

SPECIFICS OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF A HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION UNDER CONDITIONS OF UNCERTAINTY

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In the modern world an international activity of any state is one of the major and priority directions of development and modernization of all aspects of social life. Organization and development of international cooperation is currently one of the main areas of the higher education system development plan of the Donetsk People's Republic.

Higher educational institutions are considered as a strategically important part of expanding the educational space, research activities, and strengthening international cooperation. The role of their international cooperation is being increased, mainly due to the active participation of educational institutions in various international research projects. The directions of international cooperation of a higher educational institution are presented in Figure 1.

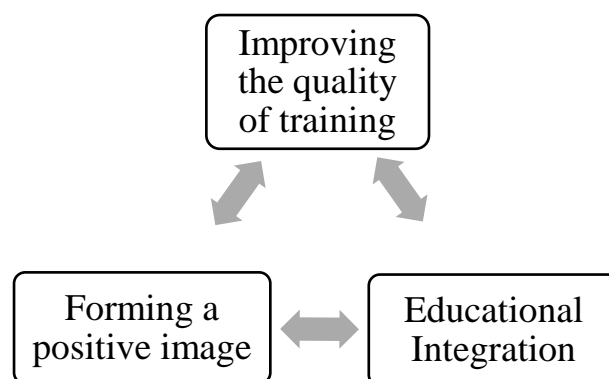


Fig. 1. Areas of international cooperation of a higher educational institution

International activities in higher educational institutions are carried out directly by departments of international relations or by departments which are represented by qualified teachers and specialists. Directions of activity of international relations departments are:

- searching and establishing links, developing and maintaining relations with higher educational institutions outside the DPR;

- facilitating the exchange of students and teaching staff with a full granting them conditions for the deepening of a number of theoretical and practical knowledge;

- joint-work with international funds, with student and cultural organizations;

- providing structural divisions and departments of educational establishments with information connected with international cooperation;

- exchange of views and international experience related to the teaching process;

- assistance in the process of obtaining international accreditation by a higher educational institution in order to increase the competitiveness of diplomas;

- coordination and monitoring of the implementation and development of international contacts within the framework of structural units of the establishments;

- development of relations with the diplomatic missions of other countries.

One of the basic directions of the international activity of the DPR higher educational institutions is to establish and maintain mutually beneficial relations in the framework of international cooperation agreements. In addition, the increase in the number of international contacts, improving their efficiency and direct support to the development of international practice are the direct aim of any international relations department.

Since the formation of the Donetsk People's Republic, higher educational institutions have concluded a large number of contracts, agreements and memoranda about international cooperation with higher educational establishments of the Russian Federation, South Ossetia, Abkhazia, the Republic of Belarus and the Lugansk

People's Republic, etc., that improves the competitiveness of the Republic and its educational establishments at both the national and international level.

Strategically important regions connected with positioning in the market of educational services and the development of the international activities of the DPR are illustrated in Figure 2.

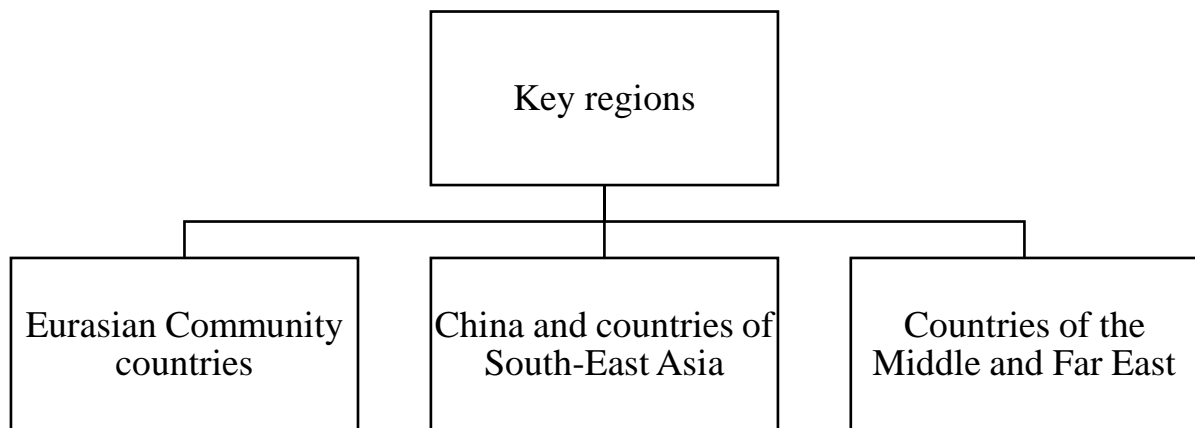


Fig. 2. Strategically important regions

Therefore, the basic forms of building up import and export of educational services provided by the higher educational institutions of the DPR under the conditions of uncertainty are the following:

- offering international educational space of various forms of higher education: pre-university education, postgraduate education, retraining, skills upgrading and training for foreign countries;
- development and implementation of fundamentally new specialties which are in demand on the international market, taking into account current economic trends;
- providing flexible programs of master training on the basis of the development of individual learning plans, training of foreign nationals;
- improving educational standards, taking into account cultural characteristics of foreign learners;
- introduction of innovative methods of teaching the Russian language;
- retraining of the existing teaching staff, that is involved in the process of foreign nationals training;
- introduction of a dual education system in foreign programs;

– implementation of the action program for obtaining Russian accreditation of the higher educational institutions of the DPR in an accelerated mode, in order to attract foreign citizens and increase the competitiveness of republican educational institutions abroad;

– integrated promotion of cultural adaptation of foreign students to the conditions of studying and living in the Donetsk People's Republic, with programs to optimize the conditions of their stay and leisure activities.

Current agreements between higher educational institutions of the DPR and foreign universities suggest the implementation of direct international cooperation in different areas which are illustrated in Figure 3.

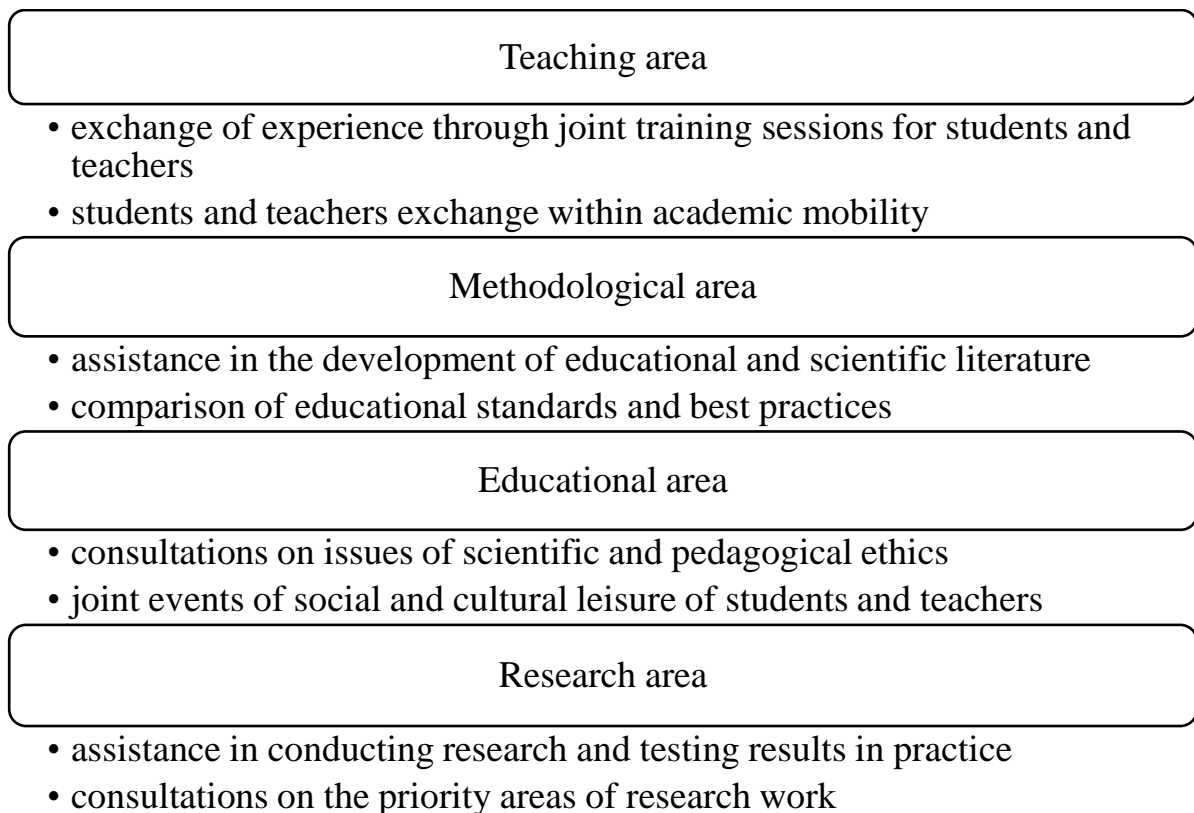


Fig. 3. Areas of international cooperation

Thus, the development of international activities in the higher education system of the DPR is aimed at the improvement of the students training quality, as well as maintaining the rating of the DPR educational institutions abroad. Increasing the level of international activity in the education system is connected with the principles, goals and objectives of the republican higher education, in particular, with overcoming its isolationism and integration into the world educational space.