



BSUIR EXPERIENCE AND PROSPECTS IN PROVIDING DISTANCE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS

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Abstract. The article discusses the legislative and methodological foundations of organizing distance education of IT students from foreign countries in BSUIR. Approaches have been developed for the intensive teaching methods based on the introduction of modern ICT.

The modern information society is characterized by the increasing using of information and communication technologies (ICT) as means of increasing the effectiveness of professional and educational activities.

Of particular importance in the modern information society of mass global communication is the informatization of education, considered as a purposefully organized process of providing the education sector with the pedagogical, educational, methodological and software developments aimed at realizing the potential of information and communication technologies [1]. The concept of the formation and development of education system in the Republic of Belarus defines as one of the main directions of improving the educational process precisely the wide use of intensive teaching methods based on the introduction of modern ICT. The quality of teaching materials provided on various media platforms, the ability to quickly access information resources and knowledge bases come to the fore.

The program documents of the Republic of Belarus focus on the modernization of the education system through the wide use of ICT. One of the directions is the introduction and development of distance education technologies both for obtaining a “full-fledged” education in distance form, and in the implementation of educational programs in other forms.

The emphasis is done on improving the quality of educational services and providing access to various educational services to those people who were previously unavailable (for many people suffering from severe physical ailments, it is the distance learning method that is the only possible one).

The distance education has been tested in the Republic of Belarus in practice: over ten Belarusian educational institutions offer this form of education. BSUIR was one of the earliest adopters of distance learning technology in Belarus, the usage of DET is regulated by local normative legal acts.

One of the promising directions of development of the education system of the Republic of Belarus is integration into the global educational space. The government of our country, like many other countries, is making efforts to promote its position in the global educational services market. Taking into account the important consequence of the internationalization of higher education - the formation of an international market – different educational programs and services are

being developed in Belarus to attract foreign students. For many developed countries, educational services in the field of higher education are a separate source of income. For example, in the USA, foreign students make up 3.49% of all university students and annually spend about \$ 11 billion on tuition and living expenses.

Thereby, the study of international best practices of USA and developed countries of Western Europe in the formation of educational services markets is of particular interest. The creation and development of a successfully functioning system of international education, attracting a significant number of foreign students is not only one of the opportunities to increase the country’s budget, but also a way to promote its policy, culture, economy, lifestyle in the student’s homeland.

In Belarus according to the Article 97 of the Code of Belarus on Education and Decree of the Ministry of Education No. 251 of 1.09.2011 the List of educational institutions – the base for experimental and innovative activities in the field of education was adopted [2]. BSUIR was added to this list for the implementation of the pilot project “Testing the distance learning form of foreign citizens in IT specialties as part of the transformation of the BSUIR into a Digital University” [3].

Summing up, we can conclude that for the successful implementation of the project, it is necessary to analyze the existing curricula of the specialties taught in English for full-time education, and the ESM of individual disciplines taught by the FINO BSUIR in distance and mixed forms of training.

References

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