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## **CONVERGENCE OF UKRAINIAN UNIVERSITIES WITH THE EUROPEAN EDUCATION SYSTEM IN THE CONTEXT OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION**

In recent years, the conditions for the functioning of higher education institutions (HEIs) in Ukraine have changed dramatically. This has been the result of the deepening of global and national problems, which have become particularly acute in the context of military aggression. Given Ukraine's chosen course towards European integration, the most important values should be considered to be ensuring the competitiveness (C) of the higher education system (HES) and preserving its potential, taking into account the tasks of post-war recovery and development.

Until recently, concepts of higher education management viewed convergence in the educational sphere from the perspective of convergence of educational processes rather than possible interaction between universities in European countries and Ukraine. This necessitates the development of a strategy for the development of the EHEA, taking into account the possibilities for interaction between Ukrainian and European universities in the context of integration into the EHEA. Under such conditions, the following tasks become priorities: the need to ensure the functioning of universities, to preserve the ability of Ukraine's higher education system to function in conditions of military aggression, and to develop it in the period of post-war recovery. This determines the relevance of the study and necessitates the development of a strategy for the recovery and development of the higher education system, which would include a set of anti-crisis measures taking into account the priorities of Ukraine's national security.

Scientific literature reflects an analysis of the factors and prospects for the development of the education system and the state of national security in the United States in the context of the threats and challenges of the early 21st century [1]. [2] provides a definition of strategic priorities for the development of

education, taking into account the experience of European Union countries. Ukrainian and foreign scientists who have studied the economic potential of universities have identified the following main areas for improving their economic potential: the use of energy-saving technologies and the creation of an energy efficiency system, innovative development and implementation of marketing technologies in the university management system [3], and the application of European Union educational standards, taking into account European integration and globalisation processes in general [4]. In [5], convergence in education is defined as a stabilising factor that promotes the selection of optimal components in the process of implementing long-term educational practices. In [6], the main problems that limit the effectiveness of the educational process in a digital environment in the context of global challenges (in particular, the COVID-19 pandemic) are identified: reliability of internet connection and access to digital resources, difficulties in adapting to the specifics of communication in a digital environment, lack of a convenient online platform for distance learning. In [7], the directions of European educational integration, similarities and differences in the development of pedagogical systems in various European countries are analysed, and the advantages of this process for the development of the EHEA are noted.

The study is based on the hypothesis that, at the current stage of Ukraine's socio-economic development, the social significance of education and science lies in the fact that these areas are intended to create a basis for the development of the nation on an innovative basis, taking into account the needs of both the country as a whole and each individual. In the context of military aggression, the convergence of Ukrainian higher education institutions with the European education system (EES) will ensure the functioning of higher education institutions in conditions of military aggression and development in the period of post-war recovery.

In order to develop an adequate strategy that will reduce potential risks and identify optimal paths for the further development of Ukraine's higher education system, it is necessary to analyse the opportunities and threats of convergence between Ukrainian higher education institutions and European universities. Another factor is the situation that has arisen under the influence of the COVID-19 pandemic and military aggression by the Russian Federation. This requires

changes in the legal, economic, and organisational and management subsystems, creating additional challenges, including organisational and financial ones. On the one hand, resources are needed to develop distance learning technologies, while on the other hand, the potential of higher education institutions is declining due to both a reduction in investment in education during the crisis and a decrease in the population's purchasing power and the number of applicants. At the same time, the chosen course towards European integration, the steps taken in this direction and the reforms open up new opportunities for post-war recovery and development of all sectors of the economy. In order to achieve the goals of post-war recovery, it is advisable to take into account the possibilities of new forms of cooperation between Ukrainian and EU universities, namely convergence, while ensuring the competitiveness of national higher education institutions when developing a strategy for the development of higher education.

The study identified factors and prerequisites for the convergence of Ukrainian and European universities, taking into account the priorities for ensuring the competitiveness of Ukraine's higher education system. Thus, the factors that determine the necessity and possibility of convergence between Ukrainian and foreign universities were identified, with the following distinctions: (1) prerequisites and common features of educational systems that determine the potential for convergence between universities in different countries; (2) socio-economic and political conditions for the functioning of higher education institutions in Ukraine in the context of military aggression and in the post-war period.

Special attention should be paid to elements ensuring the competitiveness and security of Ukraine's civil aviation as a component of national security, the main ones being: improving state policy with a focus on preserving civil aviation as a priority area, supporting its competitiveness in conditions of military aggression, and creating conditions for recovery in the post-war period; the invariance of educational programmes as the basis for the competitive advantages of Ukrainian higher education institutions; the development of democratic institutions in the country, taking into account the needs of different categories of citizens in order to curb external migration; the development of a state migration policy aimed at returning Ukrainian migrants from abroad after

the end of military operations; development by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine of a set of measures aimed at motivating young people to continue their education and return to study at Ukrainian higher education institutions after the end of military operations; social guarantees for citizens who are forced to migrate to safer regions, ensuring opportunities for continuing education; internationalisation of education and its integration into the European and global educational space, cooperation in the field of education at the international level; introduction of modern technologies and teaching methods, implementation of educational innovations, information technologies, etc.

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