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Good academic practices of Ukrainian universities

Ülle Must¹, Stella Shapoval²

¹Archimedes Foundation, Estonia

²Directorate for International Cooperation of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, Ukraine

Ukraine has been a full member of the Bologna Process since 2005 which aims to harmonize various systems of European higher education, including academic integrity which is declared to be a fundamental value together with academic freedom in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). The so-called Revolution of Dignity in 2014 gave a real impetus to the practical introduction of ethical values in higher educational institutions.

The question undoubtedly arises - how have Ukrainian higher education institutions coped with the effects of the war which started in 2014 and escalated into full-scale war on February 24, 2022? What is the impact of the war on Ukrainian universities in their efforts to establish ethics and academic integrity practices at their universities?

Analysis of legislation, literature and documents from this period shows continuous development, which is also confirmed by the results of the research conducted.

In September, 2017, the Law of Ukraine "On Education" entered into force, which introduced and formalized the types of violations of academic integrity (academic plagiarism, self-plagiarism, fabrication, falsification, writing off, deception, bribery, biased assessment), the formation of concepts of academic ethics is enshrined in the laws of Ukraine "On Higher Education", "On Copyright and Related Rights" and "The Law of Ukraine on Academic Integrity". The adoption of Code of Ethics (under different headings – Code of Academic Integrity, Code of Ethics, Code of Honour and Corporate Ethics, Code of Professional Ethics and Conduct, even Corporate Ethics, etc.) at universities started mainly in 2017. In parallel, joint projects began, supported by different donors (American Councils for International Education, British Council, and European Commission). The most large-scale of which were: a) Strengthening Academic Integrity in Ukraine, SAIUP (2016-2019), b) The Academic Integrity and Quality Initiative, Academic IQ (2020-2022). c) Ukraine Higher Education Leadership Development Programme (2016-2019); d) False Records, Altered Diploma and Diploma Mills Qualifications Collection, FraudS+ (2020-2022), and e) Open Practices, Transparency and Integrity for Modern Academia, OPTIMA (2021-2025). When comparing the results of different projects, we can confirm that, above all, general awareness and understanding of academic honesty has increased in Ukraine. It seems that the war has even put pressure on it – there are no other alternatives but to integrate with the European educational space.

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