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FUNDAMENTALS OF DISTANCE LEARNING IN UKRAINE

Taking into account the current social and economic situation in Ukraine, its integration into the European Union, the intensive development of information, communication and computer technologies, we can conclude that the problem of restructuring and improvement of the educational system, the search for new educational models, methods and forms is quite relevant.

In today's dynamic world, thanks to the advent of the Internet, the outspread of new information and technical means of teaching educational material to learners, the use of new communication facilities in educational institutions of different types, prerequisites for the use of distance education based on pedagogical, informational, telecommunications technologies and is an effective way to ensure human development, social and professional lifelong mobility, successful adaptation to the demands of today's changing world community [3].

According to some studies, in Ukraine, about 30% of educational institutions have stated that they already have or plan to organize distance education. However, most of the time there is a standard correspondence course. How is distance education different from other types of knowledge and profession? First of all, distance education is an open system of learning that involves active communication between teacher and student with the help of modern technologies and multimedia. This form of study gives freedom to choose the place, time and pace of learning [1].

The distant education system has several advantages and greatly expands the potential students. Young people who are unable to combine work-study or who live in areas far from regional centers have the opportunity to receive education remotely; military; housewives; executives; businessmen or students who want to get an education in parallel. Distance learning is suitable for almost everyone, because it allows to harmonize learning and everyday life [1].

Distance education is actively introduced in many countries of the world, so this phenomenon is becoming more widespread and popular.

The first steps of Ukraine to introduce Distance Education and Integration into the European Education Area were the adoption of the following legal acts: Decision of the Board of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine "On the Status and Prospects of Development of Distance Learning in Ukraine" of 23 June 2005; Order of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine of January 21, 2004 No. 40 "On Approval of the Regulations on Distance Learning", Kyiv; Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of September 23, 2003 No. 1494 "On Approval of the Program for Development of the Distance Learning System for 2004–2006", Kyiv; Order of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine of July 7, 2000 No. 293 "On the Establishment of the Ukrainian Center for Distance Education", Kyiv; "The concept of development of distance education in Ukraine" of December 20, 2000.

However, the current state of distance education in Ukraine does not yet meet the global requirements for us to become an equal member of the European and world communities, where millions of citizens are meeting their educational and information needs through telecommunication networks, including the Internet.

The main reason for this state of distance learning in Ukraine is that the implementation of distance learning technologies encounters real difficulties that require targeted funding, joint efforts of national educational institutions and state bodies, coordination of joint actions and regulatory support, which will facilitate acceleration. This process will also reduce the intellectual, material and financial costs of implementing and developing distance learning in general [4].

The development of distance education in Ukraine started much later than in Western European countries and was carried out under conditions of low level of informatization of Ukrainian society, a small amount of computer equipment of Ukrainian schools and lack of specialized methods of distance learning. The

theoretical, practical and social aspects of distance education have not been sufficiently developed in our country.

Today, distance learning in Ukraine can develop fully only in the presence of its main components: the regulatory framework; educational institutions (centers, departments, faculties, institutes or universities of distance learning); student contingent; qualified teachers; training programs and courses; appropriate material and technical base (hardware and software, high-speed communication lines); financial support; quality criterion, etc. [2].

The first steps towards the development of distance learning in Ukraine were made in the late 1990s. In February 1998, the Verkhovna Rada adopted the Law of Ukraine "On the National Program of Informatization", which defines the tasks of informatization of education and determines the directions of their implementation [2].

In 1997, a joint resolution of the Presidium of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and the Collegium of the Ministry of Education of Ukraine established the Association of Users of the Telecommunication Network of Educational and Scientific Institutions of Ukraine with the coordinating "Center for European Integration" in Kyiv, which was subsequently called Ukrainian Science and Education Network " URANUS ".

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