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### **FEATURES OF SOFT SKILLS FORMATION IN STUDENTS THROUGH INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION IN THE SPHERE OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION**

At today's stage of social development in the context of intercultural communications in the field of European integration the problem of developing soft skills among students is highly relevant. The functioning of the educational system in the face of the challenges of globalization and the constantly growing competitive labor market determines the need for the formation of highly qualified workers not only in the European Union but also throughout the world in general. At the same time students have to demonstrate their soft skills in all areas of social life, including the academic environment and professional achievements. This problem requires a detailed scientific examination, analysis of the specifics of developing the soft skills in intercultural communication, and study of the ways of their improvement, particularly in the context of integrating domestic education and science into the European space.

Soft skills are those abilities that are used in all areas of modern life. These include critical thinking, problem-solving, public speaking, teamwork, leadership, professional relationships, work ethics, career management and cross-cultural communication [1].

The importance and universality of soft skills consist in the fact that they are not limited to use in a specific social sphere. They can be adapted to a certain specific situation as a whole.

A demonstrative and effective example of the usage of soft skills in intercultural communication in the sphere of European integration for modern students is the possibility of their participation in an internship under the program of the Nobel Explorers online platform, which is an international STEM online community. This platform is designed to help individuals

explore and acquire professional skills through contesting projects [2]. Using this platform, students from all over the world can constantly practise and improve soft skills, such as leadership, teamwork, creativity and time management. Students from such European countries as Great Britain, Italy, France, Germany, Spain, etc. carry out intercultural communication and have an opportunity to share their cultural values, customs and traditions, and exchange socio-cultural experiences within the framework of the conducting of different collaborative online projects.

It should be noted that cross-cultural communication by students from European countries promotes intensive intercultural exchange and academic cooperation. At the same time students can better understand modern European values and the advantages of the European lifestyle, which will contribute to effective European integration in the future. Unfortunately, due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the problem of European integration has become highly urgent, even among the civilian population. About 8 million people were forced to leave their homes and settle in European countries [3].

It should be outlined that within the program mentioned above in the process of intercultural communication students also have the opportunity to understand the intercultural characteristics of the representatives of different countries and increase their socio-cultural competence and cultural intelligence. In particular, the extension and improvement of cultural exchange in the field of European integration and students' assimilation of the values of the world and national cultures in the process of intercultural communication will also contribute to their spiritual enrichment, the development of ethnic tolerance, empathy and respect for national cultural identity.

Considering the above, we can state that the development of soft skills in the process of intercultural communication in the field of European integration will also contribute to the formation of socio-cultural competence of modern students, acts as a guarantee of their effective intercultural interaction between representatives of different European countries and increases the competitiveness of students in the labor market as a whole.

The prospects of further author's scientific research will be aimed at studying the possibilities of forming hard skills among students in the process of intercultural communication in the field of European integration issues, their influence on the formation of socio-cultural competence among higher education applicants studying in academic mobility programs and taking part in scientific and practical activities and international internships.

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DOI <https://doi.org/10.36059/978-966-397-279-4-95>

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## **ЄВРОПЕЙСЬКІ ЦІННОСТІ ЯК ПРАВОВА ОСНОВА МІЖКУЛЬТУРНОЇ КОМУНІКАЦІЇ УКРАЇНСЬКОГО НАРОДУ В СЕРЕДОВИЩІ МУЛЬТИНАЦІОНАЛЬНОГО НАСЕЛЕННЯ ЄВРОСОЮЗУ**

*Актуальність проблеми.* Правовий порядок, котрий створено Європейським Союзом (далі – ЄС) в середині ХХ ст, у сучасних умовах формує на практиці економічні, соціальні та політичні аспекти цивілізованого життя мультикультурного суспільства двадцяти восьми держав європейського континенту з населенням близько п'ятисот мільйонів людей. Громадяни доволі значної кількості та різних за культурою країн Європи є не просто їх жителями – вони також є громадянами об'єднаного утворення – ЄС. Європейські цінності – це сучасні демократичні загальнолюдські принципи і норми життєдіяльності людини, суспільства й держав (об'єднання країн), до дотримання котрих в європейському житті є повна і незаперечна повага.

З головними цінностями ЄС погоджуються також і більшість українців, про що свідчить їх прагнення стати повноцінною частиною ЄС, принаймні – ментально. Основними нормами й принципами функціонування європейської спільноти є наступні цінності, на котрих ґрунтується світогляд ЄС: 1) свобода; 2) повага до людської гідності та 3) до прав людини, включно з правами меншин; 4) верховенство права; 5) рівність; 6) демократія.