Development of educational policy in Ukraine in the context of European integration and digital transformation

Desarrollo de la política educativa en Ucrania en el contexto de la integración europea y la transformación digital

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Abstract

The purpose of the article is to study the peculiarities of the application of digitalization of education in Ukraine under the influence of European integration. The task of the article can be divided into two stages: the study of the impact of European integration on the reform of the educational sphere in Ukraine; the search for an effective model for the implementation of elements of digitalization of the educational process Methodological basis for the study were scientific and pedagogical methods. The results of the study highlight the elements of digitalization of education, capable in their totality to provide full and high-quality training of future specialists in the environment of the university. The

authors of the article give important positive and negative features of the implementation of digitalization of the educational process. Thus, the digitalization of the educational process is an important step to bring the Ukrainian educational space to the standards of the European Union, which is an important part of the national policy of European integration.

Keywords: modern education, digital education, distance learning, digital didactics, vocational training, European integration.

Resumen

El propósito del artículo es estudiar las peculiaridades de la aplicación de la digitalización de la educación en Ucrania bajo la influencia de la integración europea. La tarea del artículo se puede dividir en dos etapas: el estudio del impacto de la integración europea en la reforma de la esfera educativa en Ucrania; la búsqueda de un modelo eficaz para la aplicación de los elementos de digitalización del proceso educativo La base metodológica del estudio fueron los métodos científicos y pedagógicos. Los resultados del estudio destacan los elementos de digitalización de la educación, capaces en su totalidad de proporcionar una formación completa y de alta calidad de los futuros especialistas en el entorno de la universidad. Los autores del artículo dan importantes características positivas y negativas de la aplicación de la digitalización del proceso educativo. Por lo tanto, la digitalización del proceso educativo es un paso importante para llevar el espacio educativo ucraniano a los estándares de la Unión Europea, que es una parte importante de la política nacional de integración europea.

Palabras clave: educación moderna, educación digital, enseñanza a distancia, didáctica digital, formación profesional, integración europea.

1. Introduction

In the current context of European integration and digital transformation, the educational policy of Ukraine is in a state of constant development and change. The main directions of education reform are determined by the needs and requirements of the modern world, as well as the influence of international standards and recommendations. One of the key challenges facing the educational system of Ukraine is the need to adapt to the requirements of the digital era. The development of information technology and its impact on society has created the need for a new model of education, which should take into account the specifics of digital transformation as a whole. Accordingly, the educational policy of Ukraine should be aimed at the development of innovative education, which will provide high-quality training and meet the requirements of the international labor market (Tsekhmister, 2022).

Another important aspect to be considered in the context of the development of Ukrainian educational policy is the European integration process. Obtaining by Ukraine the candidate status for membership in the European Union was a significant step in the development of the country, but it also provides for the corresponding obligations to harmonize educational standards and achieve European norms and values in the field of education. To this end, national education development strategies aimed at meeting European standards and national needs are being developed and implemented (Sanetra & Małodobry, 2022).

The process of European integration offers great opportunities for the development of education in Ukraine, in particular increasing the availability and quality of education, introduction of the latest pedagogical technologies and methods, ensuring the internationalization of higher education, creating conditions for the development of research activities and ensuring the mobility of teachers and students. However, the implementation of these tasks requires not only political will but also the attraction of sufficient financial resources. Given that budget expenditures on education in Ukraine do not reach the established European standards, the government policy should be aimed at increasing investment in education (Yatsenko, 2022).

In the process of European integration, it is important to take into account the cultural characteristics of Ukraine and ensure the development of an inclusive educational process. The development of intercultural competence among pupils and students is an important factor in the implementation of international cooperation in education (Tsekhmister et al., 2021).

Thus, the reform of educational policy in Ukraine in the context of European integration and digital transformation is the most important task, which involves not only adapting to new requirements but also to ensure the sustainable development of society. For success, it is necessary to take into account the best pedagogical practices, innovative approaches, and international experience. It is necessary to provide financial and organizational support from the government and international organizations, the involvement of experts from EU member states, and the exchange of experience with other countries.

2. Literature review

Maiatina, Lysenko, and Dmytriienko (2021) pay considerable attention to the peculiarities of distance education development. The article reflects on the impact of European integration and digital transformation on the development of the educational system of Ukraine and describes the main directions of its reform. The study Reinoso (2022) considers the impact of European integration processes on the reform of education. The author analyzes the state and dynamics of the development of the educational system of Ukraine in the context of European standards and describes the innovative processes taking place in education under the conditions of European integration. An important study in the field of reforming Ukrainian education is the work of Shparyk (2022). In the article, the author describes the current state of the educational system, its problems, and challenges, and reflects on the impact of European integration and digital transformation on the development of education in Ukraine. Holovko and Vodolaskova (2022) reflect the peculiarities of relations between Ukraine and the European Union. In the article, the authors describe technologies used in education under conditions of European integration, as well as examine the advantages and disadvantages of their use. Cano and Lomibao (2022) reflect the peculiarities of the influence of the European Union requirements on the process of digitalization of education. In the study, the authors highlight the impact of digital transformation on the educational process, describe the main directions of digital transformation in education and their advantages and disadvantages.

Summarizing the results, we can conclude that the development of educational policy in Ukraine in the context of European integration and digital transformation is an urgent problem, which draws the attention of a significant number of researchers. Studies show that the Ukrainian

educational system needs to be reformed and modernized, in particular, the introduction of innovative technologies and digital transformation. The introduction of new approaches to education in the context of European standards and the use of innovative technologies can help improve the quality of education and prepare competent specialists for the modern labor market.

Despite the significant progress in the development of Ukrainian educational policy in the context of European integration and digital transformation, there are unresolved issues that remain relevant. One of these issues is the lack of funding for the implementation of the program of modernization of education and the introduction of new technologies in the educational process. In addition, there is a need for a broader information campaign aimed at the popularization of new educational technologies and their introduction into the educational process. Also, issues related to the implementation of new educational standards and their adaptation to the requirements of the European level of education remain uncovered. To achieve this goal it is necessary to work systematically on strengthening the human resources capacity of teachers, updating textbooks, and training programs. In addition, it is necessary to consider issues of compliance of changes in the educational system with the needs of the modern labor market, as well as ensuring the quality of education at all levels. Solving these issues will help to improve the quality of education and prepare competent specialists for the modern labor market.

3. Aims

The aim of the article is to investigate and evaluate the development of education policy under the conditions of European integration and digital transformation. In addition, it aims to identify problems and unresolved issues in this area and suggest ways to solve them. The main purpose is to put forward recommendations to improve the educational system in Ukraine in the context of European standards and requirements for digital transformation.

4. Materials and methods

This article deals with the development of educational policy under the conditions of European integration and digital transformation, so the methodology of the study includes the analysis of scientific research, legal and regulatory acts, statistical data, and expert evaluations.

In the process of conducting the study, the method of scientific research analysis was used. For this purpose, a search and analysis of scientific publications concerning the development of education in Ukraine and the European Union member states was carried out. More than 20 scientific studies and publications covering the period from 2020 to the present day were analyzed. The studies were evaluated based on their relevance, methodology, and scientific novelty.

The method of analysis of legislative and normative acts regulating educational policy in Ukraine was used to study the normative-legal field. Regulatory documents concerning the implementation of European standards in educational institutions were analyzed, in particular, documents of the European Union and programs of European cooperation in the field of education.

Thus, the research methods used in this article allowed for a comprehensive analysis of the state and prospects of education development in Ukraine under the conditions of European integration and digital transformation. The analysis of scientific research allowed to highlight the current problems and trends of education development in Ukraine and Europe. Analysis of normative and legal acts allowed to determine the role and place of Ukraine in the European education system, as well as to describe the main directions of educational policy aimed at improving the quality of education and its integration with European standards. The obtained results of the study may be useful for elaboration of the strategy of education development in Ukraine, which meets the requirements of European standards and will contribute to the integration of Ukraine into the European educational space.

The organization of the study was carried out in several stages. At the first stage, the analysis of scientific and methodological literature on the topic of research, the study of the Ukrainian and EU experience, the identification of conditions for the implementation of digitalization in the educational field, the definition of directions, methods of research. At the second stage, the existing models of digitalization of education were studied. Organizational and pedagogical conditions, criteria, and indicators of the effectiveness of the digitalization of education were determined. In the third stage, processing and analysis of the results were carried out. Conclusions on the results of the study were made.

5. Results

Education policy is one of the most important components of any country's development. Ukraine is no exception, and its educational system has experienced a number of changes and transformations in recent years. These changes are associated with the process of European integration and digital transformation, which affect the entire range of educational services, from preschool to higher education.

European integration is of great importance for the educational system of Ukraine. Accession to the European Union obliges the country to comply with a number of requirements and standards concerning various aspects of education. One of the most important requirements is the creation of an appropriate legal framework for the regulation of the educational sphere that meets European standards and principles (Ovcharuk et al., 2022).

One of the most important initiatives aimed at the European integration of the Ukrainian education system is the Bologna process. It involves the creation of a common European Higher Education Area and ensuring its compliance with high-quality standards. The Bologna Process has caused a change in the system of higher education in Ukraine, in particular the introduction of a three-cycle system, including bachelor, master, and doctoral studies (Sychenko & Lukashuk, 2022).

The second important aspect of the European integration and transformation of education in Ukraine is the introduction of new digital technologies in the educational process. This is due to the development of information technology and the spread of Internet access. Digital technologies allow not only to improve the quality of education but also create new opportunities for the development of the individual abilities of students. Table 1 shows the features of the process of digitalization of education.

Table 1.

Disadvantages and advantages of digital education

Features	Advantages	Disadvantages
Use of electronic textbooks and teaching materials	Providing access to training information at any time and from any location; the ability to update materials quickly and efficiently	Inability to interact in real-time, as is possible with conventional textbooks; high dependence on technology
Using video lessons and webinars	the ability to access training from any location with Internet access; the ability to repeat the material at any time	Inability to interact interactively between student and teacher; possibility of technical failures that can reduce the quality of learning
Using software for training	The ability to customize training for each student; the ability to interact with the program in real-time	Requires a long time to prepare and fine-tune the software; may lead to technical failures
Using mobile apps for learning	The ability to access training from any location with a mobile device; the ability to repeat material at any time	Limited opportunity for student-teacher interaction; inability to interact with students
Use of video conferencing	Ability to hold classes and meetings remotely; saves time and money on travel; convenient for teachers and students with disabilities	Need for stable and fast Internet connection; possible communication and sound quality problems
Use of electronic textbooks and teaching materials	More accessible and cost-effective alternative to paper versions; ability to update materials quickly and easily; convenient for students, workers, and learners	Need for specialized software and equipment, possible interruptions in access to materials
Using email and messengers to communicate	Speed and ease of communication, ability to resolve problems and issues in a short amount of time, convenience for staff and students not on campus	Missing important messages, delayed responses, misunderstandings

Source: Authors' development.

Digital technologies in education can be used to improve the quality of education and increase the availability of educational services. One of the main features of the digitalization of education is its accessibility. Digital technologies make learning more accessible to people from different regions and social groups. One of the most important features of the digitalization of education is flexibility. Digital technology makes it possible to learn anywhere and anytime. This is especially important for people who have limited time to study or cannot physically attend classes. Another important feature of the digitalization of education is its interactivity. Digital technologies allow creating conditions for active interaction between students and teachers. This ensures a deeper learning experience (Catalano, Torff & Anderson, 2021).

In order to ensure a successful digital transformation of education, a holistic approach to the use of digital technology must be considered. The most important components of this approach are the professional development of educators and the creation of a supportive environment for their work.

The main goal of the digitalization of education is to improve the quality of learning and the development of innovative competence of students. Digital technologies can be used to create new learning materials that provide a more effective learning experience, as well as for individualization of learning, which allows the teacher to consider the personal needs of each student. The use of digital technology also promotes critical thinking, creativity, and communication skills (Zhuravel et al., 2022).

In addition, digital transformation can facilitate the organization of teachers' work and the management of the educational institution as a whole. The use of specialized software to automate lesson planning, journaling, and reporting, as well as interaction with students' parents, can free up time for creative work and innovation. However, it is clear that the implementation of digital technology in education requires significant costs, both financial and labor. In addition, for a successful digital transformation, it is necessary to solve many other problems related to infrastructure, availability of software, etc. (Kulinich et al., 2022).

One of the most common pedagogical technologies is the use of interactive whiteboards in the learning process. They allow the teacher to lead the lesson effectively, provide more opportunities for students to collaborate and activate their activities. Interactive whiteboards allow the teacher to use different types of materials, videos, and interactive tasks, which provides a wider range of opportunities for learning.

Another increasingly popular technology is the use of online platforms and learning portals to implement distance learning. This is especially relevant in today's environment where many are forced to work remotely because of the COVID-19 pandemic and widespread invasion. With such technologies, teachers can provide students with the ability to learn from anywhere with Internet access (Safonov, Usyk & Bazhenkov, 2022).

The study found that the use of digital technology in education can help improve the quality of learning and the overall effectiveness of the educational process. Digital transformation of education can help to create new forms and methods of learning that are more effective in engaging students in the learning process and increasing their motivation.

One of the positive aspects of using digital technologies in education is the possibility of individualization of learning. With the help of various electronic learning tools, students can learn at their own pace and repeat the material if necessary. This is especially useful for students with different learning styles and individual needs (Morska & Davydova, 2021).

A second positive aspect is the convenience and accessibility of learning materials. Digitally, learning materials can be accessed from any device with an Internet connection, allowing students to learn from any location and at any time. In addition, digital technology allows for more interactive and meaningful materials that are more conducive to memorization. However,

unfortunately, not all schools and colleges in Ukraine have the necessary technical basis for the use of digital technology in education. Also, there are certain difficulties in mastering digital technology by teachers, which may hinder the effective use of digitalization tools.

6. Discussion

The study found that the processes of European integration have a significant impact on the improvement of the educational system in Ukraine. As noted in Asaturov and Martynov (2022), one important aspect of European integration is the creation of national qualifications frameworks and their integration into the global qualifications system. This allows students to acquire knowledge and skills that meet the requirements of the international labor market and ensures the competitiveness of Ukrainian university graduates in the international market.

According to the results of research, it was found that the digital transformation in education allows for more effective and convenient communication between students, teachers, and the administration of the university. The authors of the article Morska and Davydova (2021) point out that electronic means of organizing the educational process make it possible to reduce dependence on geographic location and provide access to quality education for a wide audience.

However, it is necessary to keep in mind the disadvantages of implementing digital technologies in the educational process. For example, Hasiuk, Darmanska, Mykhaskova, Pistska, and Suhovirskyi (2022) point out that the lack of necessary infrastructure and technical support can complicate access to online learning for certain groups, such as people with disabilities or residents of remote areas.

In addition, it is important to consider the findings of Pidorycheva's (2022) article, which points out possible disadvantages of the digital transformation of education. One of the problematic issues is the potential social isolation and lack of personal communication among students, which can have a negative impact on social and emotional development.

Another important aspect is the role of teachers in the digital age. Tsaryk and Sokol (2022) noted that while technology can enhance and facilitate learning, it cannot replace the important role that teachers play in the educational process. It is important to ensure that teachers are properly trained and equipped to use digital learning tools and that they are further supported and developed.

Consequently, in the context of European integration and digital transformation, the development of education policy in Ukraine becomes an important and urgent task. Scientific research and practical experience show that digital technologies can improve learning, provide access to education and make it more effective. In general, the use of digital technologies in education is an important area of development but requires careful analysis and the development of effective strategies for their implementation.

7. Conclusions

To summarize, the following conclusions can be made. First of all, European integration and digital transformation are powerful challenges for the education system of Ukraine, requiring an effective response and adaptation to new requirements. For this purpose, it is necessary to create a system that contributes to the quality of education, the formation of individuals capable of working in a globalized environment, providing access to education and equal opportunities for the development of each child. According to the results of the analysis of literature and research methods, it can be argued that important factors in the successful development of education interaction between the participants of the educational process, the use of the latest technologies and innovative approaches, as well as learning based on a competence-based approach. It should be noted that the introduction of digital technology in the educational process has both advantages and disadvantages. The advantages are the availability and wide dissemination of information, the possibility of individualization and personalization of training, improving the quality of education. However, the disadvantages include the need for highly qualified teachers and the complexity of the organization of distance learning. Ultimately, it can be argued that the development of educational policy in Ukraine in the context of European integration and digital transformation is an important task, which requires cooperation between the government, scientific and pedagogical institutions, business and the public.

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