

EXPERIENCE AND PROBLEM ASPECTS OF IMPLEMENTING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN ENGLISH AT SUKHOI STATE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF GOMEL

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Abstract. The article presents the experience of organizing the training of foreign citizens in English at the Educational Institution “Gomel State Technical University named after P. O. Sukhoi”. On the example of economic specialties of bachelor’s and master’s programs, the authors reveal the problematic aspects of the implementation of educational programs, taking into account the characteristics of the student’s contingent and the national educational environment.

Keywords: export of educational services, educational programs, magistracy, training of foreign citizens, teaching in English.

ОПЫТ И ПРОБЛЕМНЫЕ АСПЕКТЫ РЕАЛИЗАЦИИ ОБРАЗОВАТЕЛЬНЫХ ПРОГРАММ НА АНГЛИЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ В ГОМЕЛЬСКОМ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОМ ТЕХНИЧЕСКОМ УНИВЕРСИТЕТЕ ИМЕНИ П. О. СУХОГО

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Аннотация. В тезисах представлен опыт организации обучения иностранных граждан на английском языке в учреждении образования «Гомельский государственный технический университет имени П. О. Сухого». На примере экономических специальностей бакалавриата и магистратуры авторами раскрыты проблемные аспекты внедрения образовательных программ с учетом особенностей контингента студентов и национальной образовательной среды.

Ключевые слова: экспорт образовательных услуг, образовательные программы, магистратура, обучение иностранных граждан, преподавание на английском языке.

Improving the competitiveness of the national economy of the Republic of Belarus, deepening its integration into the world community is an important task facing the state. One of the effective ways to solve it is to increase the scale of exports. Today, this task is being solved not only by enterprises and organiza-

tions of various sectors of the economy, but also by educational institutions based on the internationalization and diversification of educational services, expanding their participation in the international educational space, and organizing training for foreign citizens not only in Russian, but also in English. Thus, the educational institution “Sukhoi State Technical University of Gomel” offers educational programs in English at the first and second stages of higher education in a number of specialties in demand in foreign markets. Traditionally relevant among foreign citizens are economic specialties, training in which allows students to obtain the necessary organizational and managerial competencies, which are then used with success by graduates in the national business environment.

Today, for many young people, overcoming geographic boundaries for the purpose of getting an education is becoming an actual trend, as it allows them to develop intercultural communication skills, accept and respect new rules, ethical and moral norms and values. The study of the factors of competitiveness of educational services in the training of future economists showed that among the most important reasons for the choice of these educational programs by foreign citizens are the following:

- a high level of quality of education and attractive content of the curriculum;
- price competitive advantages of educational programs in comparison with leading European universities;
- ensuring the necessary level of security in the country, the tolerance of Belarusians to representatives of other nationalities and cultures.

Today, the contingent of foreign students at the Faculty of Humanities and Economics of the University is represented by citizens of Azerbaijan, China, Congo, Nigeria, Cameroon and Ghana. In addition, among the graduates of the master’s program in the specialty “Economics” are citizens of Pakistan and India. Despite the considerable experience in teaching foreign citizens (mainly from Turkmenistan), the implementation of English-language educational programs at the first and second

stages of higher education is a relatively new direction, the success of which requires significant efforts in organizing and coordinating the activities of teachers and structural divisions of the university, developing an appropriate educational program documentation, methodological support, as well as flexibility in the personnel management system. Taking into account the existing experience, we have summed up the preliminary results and identified the most important problematic aspects in the organization of teaching foreign students in English.

Practice has shown that among the most important is the problem of adaptation of foreign students to the conditions of study at the university, to a new organization of life for them. Despite the experience of studying in schools that all students have, the requirement to comply with academic discipline and follow a strict schedule of studies does not find the necessary understanding and requires additional adjustments in the organization of the educational process. In addition, special attention has to be paid to the social and psychological adaptation of students from African countries in their interaction with Belarusian students. According to our observations, cases of absolute "inclusion" of foreigners in the Belarusian student environment are extremely rare. For African students, the leading principle of social interaction is community and religious identity. This is due, first of all, to the mental characteristics of Africans, psychological aspects, peculiarities of behavior and interaction with "us" and "them". Thus, taking into account the above, as well as the existing language barrier, establishing interaction between foreign students and Belarusians is quite difficult [1, p. 83].

Another aspect that requires special attention when organizing teaching in English is the actual level of English proficiency of both teachers and students. For the teaching staff, this problem is solved by organizing systematic training in short-term foreign language courses. Students from Ghana and Nigeria, as well as some students from "French-speaking" African countries, have no difficulty in understanding the educational material, at the same time, there were cases when students from the Congo

and Cameroon asked to organize additional classes in English, which required the administration of the faculty making appropriate changes to the curricula of the specialty.

In our opinion, it is also significant that the level of basic training in some school disciplines among students from different African countries is not identical. The reason for this is the structure of school educational programs and their certain specialization for school graduates. Thus, some students from Nigeria faced the problem of insufficient knowledge in mathematics to study the discipline "Higher Mathematics" due to the fact that in the senior classes of the college they chose an economic specialization, the educational program of which does not involve the study of mathematics at the "Advanced" level, their knowledge is limited to that established in the country "General" level. The solution of this problem in the conditions of the educational program we offer required the efforts of students in studying additional material, as well as management decisions aimed at organizing consultations and checking the level of knowledge.

In the process of scientific consulting in the preparation of master's theses in the specialty "Economics", in some cases, additional measures were taken to develop research skills among foreign students. When teaching Belarusian students, the problem of their misunderstanding of the essence and content of research activities, the requirements for master's theses, as a rule, does not arise, since such undergraduates already have experience in performing scientific research and participating in the activities of student research communities. If a foreign undergraduate shows interest in researching economic phenomena occurring in his home country, sometimes there may be a problem with the availability and sufficiency of the initial data necessary for writing an analytical section. As practice has shown, a number of African countries, for example, Congo and Cameroon, do not publish their statistical reports in the public domain, this factor also has to be taken into account when preparing master's theses.

In general, it should be noted that the organization of education in English in the economic profile has become a significant factor in increasing the competitiveness of the university's educational services in foreign markets, ensuring prestige, personal and professional development of teachers, as well as strengthening financial incentives to continue working in the national higher education system.

Список источников

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