Assessments of alumni of Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv (TSNUK) on higher education in Ukraine

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Higher Education in Ukraine and Abroad: Pros & Cons?

Context:

- Discussion in August 2022 before their alumni
- Find out the real prospects of building joint educational programs with European colleagues
Scope of Participants

Context:

- Among about a hundred successful graduates 20 alumni were selected as an expert focus group
- Bilateral projects with universities (Regensburg, Munich, Konstanz)
- Master's degrees, obtained both at Shevchenko University and in Germany
- Three dissertations defended in Germany
- American & Canadian experience
The Most Noticeable and Obvious Problems Still Remain Unresolved

➢ Insufficient level of foreign language proficiency: both students and teaching staff
➢ Methodological skills
➢ Ability to work in a team during their studies
➢ Proficiency in various data systems, and digitalization methods
Significant Problems Pointed out by Our Alumni-Experts

Students:
- Extensiveness and overloading of the educational process
- “Rote learning”, factual bias (not conceptual), oversaturation with general-theoretical issues, insufficient connection with practice

Teachers:
- Conduct several classes per day and engage in research activities
The Issue of Maximally Objective Evaluation

German experience of evaluating student knowledge and skills:

- Group (team) work, presentations
- The ability to express one's opinion in writing and perform various written tasks
- The ability to express one's opinion orally and conduct a discussion (oral exam)
Areas Related to the Educational Process

➢ funding (first and foremost, extremely low salaries)

➢ quality and competition among the teaching staff

➢ management staff
The Functioning of Libraries

- Outdated & bureaucratized, unable to offer a modern work culture in the library
- In pursuit for change: access foreign literature, especially articles from scientometric databases
Conclusions and Suggestions

The strategy and the primary goal:

- Mastering the methods of obtaining scientific knowledge and meanings, rather than on the volume of this knowledge
- Cultivating a critical approach to any objects of cognition, acquired knowledge, and concepts are necessary
The Needs and Demands of the Labor Market for Social and Humanitarian Specialists

- Focus on the interdisciplinarity of educational programs, especially at the master’s level

- Engage successful specialists from real-life professional fields as lecturers alongside regular university faculty, from Ukraine and beyond,

- Ensure the organization of real production practice in various fields of future professional activity not only on a group basis, but also on an individual basis and according to individual schedules
Improving the Organization of the Educational Process and Learning Technologies

➢ Provide students with a wider and freer choice of disciplines, including those that go beyond one field or faculty

➢ Reduce the proportion of linear, information-reproducing formats of classes (lectures) in favor of more interactive forms (various types of seminars and practical classes)

➢ Encourage students' ability to work independently and critically with texts, as well as give seminars the role of the main and self-sufficient form of learning when mastering certain academic disciplines
Key Pillars in Education Process to Achieve

- The competitive principle in the educational organization process and teaching
- Internal academic mobility
- Evaluation of the effectiveness and quality of professors’ teaching activity by students
- To study foreign languages through an individualized plan or schedule provided by the Institute of Philology
Broaden the Implementation of Digitization

- Modul, LMS (Learning Management System)
- Reorganization of the work of the library of the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv
Thank you for your attention!