

ACADEMIC MOBILITY AS A PRIMARY TARGET FOR HIGHER MEDICAL EDUCATION OF UKRAINE

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The Law of Ukraine “On Higher Education” defines the range of conceptual foundations for modernization of higher education: integration of Ukraine into the European higher education area through the implementation of the Bologna Process principles; development of an independent system of quality assurance in higher education; autonomy of higher education institutions; cooperation and interaction of education, science, business and government [1]. In particular, the Law “On Higher Education” prioritizes academic mobility as a prerequisite for integration of education, science and innovation. According to the Law of Ukraine, academic mobility is “the opportunity of the participants of educational process to study, teach, undergo training courses or conduct research activities at another academic institution in Ukraine or abroad” [1].

The introduction of ECTS ensures the comparability in the standards and quality of higher education qualifications, and thus offers the opportunities for mobility programs. Academic mobility promotes the intensified exchange of ideas among students and academic staff; it expands possibilities for collaboration and global dissemination of knowledge. Academic mobility actually introduces new objectives, activities and actors engaged in internationalization [2]. All these processes are crucial for the global aim of “forging international connections” between academic communities [2].

Thus, the comprehension of academic mobility and its benefits is of particular importance nowadays. Being objectively affected by the processes of globalization and internationalization, Ukrainian academic institutions gain the impetus to design the international educational environment, responsive to the needs of time, and therefore persistently move towards the understanding of the concept of academic mobility and its adequate practical application. Ukrainian Medical Stomatological

Academy (UMSA) sets the primary objectives to foster global outlook and commitment to international expertise among students and academic staff, as well as to create benign environment for intellectual, cultural and linguistic diversity. The rising significance of academic mobility preconditions the Academy's active search and engagement in international partnerships, one of which is Medical Universities Alliance (MEDEA) since 2013. This project involves mobility exchanges between higher education institutions from Western and Eastern Europe in the field of Health studies (undergraduates, Master, Doctorates, Post-doctorates and staff) [3].

It is necessary to delineate the major objectives of academic mobility within the framework of MEDEA [3]: (1) to contribute to the mutual enrichment of societies; (2) to promote awareness of the importance of cultural and linguistic diversity within Europe; (3) to combat racism and xenophobia and promote intercultural education and open-mindedness; (4) to strengthen the global competitiveness of the European Union, its sustainable economic growth and its greater social cohesion; (5) to foster knowledge and skills for peaceful development in a Europe of diversity.

Thus, in full concordance with the Law of Ukraine "On Higher Education", academic mobility is indispensable for evolving higher medical education: it is aimed to enrich the national domain of medical science, as well as to enhance the universal expertise in theoretical and clinical medicine.

References

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