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THE ROLE OF INTERACTIVE EDUCATIONAL PLATFORMS AS A TOOL FOR SOCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL ADAPTATION OF WAR VETERANS

The outbreak of a full-scale war leads to an increase in the number of vulnerable groups, namely war veterans. Today, there are 1.2 million registered veterans in Ukraine, and after the war is over, including family members, their number may increase to 5-6 million [2].

During the full-scale war, unfavorable conditions for the social and professional reintegration of veterans were created directly in the domestic labor market. The war increased the number of unemployed and expanded the shadow labor market in Ukraine, including at the expense of war veterans. According to official statistics, since the beginning of this year, the number of unemployed war veterans has increased by 700 people. At the same time, the number of unemployed war veterans who received services from the State Employment Service in January-September 2023 amounted to 4.2 thousand people, including 4.1 thousand registered as unemployed; 672 employed; 92 attended vocational training; and 71 received a voucher for training. The number of unemployed combatants covered by vocational guidance services in the specified period amounted to 3.5 thousand people [3]. Of course, due to a number of organizational, managerial, and psychological reasons, these statistics do not fully reflect the real situation in the field of employment of war veterans.

After demobilization, it is extremely difficult for soldiers to find a prestigious job and return to their normal lives. For many of them, the solution to this problem is to create and run their own business as a tool for socio-economic adaptation, because an important condition for returning to a full life of a Ukrainian soldier is his self-realization, obtaining a stable economic income and ensuring an appropriate social status in society [4]. This suggests the need for additional measures, namely the use of interactive platforms that will allow war veterans to fully receive qualified training and consulting services to start their own business even from a distance.

Today, the system of higher education institutions has a strong capacity for distance learning based on the use of interactive platforms, but only a few have been documented in the military environment using this educational technology.

Since the beginning of the full-scale Russian war, a very specific social group has been formed that requires constant psychological and socio-economic adaptation. Even at the beginning of hostilities, a great deal of attention was paid to the psychological adaptation of veterans to civilian life; today, assistance in the socio-economic adaptation of war veterans in everyday life has also been added.

In her research, P. Vorona notes that the main thing for veterans today is decent work, which in the vast majority of cases guarantees the success of the social integration process [1].

One way is to develop methods for professional adaptation of war veterans.

According to the focus group research “Reintegration of Veterans in Ukraine: A National Survey” conducted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM, 2022), war veterans noted that they primarily need to improve their knowledge and skills in the field of entrepreneurship. Most of them lack knowledge, especially in the field of business promotion, and need help in identifying areas for starting their own business [4].

In this context, special programs, including educational courses, trainings, and consultations, that would allow war veterans to start their own business seem relevant.

Today, it is common practice to use interactive platforms in the educational process of educational institutions, and it is advisable to apply this practice in the military environment.

An interactive platform is an innovative form of learning that provides participants with online access to digital learning resources. Digital technologies within the system of continuing education allow individualizing the learning process both at the stage of learning new material and at the stage of controlling knowledge and skills. This platform offers high-quality courses and multimedia support.

The creation of an interactive platform for distance learning, retraining, and professional development will allow war veterans to receive information about business opportunities, educational materials, and business news. In addition to online tools and resources, registered users will be able to attend educational events and business development trainings, share experiences and best practices, establish useful contacts, discuss problems and get practical advice on how to improve their business from leading experts.

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