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**ON THE QUESTION OF THE THEORETICAL  
AND METHODOLOGICAL BASICS OF ATTRACTING  
STUDENTS TO THE EU-UKRAINE ASSOCIATION  
AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION**

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*The article deals with topical issues of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement implementation. The main focus is on attracting students and youth to the implementation of public European integration policy. Based on the fact that the authors of the article work in Petro Mohyla Black Sea State University, at the heart of future visions regarding the European integration issues solutions is an experience gained by teaching staff in this higher education institution. In this paper we formulated the conclusions, recommendations and proposals for both scientists and politicians, social activists, particularly from young people.*

*The article focuses attention on the problem of attracting the younger generation, especially students and pupils to information and scientific activities of the European integration. This is because: firstly, further progress, development and creation of wealth, peace and security in the society depend on the younger generation all over the world; secondly, the implementation of reforms, not only in the socio-cultural and educational spheres, but also achieving of financial and economic improvements and military changes that will affect the strengthening of the international authority of the Ukrainian state in the conditions of global development depends on conscious participation of young people in the European integration diverse activities.*

**Keywords:** *Ukraine, European integration, The EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, attracting young people to the implementation of European standards.*

**Bahmet M., Kabajewa A.** *W kwestii teoretyczno-metodologicznych podstaw zaangażowania młodzieży studenckiej w implementację porozumienia o stowarzyszeniu Ukrainy z UE*



Petro Mohyla Black Sea State University (Mykolaiv, hereinafter PMBSU) has considerable experience in this sphere. Therefore, authors of this article decided to expand its European integration experience to the entire network of Ukrainian higher education. We believe that these results will contribute to the public and community leaders, domestic and foreign teachers and researchers to get acquainted with the positive European integration practice.

Paying attention to this problem, firstly, helps to overcome inertia and passivity among in considerable segments of youth, forming its political culture and developing active citizenship. Secondly, these developments will accelerate elimination of «information hunger» and blur connected with the presentation of information and analytical material on European integration. They will also help to develop consistency in outlining the ways and implementation stages of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement and Ukrainian prospects in becoming the European Union member state. Thirdly, the active involvement of students in information and analytical research activities and practical implementation of educational programs including in today's world will contribute to the development of students' worldview and their modeling the traits that are characteristic of true European standards.

Probably this is why in the newly created government, headed by Groisman V. B. on April 14, 2016, was introduced the post of Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine for European and Euro-Atlantic integration of Ukraine, and I.O. Klampush-Tsintsadze took this post [1].

The above listed factors and the emergence of new challenges, primarily related to the consequences of the referendum in the Netherlands (April 2016), urgently require consistent finding effective implementation of practical steps in implementing both economic and trade integration policy, as noted in the Association Agreement with the EU, and the political part of it, including the humanitarian sphere, where it comes to young people, education, science and culture [2].

Important in this regard takes attraction of the younger generation, especially students and pupils for information and research activities of European integration. This is because:

1. It is up to the younger generation in all countries of the world depends on further progress, the development and creation of wealth and peace and security in society.

2. From the perceived participation of students and pupils in the diverse eu-rointegrational events really depends the implementation of reforms not only in the socio-cultural and educational spheres, but also achievement of the financial and economic improvements and military changes that impact on strengthening the international authority of the Ukrainian state in global development.

3. Based on the fact that the authors are working in PMBSSU, it is necessary to underline the fact that European integration experience revealed primarily in their both theoretical and practical euro-achievements placed in several books, teaching tips and other sources, methodological advice, workshops [3; 4].

### **Statement of research objectives**

The best evidence of effective activity of PMBSSU representatives is to attract students to the implementation of the five diverse European integration topics, developed for the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine in 2008-2016, as well as the implementation of many activities under the agreement with the European Commission on these problems within six years, two Eastern Europe initiatives congress, of Institute of European and Euro-Atlantic Cooperation, Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Robert Bosch Foundation, the European Academy Berlin, Polish Robert Schuman Foundation, OSCE, EU Delegation in Ukraine, NATO-Ukraine Civic League [5], participation in the development of higher education support program of Open Society Institute (OSI) (Budapest, Hungary), in the realization of the Visegrad Fund for Universities project «Democracy in Transition», project «Political Mechanisms Providing «Green Economy» in Germany: German Experience for Mykolaiv (Ukraine)», grant «Polish experience of system changes – the practical implementations for Ukraine» by the International Solidarity Fund with the participation of the United Nations and the Fund Managerial Initiatives (Lublin, Poland), OSCE project «Assistance in social adaptation of discharged military personnel of the Armed Forces of Ukraine», the «Ukraine-Norway» project, the Ukraine-NATO project «Professional retraining of retired military personnel of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and other security forces, their family members and their employment assistance», which partners where the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the NATO Trust Fund «Partnership for peace», International Foundation for social adaptation, charitable organization «Conversion of military personnel» and so on, as well as the implementation of agreements with the M. S. Hrushevsky Institute of Ukrainian Archaeography and Source Studies, I.F. Kuras Institute of Political and Ethnic Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, as well as a number of agreements with foreign universities and international research organizations and centers [6; 7].

The last projects presentation in 2016 were the preparation of applications to the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation «Horizon-2020» on health problems, the environment protection and well-being improvement, as well as to the program «Erasmus +» in the direction of «Jean Monnet Activities», entitled: «Involvement of Ukrainian students youth to implementation of information and scientific and research public European integration policy in terms of the creation of collective safety» [8].

The problems of European integration of Ukraine is increasingly reflected in the works of many local scientists. Particularly, these issues are highlighted by political scientists, historians, economists, lawyers and other professionals. These scientists as public administration are V. Bakumenko, V. Bashtanyk, T. Bezverhnyuk, O. Vasiliev, I. Hrytsiak, S. Dombrowska, L. Ivashova, A. Kiliyevych, Yu. Kovbasyuk, M. Lahyzha, I. Lopushynskyy, A. Malinowska, V. Martynenko, P. Nadolishniy, L. Prikhodchenko, S. Seregin, S. Teleshun, V. Tertychka, S. Hadzhyradyeva, A. Haletska and others.

Despite the fact that the multi-faceted problems of Ukraine's European integration has been and remains the subject and the object of ongoing research at the same time there is a need to continue scientific research on the designated scientific problem in Ukraine, because outside of research interest are still problems of youth involvement in the implementation of the public policy of European integration.

Based on the article title, the best programmatic vision for the students involvement to the implementation of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU is expedient cover using major European integration priorities specified in the application form submitted to the Erasmus + in «Jean Monnet» [9].

Fruitful achievements have been repeatedly wins and obtain new grants for internships and practical training of students and university teachers in the EU [10], invitations to international forums, conferences and other meetings, where European integration issues were considered [11].

One of the last significant international achievements were the highest achievements in 2014 and 2015 at the IV and V Eastern Europe initiatives congresses (Lublin, Poland), where PMBSSU was 3-winners diplomas on European integration topics [12; 13] and positive approval and receiving honorary awards for quality European integration activities in March 2016 in the city Ternopil during a meeting of representatives of the EU Information Centres with the participation of the EU Delegation to Ukraine, Ambassador Jann Tombinski [14].

Accumulated experience of PMBSSU in attracting students to the implementation of public integration policy was approved during the nationwide video conference by the Chairman of the EU Delegation in Ukraine Ambassador Yan Tombinski in February 2016. Then the discussion of topical issues of European integration was attended besides the PMBSSU representatives, by scientists and students of Bilotserkivskiy National Agrarian University and Simon Kuznets Kharkiv National University of Economics [15]. Quite effective in this regard was the discourse that took place in May 2015, it was youth round table devoted to the Days of Europe in Ukraine, the main theme of the discussion was «European integration portfolio of Petro Mohyla Black Sea State University» [16].

The positive results of this roundtable is the publication of original collection «The students' scientific studios», which includes 17 fundamental articles with young people reflections about the European integration essence and the necessity of activation of diverse steps to accelerate the implementation of the Ukraine – European Union Association Agreement [17].

During diverse European integration activities, writing of new projects the main reservations were justification of necessity of Ukraine contribution strengthening to the system of collective security in terms of hybrid war and account of the unfortunate consequences of the Dutch referendum for Ukraine (April, 2016) [18].

These factors compel the authors to take into account both internal and external aspects of the global challenges and diverse instrumental and statistical measurements, based on the European experience when considering theoretical and methodological foundations of involvement of youth in the implementation of public European integration policy. These moments in the spotlight of the President of Ukraine P. Poroshenko, the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine – A. Parubii and the Prime Minister Ukraine V. Groisman [18; 19].

### **Research results**

Based on the fact, that European standards and values became an important achievement not only in Europe, but all mankind, the authors expressed working hypothesis, based on the assumption that Ukrainian focus on large-scale implementation of European experience will improve the socio-economic condition, democratic political and legal framework and standards, enhance effectiveness in the fight against corruption.

Article materials and obtained scientific results regarding the further development of theoretical and methodological foundations have both scientific and applied significance.

It is worth to pay attention of all experts, involved in the Ukrainian public discourse regarding European integration policy, to that now it is not about Ukraine's accession to the European Union, but only Association concerning, primarily, economy and trade. The issue of the humanitarian sphere will be solved in the next stage of European integration. But it doesn't mean that problems of structural and functional models of formation and realization of complex public European integration policy under new conditions aren't topical. Therefore, it is important to involve students, future members of the new generation in various social areas for the implementation of the Ukraine – European Union Association Agreement.

Secondly, proposed generalized visions that supplement current integration course can contribute to further European integration achievements both in PMBSSU and other educational institutions.

We believe that delineation of new guidelines of European integration, effective long-term goals and objectives will be based on the study of public opinion regarding the attitude of citizens of Ukraine to the implementation of the Association Agreement.

The method of such monitoring is contained in the workshop prepared by the PMBSSU titled «Sociological research of European integration problems and European studios in Ukraine» [20].

We hope that the implementation of European integration vectors adjustments, the introduction of specific tools and mechanisms can play a special role, acquaintance of heads of state, communal and private organizations to sociological research, the organization in carrying which can participate students. And the best advisers, how to attract students to the implementation monitoring, should be the social scientists, who work in all universities. For this it is necessary to establish in every school special courses and techniques. This will be an upgrade in the active involvement of young people for the implementation of informational-research activity of European integration. PMBSSU is the flagship of European integration activities, and plans to expand the front of the work. A clear indicator is the 3-year modernization plan to encourage students to implementation of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU.

For example, plans for 2017:

1. Scientific-practical conference on the aforementioned topics important task is to declaration of intent on the establishment of the Union of academics and students of Ukraine.

2. The workshop - where will be presented and discussed the intentions of the organizers of the project for the Jean Monnet program with well-known domestic and foreign scientists, politicians and public officials, civil society activists and students.

3. Sessions of debatable club to discuss scientific books and methodic recommendations prepared by professors of PMBSSU on European integration issues.

4. The discourse on European integration issues, which will be organized within the framework of scientific and methodological annual conference «Mohyla's readings – 2017».

5. Scientific bus trip to Lublin to attend the VI Congress of the Eastern Europe initiatives.

In 2018 are planned such activities:

1. Workshop for PMBSSU students with the purpose to acquire the skills and employability of young professionals.

2. Training in PMBSSU with the purpose to acquaint experience of the EU countries to implement professional development and employment of young specialists and the acquisition of skills by the participants of the event, in case of their own employment and business.

3. Youth scientific conference, dedicated to the implementation of the Jean Monnet program on such topic: «Involvement of Ukrainian students youth to implementation of information and scientific and research public European integration policy in terms of the creation of collective safety». Representatives from different Ukrainian universities, where there're cells of the Association for European Studies and clubs, Jean Monnet Chairs, as well as the EU information centers will be invited to participate in the conference.

4. Departure youth from south region of Ukraine to the city of Lublin in order to take part in plenary session of the VII Eastern Europe initiative congress and conducting youth scientific conference in Lublin Maria Curie-Skłodowska University on «The participation of Ukrainian and Polish youth in the implementation of public integration policy».

5. Discussion workshop in English called «The study public opinion on the problems of implementing public policy of European integration in Ukraine» and presentation of prepared methodological advice. The event is scheduled to take place in Kherson State University with the participation of representatives of the Kherson Economics and Law Institute.

6. Presentation of the monograph (authors Bagmet M.O., Palahniuk Y.V., Shevchuk O.V.) in the scientific library of the University on European integration issues.

In 2019 are planned such activities:

1. Conducting youth symposium dedicated to the results of attracting young people to the European integration activities.

2. The results of the symposium will be reflected in TV news, specialized issue of «Visnyk» and printing articles in scientific collections and youth journal «Students' scientific studies» of PMBSSU.

3. Organization of departure to the Technical University of Varna for participation in the youth round table on the topic: «The role of the Bulgarian and Ukrainian students in the implementation of European integration programs in their countries» [9].



## **Conclusions**

We believe that the implementation of these planned activities and intentions will enrich the experience not only of representatives of PMBSSU but encourage teaching and research staff, students and pupils from the entire Ukraine in performing new advances in implementation of Association Agreement with the EU in various fields social life.

We hope that the above generalizations, suggestions and recommendations based on own experience, certainly will cause interest both scientists and practitioners in different regions of Ukraine and promote the emergence of further scientific studies and will result in activation of youth in various educational institutions in the case of implementation of the Association Agreement with the EU. This will impact on improving the process of political socialization and enhance the maturity of young people and promote the formation of patriotism in work of numerous youth organizations, and will be an important tool in the creation of new European integration projects and programs.

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