regarding the presence or absence of threats to the sustainable development of higher education and to determine based on their expert opinion the priority of existing threats by regional and content distribution. Each question was characterised by a specific type of threat or source of threats, namely: quality of educational services; use of advanced training techniques; effectiveness of national patriotic education; employment opportunities for graduates; professional competence of teachers; the spread of corruption in higher education institutions; reduction of the number of higher education institutions; depreciation of diplomas and status of higher education; interaction with the public; emigration of scientists, HEI teachers abroad; desire of young people to go abroad for study and employment.

The initial data of the public officials' questionnaire was processed by applying the methods of mathematical statistics: determination of the sample size, establishment of the required level of accuracy of the study with acceptable error, determination of the confidence interval, digital codification of data, frequency analysis, determination of the percentage distribution of responses by types of threats and by oblasts of Ukraine, conducting a rating on the types of threats identifying the most important for all oblasts of Ukraine by applying the index method, nonparametric correlation analysis by determining the coefficient of Kendall with the purpose of establishing the fact of presence or absence of correlation between the investigated types of threats, nonparametric variance analysis of Friedman and calculating the coefficient of Kendall's concordance with the purpose of establishing

the harmonised experts' opinion on the questions under study, presence or absence of a significant difference in the judgments of public officials regarding the existing threats to sustainable development in education by type and oblast by calculating Q homogeneity statistics of two binomial samples by the formula 1 where: p is the ratio of n (trait value) to N (total sample):

$$Q = \frac{P1 - P2}{\sqrt{\frac{P1(1-P1)}{N1} + \frac{P2(1-P2)}{N2}}} \quad (1)$$

according to the requirements of the scientific literature [11; 12]. The above tasks were accomplished using Statsoft Statistica 10 [13] computer mathematical and statistical complex, Microsoft Excel 2016.

2. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

An analysis of the distribution of public officials' responses to the presence or absence of threats to the sustainable development of higher education in their areas showed that the most significant at the level of 0.1 is the majority of expert assessments of the existence of such threats in Ternopil ($Q = 6.792$), Ivano-Frankivsk ($Q = 4.887$), Poltava ($Q = 3.369$) oblasts. Public officials in the rest of the study areas expressed diametrically opposed views on this issue, indicating that there is no consensus on the assessment of the presence or absence of crisis phenomena in the higher education development processes of the respective oblasts. In total, out of 260 public officials interviewed, 151 are convinced that the higher education system is characterised by the presence of crisis phenomena, which destructively affect the functioning of higher education in Ukraine ($Q = 5.122$) (Table 2).

Table 2. Distribution of respondents' answers regarding the presence or absence of security threats to the humanitarian sphere in higher education in their area

The name of oblast	Confidence interval	Number of responses, percentage (%), relative frequency							Q criterion ($\alpha=0.1$) K=1.64
		Yes	No	Num	% yes	% no	p (yes)	p (no)	
Volyn	±14.6	16	15	31	51.6	48.4	0.516	0.484	0.330<1.64
Ternopil	±6.5	24	7	31	77.4	22.6	0.774	0.226	6.792>1.64
Ivano-Frankivsk	±8.4	24	10	34	70.6	29.4	0.706	0.294	4.887>1.64
Khmelnytskyi	±14.7	15	13	28	53.6	46.4	0.536	0.464	0.693<1.64
Kyiv	±18.8	11	14	25	44.0	56.0	0.440	0.560	-1.100<1.64
Zhytomyr	±14.2	16	14	30	53.3	46.7	0.533	0.467	0.671<1.64
Poltava	±10.7	18	9	27	66.7	33.3	0.667	0.333	3.369>1.64
Odesa	0.0	15	15	30	50.0	50.0	0.500	0.500	0.000<1.64
Kharkiv	0.0	12	12	24	50.0	50.0	0.500	0.500	0.000<1.64
In total	±4.3	151	109	260	58.1	41.9	0.581	0.419	5.122>1.64

Note: * – Questionnaire point: Do you think that there are security threats to the humanities sector in higher education in your area?

Frequency analysis and percent distribution of baseline data allowed to identify which, according to experts, threats and sources of their origin are priorities in terms of the destructive impact on higher education in Ukraine, and which, given the significant majority of

affirmative answers, were organised by rating [14-16]. Here are the first three positions: 1 – impossibility of employment of HEI graduates; 2 – desire of young people to go abroad to study with further employment; 3 – emigration of scientists and teaching staff abroad (Table 3).

Table 3. Distribution of respondents' responses on identifying priority types of threats and their sources of security for the humanitarian sphere in higher education (consolidated by Ukraine's oblasts)

Types of threats *	Number of responses, percentage (%), relative frequency							Q criterion (a=0.1) K=1.64	Confidence interval	rank (pount-yes)
	yes	no	num	Yes, %	No, %	p (yes)	p (no)			
1	177	83	260	68.1	31.9	0.681	0.319	12.154>1.64	±3.8	5
2	161	99	260	61.9	38.1	0.619	0.381	7.687>1.64	±4.6	9
3	120	140	260	46.2	53.8	0.462	0.538	-2.413 >1.64	±6.5	---
4	210	50	260	80.8	19.2	0.808	0.192	24.577>1.64	±2.3	1
5	176	84	260	67.7	32.3	0.677	0.323	11.857>1.64	±3.5	6
6	172	88	260	66.2	33.8	0.662	0.338	10.695>1.64	±4.1	7
7	152	108	260	58.5	41.5	0.585	0.415	5.373>1.64	±5.1	10
8	181	79	260	69.6	30.4	0.696	0.304	13.373>1.64	±3.7	4
9	164	96	260	63.1	36.9	0.631	0.369	8.485>1.64	±4.5	8
10	186	74	260	71.5	28.5	0.715	0.285	14.974>1.64	±3.5	3
11	208	52	260	80.0	20.0	0.800	0.200	23.601>1.64	±2.4	2
In total	1907	953	2860	-----						

Note: * – Hereinafter types of threats: 1 – quality of educational services; 2 – teaching methods; 3 – national-patriotic education; 4 – employment of HEI graduates; 5 – professional competence of teachers; 6 – corruption in HEIs; 7 – reduction of the HEIs number; 8 – depreciation of diplomas and status of higher education; 9 – interaction with the public; 10 – emigration of scientists; 11 – the desire of young people to go abroad to study

Another important issue in this study is understanding the structure of the relationship between existing threats based on the evaluative judgments of public officials,

which may characterise a specific causation between them, and accordingly one of which can be classified as a source of the other (Table 4).

Table 4. Significance of Kendall correlation coefficients between the investigated indicators of security threats to the humanitarian sphere in higher education of Ukraine (according to the survey of public officials, $n = 260$, $v =$ "yes")

Types of threats	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1		-0.239	-0.289	0.418	-0.100	0.516*	0.239	-0.149	-0.289	-0.239	-0.100
2	-0.239		0.069	0.214	0.418	-0.039	-0.214	0.134	-0.311	-0.179	0.418
3	-0.289	0.069		0.069	0.346	0.261	0.311	0.516*	0.267	0.449	0.346
4	0.418	0.214	0.069		0.418	0.810*	0.179	0.134	0.069	0.214	0.418
5	-0.100	0.418	0.346	0.418		0.516*	0.239	0.671*	0.346	0.418	1.000*
6	0.516*	-0.039	0.261	0.810*	0.516*		0.463*	0.241	0.261	0.386	0.516*
7	0.239	-0.214	0.311	0.179	0.239	0.463*		0.356	0.311	0.571*	0.239
8	-0.149	0.134	0.516*	0.134	0.671*	0.241	0.356		0.516*	0.624*	0.671*
9	-0.289	-0.311	0.267	0.069	0.346	0.261	0.311	0.516*		0.449	0.346
10	-0.239	-0.179	0.449	0.214	0.418	0.386	0.571*	0.624*	0.449		0.418
11	-0.100	0.418	0.346	0.418	1.000*	0.516*	0.239	0.671*	0.346	0.418	

Note: * – Kendall's correlation coefficient is significant at $p < 0.05$

In authors' opinion, poor quality of higher education is a leading, complex threat to the sustainable development of higher education in Ukraine [17-19]. The quality of higher education depends on many factors, but, as the results of the correlation analysis show, its correlation with the state of corruption in the HEI of Ukraine is significant ($r = 0.516$ $p < 0.05$). As it has been defined above, the leading threat to the sustainable development of higher education in Ukraine is the systemic problems with graduates' employment, and which, in the opinion

of experts, are closely linked to corruption in the HEIs, which in turn significantly affects the quality of higher education ($r = 0.818$ $p < 0.05$). Another major threat is the desire of young people to pursue higher education in foreign educational institutions with further employment in these countries, which is functionally correlated with the professional competence of teachers of HEIs ($r = 1.000$ $p < 0.05$), the depreciation of diplomas and the status of higher education. = 0.671 $p < 0.05$), a state of corruption in the HEIs ($r = 0.516$ $p < 0.05$).

Third in the rating of threats were processes related to the emigration of scientists abroad, which significantly correlated with the processes of depreciation of diplomas and status of higher education ($r = 0.624$ $p < 0.05$) and the decrease in the number of higher education institutions ($r = 0.571$ $p < 0.05$). It is important to understand the reasons for the devaluation of diplomas and the status of higher education in Ukraine, and within the questions posed, they may, on the basis of established dependencies, be the subjective factors that characterise the quality of the educational process in the HEIs of Ukraine: national-patriotic upbringing of youth ($r = 0.516$ $p < 0.05$); professional competence of teachers ($r = 0.671$ $p < 0.05$); interaction between the state and the public ($r = 0.516$ $p < 0.05$); emigration of competitive scientists abroad ($r = 0.624$ $p < 0.05$).

It should also be noted that the level of corruption in the HEI is significantly related and, in authors' opinion, influences the quality of education ($r = 0.516$ $p < 0.05$), which determines: the ability of graduates to continue to successfully work ($r = 0.810$ $p < 0.05$); professional career and qualifications of teachers ($r = 0.516$ $p < 0.05$); development of a network of higher education institutions (decrease, increase of their number) ($r = 0.463$ $p < 0.05$); the level of desire of young people to get higher education at home ($r = 0.516$ $p < 0.05$). In addition, Friedman's analysis of variance and Kendall's coefficient of concordance of 0.654 (Table 5) gave ground for asserting a sufficient level of agreement of experts' opinions regarding the assessment of the presence or absence of certain types of threats to the sustainable development of higher education in Ukraine.

Table 5. Results of Friedman's analysis of variance and Kendall's concordance on the results of public officials' questionnaires

n/n	$\bar{X}_{i(rank)}$	$\sum_{i=1}^n X_{i(rank)}$	\bar{X}_i	σ_x
Volyn	5.363636	59.00000	20.18182	4.771125
Ternopil	8.090909	89.00000	23.72727	3.797128
Ivano-Frankivsk	8.045455	88.50000	22.63636	3.981777
Khmelnyskyi	4.818182	53.00000	19.81818	3.655631
Kyiv	2.045455	22.50000	14.72727	1.793929
Zhytomyr	5.272727	58.00000	19.90909	3.448320
Poltava	5.681818	62.50000	20.36364	3.354779
Odesa	3.363636	37.00000	17.09091	3.448320
Kharkiv	2.318182	25.50000	14.90909	2.022600
Friedman analysis of variance $X^2 (N = 11, df = 8) = 57.58502, p < 0.00000$				
Concordance coefficient = .65438. Average rank $r = .61981$				

Rating of oblasts based on the significant majority of affirmative responses of public officials to the combined presence of threats to the sustainable development of higher

education in their oblasts makes it possible to state that in all the studied areas the threats and crisis phenomena in the higher education system are relevant (Table 6).

Table 6. Rating assessment of oblasts of Ukraine by the aggregate presence of threats and sources of their emergence in the humanitarian sphere in higher education of Ukraine

The name of oblast	Number of responses, percentage (%), relative frequency							Q criterion (a=0.1) K=1.64	Confidence interval	rank (pount-yes)
	Yes	No	Num	Yes, %	No, %	p (yes)	p (no)			
Volyn	222	119	341	65.1	34.9	0.651	0.349	11.408 > 1.64	±3.1	6
Ternopil	261	80	341	76.5	23.5	0.765	0.235	22.612 > 1.64	±2.1	1
Ivano-Frankivsk	249	125	374	66.6	33.4	0.666	0.334	13.269 > 1.64	±2.8	4
Khmelnyskyi	218	90	308	70.8	29.2	0.708	0.292	15.632 > 1.64	±2.7	3
Kyiv	162	113	275	58.9	41.1	0.589	0.411	5.833 > 1.64	±4.0	8
Zhytomyr	219	111	330	66.4	33.6	0.664	0.336	12.264 > 1.64	±3.1	5
Poltava	224	73	297	75.4	24.6	0.754	0.246	19.854 > 1.64	±2.4	2
Odesa	188	142	330	57.0	43.0	0.570	0.430	4.979 > 1.64	±3.9	9
Kharkiv	164	100	264	62.1	37.9	0.621	0.379	7.885 > 1.64	±3.9	7
In total	1907	953	2860	-----						

According to civil servants, the most pronounced crisis processes are observed in Ternopil (Q=22.612), Poltava (Q=19.854), Khmelnytskyi (Q=15.632) oblasts (Fig. 1).

Assessing the studied areas from the point of view of a validly confirmed number of threats, it is advisable to state that the level of danger is high and critical in eight oblasts of Ukraine out of nine investigated (Tables 7; 8), because, according to experts, in their oblasts, there are 7 to 10 threats to

the sustainable development of higher education. It should be noted that the ranking of threats in each oblast by significance indicates their different priority in terms of destructive influence on the processes of sustainable development of higher education, that is, their decomposition structure has a pronounced regional factor, but at the same time the authors emphasise that the three leading threats identified by them remain for all areas under study (Tables 7, 8).

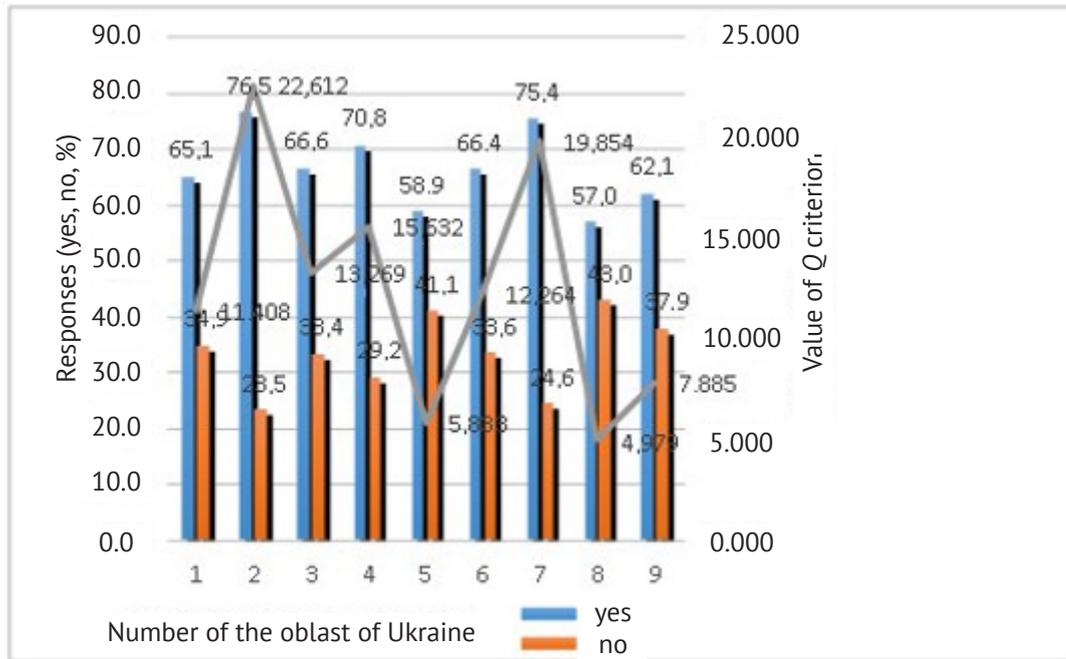


Figure 1. Level of threats to the humanitarian sphere in the field of higher education of Ukraine in the studied areas: 1 – Volyn obl.; 2 – Ternopil obl.; 3 – Ivano-Frankivsk obl.; 4 – Khmelnytskyi obl.; 5 – Kyiv obl.; 6 – Zhytomyr obl.; 7 – Poltava obl.; 8 – Odesa obl.; 9 – Kharkiv obl.

Table 7. Distribution of existing threats and sources of their occurrence in the humanities in higher education in the studied regions of Ukraine

The name of oblast	The region of Ukraine	Presence of threats (yes.no). Qcriterion (a=0.1). K = 1.64							
		1		2		3		4	
		Q (yes vs no)	Yes. no	Q (yes vs no)	Yes. no	Q (yes vs no)	Yes. no	Q (yes vs no)	Yes. no
Volyn	West	2.373	yes	3.111	yes	-2.373	no	11.623	yes
Ternopil	West	9.619	yes	2.373	yes	0.994	---	11.623	yes
Ivano-Frankivsk	West	4.072	yes	3.317	yes	-1.273	---	9.290	yes
Khmelnytskyi	West	3.718	yes	2.126	yes	0.000	---	8.282	yes
Kyiv	Centre	1.859	yes	1.100	---	0.364	---	2.661	yes
Zhytomyr	Centre	3.566	yes	4.412	yes	-2.052	no	7.657	yes
Poltava	Centre	9.634	yes	3.369	yes	-1.060	---	12.126	yes
Odesa	South	1.351	---	0.671	---	-2.052	no	9.174	yes
Kharkiv	East	2.302	yes	1.505	---	0.744	---	3.160	yes

The name of oblast	The region of Ukraine	5		6		7		8	
		Q (yes vs no)	Yes. no						
Volyn	West	1.672	yes	4.756	yes	-0.994	---	3.899	yes
Ternopil	West	11.623	yes	9.619	yes	2.373	yes	11.623	yes
Ivano-Frankivsk	West	4.072	yes	4.072	yes	0.000	---	4.887	yes
Khmelnyskyi	West	8.282	yes	5.648	yes	0.693	---	4.625	yes
Kyiv	Centre	0.364	---	-1.100	---	2.661	yes	2.661	yes
Zhytomyr	Centre	1.351	---	4.412	yes	2.786	yes	2.786	yes
Poltava	Centre	6.429	yes	9.634	yes	5.265	yes	6.429	yes
Odesa	South	4.412	yes	-0.671	---	0.671	---	1.351	---
Kharkiv	East	0.744	---	-0.744	---	3.160	yes	3.160	yes
The name of oblast	The region of Ukraine	9		10		11		---	
		Q (yes vs no)	Yes. no	Q (yes vs no)	Yes. no	Q (yes vs no)	Yes. no	---	---
Volyn	West	1.672	yes	6.792	yes	11.623	yes	---	---
Ternopil	West	5.708	yes	5.708	yes	11.623	yes	---	---
Ivano-Frankivsk	West	2.606	yes	5.782	yes	9.290	yes	---	---
Khmelnyskyi	West	2.893	yes	6.839	yes	16.794	yes	---	---
Kyiv	Centre	1.859	yes	2.661	yes	3.529	yes	---	---
Zhytomyr	Centre	2.786	yes	6.412	yes	7.657	yes	---	---
Poltava	Centre	4.262	yes	5.265	yes	9.634	yes	---	---
Odesa	South	0.671	---	0.671	---	2.052	yes	---	---
Kharkiv	East	2.302	yes	4.110	yes	5.197	yes	---	---

Table 8. Rating grouping of existing topical threats to humanitarian security in higher education in the studied oblasts of Ukraine

The name of oblast	Type of threat (ranking by priority)	Total number	The level of danger
Volyn	1. Young people leave the country to study abroad; 2. Employment of graduates of HEIs; 3. The emigration of scientists; 4. Corruption in HEIs; 5. Degradation of diplomas and status of higher education; 6. Teaching methods; 7. Quality of educational services; 8. Public interaction; 9. Professional competence of teachers	9	High
Ternopil	1. Young people leave the country to study abroad; 2. Degradation of diplomas and status of higher education; 3. Employment of graduates of ZVO; 4. Professional competence of teachers; 5. Quality of educational services; 6. Corruption in ZVO; 7. Interaction with the public; 8. The emigration of scientists; 9. Reduction of the amount of ZVO; 10. Teaching methods	10	Critical
Ivano-Frankivsk	1. Young people leave the country to study abroad; 2. Employment of graduates of HEIs; 3. The emigration of scientists; 4. Degradation of diplomas and status of higher education; 5. Corruption in HEIs; 6. Professional competence of teachers; 7. Interaction with the public; 8. Quality of educational services; 9. Teaching methods	9	High
Khmelnyskyi	1. Young people leave the country to study abroad; 2. Employment of graduates; 3. Professional competence of teachers; 4. The emigration of scientists; 5. Corruption in HEIs; 6. Degradation of diplomas and status of higher education; 7. Interaction with the public; 8. Quality of educational services; 9. Teaching methods	9	High

Kyiv	1. Young people leave the country to study abroad; 2. The emigration of scientists; 3. Degradation of diplomas and status of higher education; 4. Reduction of the number of HEIs; 5. Graduate employment; 6. Quality of educational services; 7. Interaction with the public	7	High
Zhytomyr	1. Young people leave the country to study abroad; 2. Employment of graduates; 3. The emigration of scientists; 4. Corruption in HEIs; 5. Teaching methods; 6. Quality of educational services; 7. Reduction of the number of HEIs; 8. Degradation of diplomas and status of higher education; 9. Public interaction	9	High
Poltava	1. Employment of graduates; 2. Quality of educational services; 3. Departures of young people abroad; 4. Corruption in HEIs; 5. Professional competence of teachers; 6. Degradation of diplomas and status of higher education; 7. The emigration of scientists 8. Reduction of the number of HEIs; 9. Public interaction; 10. Teaching methods	10	Critical
Odesa	1. Employment of graduates; 2. Professional competence of teachers; 3. Departure of young people to study abroad	3	Moderate
Kharkiv	1. Young people leave the country to study abroad; 2. The emigration of scientists; 3. Reduction of the number of HEIs; 4. Degradation of diplomas and status of higher education; 5. Graduate employment; 6. Quality of educational services; 7. Interaction with the public	7	High

The conducted research convincingly proves that the higher education system of Ukraine is in crisis, and its sustainable development is complicated by the existing threats and factors that are the source of their emergence [20]. The statistics presented by the authors on the quantitative features of the destructive processes occurring in the higher education system are in full agreement with the opinion of the surveyed public officials, which gives reason to conclude that the state administration have adequately assessed the state of affairs in the field of higher education. The content of the reform efforts of the country's government to modernise the higher education system by European and world standards makes it possible to state that the creation of new governance structures on the quality of education, the extension of powers and autonomy of higher education institutions, the regulation of the content and standards of higher education, etc. do not fully comply with the requirements and standards of threats to the sustainable development of higher education in Ukraine.

It should be noted that, as part of the overall strategy for the sustainable development of the higher education system of Ukraine, these measures are necessary and require regulation. However, the implementation of these measures will not produce the expected results without significant improvement in the material, technical, financial, information, etc. provision of scientific process, creation of decent conditions for remuneration of the teaching staff, social protection of students, the implementation by the state of planned, systematic activities to guarantee the implementation of the right to employment for graduates of HEIs. The Government does not conduct such measures, the strategy of long-term development of higher education and science in view of its integration into the concept of sustainable economic development of Ukraine is a priori absent, and the provisions and tasks of higher education development, defined in a number of state documents, are declarative and formal and in authors' opinion, in the current state of affairs of the country will not be implemented for a long time.

In addition, there is a fact that there is no state strategic planning and forecasting of indicators for which it is expedient

to evaluate the effectiveness of the processes of sustainable development of higher education in Ukraine, its quality, and only an attempt to translate this problem into the primary link of the higher education system – an educational institution – is observed. Another major factor in the emergence of crises in the higher education system is corruption, which, under the socio-economic conditions of today, is, first of all, extremely low salaries for teaching staff, which does not concern the heads and administration of the HEI, government policy pursued by the government, the state of the citizens' legal consciousness, is insurmountable. At present, every institution of higher education has formally proclaimed the fight against corruption in the educational and scientific process, falsification and academic plagiarism in scientific research, which is enshrined in the orders and orders of managers, but in fact these shameful phenomena are widespread.

There is also insufficient interaction between the state and non-governmental organisations to work with student youth, parents on identifying and reporting to law enforcement agencies about corruption in higher education institutions in Ukraine. Thus, it should be acknowledged that the economic crisis, the unprofessionalism of the country's government, the political involvement of certain socially active segments of the population, the total control over the country by oligarchic-criminal groups will not allow a priori to change the situation in the field of higher education in the near future.

CONCLUSIONS

The conducted research makes it possible to state with confidence that the government policy of modernisation of the higher education system of Ukraine does not fully meet the urgent needs of society and the state and is not able to fully ensure effective counteraction to the existing threats to the sustainable development of higher education. In this context, it is necessary to identify the main directions of state policy, which require a first-rate scientific and theoretical substantiation and further regulatory support. Current state policy and relevant strategic programs for the development of higher education in Ukraine should

be aligned with socio-economic realities, be based on deep scientific research, have clearly defined benchmarks and predictive indicators for evaluating the effectiveness of implementing measures for the development of higher education.

The strategy of higher education development must be based primarily on the principle of “education for human”, the rule of observance and protection of the rights of the teaching staff for decent pay and social guarantees, taking into account the intellectual, spiritual requests of society and the fullest possible satisfaction of the needs of citizens and the state. Establishment of interaction with employers, research of the labour market, formation of guarantees by the state for graduates of HEIs with respect to their further employment, establishment of economically justified norms of the state order for training of specialists in

the relevant specialities. The development of a new current strategy requires immediate revision – a comprehensive program for combating corruption in higher education institutions of Ukraine. First of all, it concerns measures to detect corruption among senior management of HEIs, persons holding administrative, executive positions in public administration bodies. It is necessary to conceptually rethink the basics of quality assurance of the educational and scientific process, which should reflect the procedural certainty of the procedures for assessing the quality of educational activity of young people in accordance with the content and standards of the respective specialities, the quality of staffing, creating conditions for students to conduct independent research activities, combating academic plagiarism and borrowing, compliance of higher education standards with educational qualification levels of labour market requirements.

REFERENCES

- [1] Police of Ukraine ranked in 2016-2017 Global Competitiveness Index. (2017). Retrieved from edclub.com.ua/analityka/pozyciya-ukrayiny-v-reytingu-krayin-svitu-za-indeksom-globalnoyi-konkurentospromozhnosti-2.
- [2] Slobodjan, O., & Stadnyj, Je. (2017). *Ukrainian students abroad: How much and why?* Kyiv: CEDOS Analytical Center.
- [3] Chuprij, L.P. (2013). Conceptual principles of the national security policy of the Ukrainian state in the humanitarian sphere. *Political Management*, 1/2, 35-41.
- [4] Number of employees involved in the implementation of research and development by category. (2020). Retrieved from http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/operativ/operativ2017/ni/kpno_kp/kpno_kp_u.htm.
- [5] During the years of independence, the number of universities in Ukraine will be reduced by one third. (2017). Retrieved from <https://www.unn.com.ua/uk/news/1654377-kilkist-vnz-v-ukrayini-za-roki-nezalezhnosti-skorotilas-na-tretinu>.
- [6] Barro, R. (1991). Economic growth in a cross section of countries. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 106(2), 363-394.
- [7] Benhabib, J., & Spiegel, M.M. (1994). The role of human capital in economic development: evidence from aggregate cross-country data. *Journal of Monetary Economics*, XXVIII, 143-173.
- [8] Barro, R., & Sala-i-Martin, X. (1998). *Economic growth*. Cambridge: MIT Press.
- [9] Rebelo, S. (1991). Long-run policy analysis and long-run growth. *Journal of Political Economy*, 99(3), 500-521.
- [10] Schultz, T.W. (1960). Capital formation by education. *Journal of Political Economy*, 68(6), 571-583.
- [11] Orlov, A.I. (2002). *Ekonometrika*. Moscow: Jekzamen.
- [12] Kobzar, A.I. (2006). *Applied mathematical statistics. For engineers and research workers*. Moscow: Fizmatlit.
- [13] Halafjan, A.A. (2007). *STATISTICA 6. Statistical analysis of data*. Moscow: Bynom-Press.
- [14] Zinchenko, A.S. (2020). Project-focused personnel management approach of higher educational institutions. *Asia Life Sciences*, 22(2), 243-256.
- [15] Kucheryavaya, E.V., Witkowska, M., Kalinovskaya, V., Seleznev, P., Zubanova, S., & Fedyakin, A. (2020). The multiculturalism policy in Europe. *Online Journal Modelling the New Europe*, 32, 58-71.
- [16] Galiullina, G.F., Mansurova, T.G., & Gallyamova, E.F. (2019). Qualitative assessment of the potential of innovative development of territories. *Journal of Environmental Treatment Techniques*, 7(Special Issue), 1195-1199.
- [17] Kulanov, A., Tamenova, S., Amenova, K., Karshalova, A., & Tussupova, L. (2020). Investment climate and its influence on the development of entrepreneurship: Practice of the Republic of Kazakhstan. *Entrepreneurship and Sustainability Issues*, 8(2), 421-437.
- [18] Chekan, O.I., Barna, Kh.V., & Lyubchenko, I.I. (2018). Types and methods of using innovative technologies in terms of modernization of educational process of higher educational establishment. *Bulletin of Mukachevo State University. Series “Pedagogy and Psychology”*, 2(8), 126-128.
- [19] Molnar, T.I., & Mykulanynets, A.V. (2018). Competence approach as a direction of improvement of higher pedagogical education. *Bulletin of Mukachevo State University. Series “Pedagogy and Psychology”*, 2(8), 33-36.
- [20] Zelinska, S.O. (2018). Abilities of the use of technologies of augmented reality in informational and educational environment of higher educational establishment. *Bulletin of Mukachevo State University. Series “Pedagogy and Psychology”*, 1(7), 97-100.

Maya Sitsinska

Full Doctor in Public Administration
Department of Coordination of Scientific Events
International Cooperation and Grant Activities
Leonid Yuzkov Khmelnytskyi University of Management and Law
29000, 8 Heroyiv Maydanu Str., Khmelnytskyi, Ukraine

Anatoliy Sitsinskiy

Full Doctor in Public Administration, Professor
Department of Coordination of Scientific Events
International Cooperation and Grant Activities
Leonid Yuzkov Khmelnytskyi University of Management and Law
29000, 8 Heroyiv Maydanu Str., Khmelnytskyi, Ukraine

Vladislav Nikolaiev

Ph.D. in Public Administration, Doctoral Student
Department of Public Administration and Public Service
National Academy for Public Administration under the President of Ukraine
03057, 20 Anton Tsedik Str., Kyiv, Ukraine

Svitlana Khadzhyradieva

Full Doctor in Public Administration, Professor
Department of Public Administration and Public Service
National Academy for Public Administration under the President of Ukraine
03057, 20 Anton Tsedik Str., Kyiv, Ukraine

Igor Hasiuk

Full Doctor in Public Administration, Professor
Department on Issues of Lawmaking and Scientific Expertise
Leonid Yuzkov Khmelnytskyi University of Management and Law
29000, 8 Heroyiv Maydanu Str., Khmelnytskyi, Ukraine

Suggested Citation: Sitsinska, M., Sitsinskiy, A., Nikolaiev, V., Khadzhyradieva, S., & Hasiuk, I. (2021). Legal and socio-economic aspects of reforming Ukraine's higher education system. *Journal of the National Academy of Legal Sciences of Ukraine*, 28(1), 88-98.

Submitted: 01/11/2020

Revised: 20/01/2021

Accepted: 07/03/2021