PROBLEMS AND PERSPECTIVES OF UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN NATIONAL SECURITY IN THE ERA OF GLOBALIZATION

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Abstract
Since the end of 20th and the beginning of 21st century globalization has been a phenomenon that affects every public sphere, including education. The study of the pros and cons of globalization that have an impact on the educational and cultural spheres, responsible for the development of society, is particularly relevant. The need of deepening the research on the problems and perspectives of University education in National security has come forward - namely today, when we witness the removal and blurring of state borders, the illegal migrant flows and the emergence of new, non-traditional conflicts between states.

The problems that university education encounters at a time when Bulgaria has to resolve the complicated task of protecting its national interests and borders, are posed by globalization processes and their effects. The refugee crisis that Europe is facing at the moment is one of the aspects that affect the national security of states and raises the need for a thorough investigation. The European continent is facing a clash between their own values and beliefs of humanism on the one hand, and fears of loss of identity and violation of those values - on the other. [1]

The report presents the problems and prospects in National Security training and its successful implementation at the University of Library Studies and Information Technologies, Sofia, Bulgaria. The acquisition of theoretical knowledge in the field of national security results from the training of students in an academic curriculum, coordinated and supported by institutions from the security system as well as from the high quality of the organization and conducting of classes. During the process of learning, students acquire knowledge in various technologies for analysis in the national security system, tools for designing the main subsystems and options for optimizing each of them. Training in the subject of National Security reveals huge opportunities for graduates to find realization and successfully adapt to the dynamics of changes in the national security system.

The expected result from studying the "Security" system in the different BA and MA programs at Bulgarian universities, at ULSIT in particular, is acquiring knowledge, developing skills, capability development and acquisition of expert competence on national security necessary for the secondary and higher levels of the management hierarchy of ministries, agencies, non-profit, scientific, cultural and public organizations, as well as educating and training organizational and leadership qualities in them. [5]

Keywords: University education, globalization, security, national security, refugee crisis.

1 INTRODUCTION
Never before in recent years have problems of national and international security been of greater interest. To a certain extent this is due to the fact that threats to various security subjects are becoming more complex, more diverse and with greater impact and scope. This requires, on the one hand, a clear strategy on national security, while on the other, well-trained personnel and specialists in this field are more than needed.

2 PROBLEMS AND PERSPECTIVES OF UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN NATIONAL SECURITY

National security issues at state, regional, and global scale are becoming more and more complex and trigger a movement toward mutual misunderstandings and conflicts. High expectations for a secure, harmoniously developed and functioning unipolar world after the end of the Cold War are not coming true. Increasing violence and asymmetric threats at various points on the Earth are becoming a daily routine of the modern world, causing fear and insecurity among millions of people regardless of their ethnic, religious or state affiliation. [4] Today we are not able to predict how long this escalation of
dangers will continue, and this causes worries about the future of world civilization. National values, interests and goals are the main driving forces of the national security system. They determine its nature, content, configuration, direction and are in unconditional interrelation. National values are the most stable element and are of crucial importance. They are formed in the course of the historical process and the development of the material and spiritual culture of society. These values are fundamental norms that allow a person to choose his or her own position, to define the course of their behaviour in situations of vital importance.

Change in the public and technological environment has imposed a large number of new requirements on universities regarding the realization of their missions and their role as an open, publicly available environment providing equal rights of access to information and knowledge. Through the virtually unlimited opportunities for access not only to information but to knowledge as well, provided by the new technologies, conditions were provided for improving the quality of training and, therefore, for increasing the opportunities for self-development. In this context, it seems logical to develop the security theory in order to find an adequate solution to the imminent threats. There is also the need for well-trained staff on national security issues, able to develop the theory and apply the acquired knowledge in practice. And the excellent training to students is provided by a well-educated and prepared teaching staff/lecturers, prominent specialists in the country.

Among the major challenges facing university education in national security is the dynamically changing security environment and the need to adequately and timely reflect these changes. Another major problem may be the ongoing policy of the acting government on higher education. In most cases, these policies are related to adhering to the principles of economy in budget estimates of state higher education institutions, which in most cases does not lead to an increase in the quality of education. Demographic problems or the so-called "brain-drain" is perhaps one of the most serious problems facing contemporary universities. The negative growth in the country in recent years has put universities offering national security training in a big race for recruiting students.

The economic state of the country determines the development of all spheres of public life as well, including science and education. It also has an impact on individual households and determines the standard of living of individual citizens, which directly reflects on the preferences of prospective students when choosing a specialty and a higher education institution.[2]

Despite the challenges facing university education in the era of globalization and the growing number of threats to national security, there are several positive features. Presently, students, PhD students and lecturers can use virtual libraries and are able to participate in e-learning. E-courses that enable tutors and learners to acquire new knowledge and skills from foreign practices are particularly useful. In addition, the use of new interactive information and communication technologies makes the delivery and acquisition of knowledge more accessible and easier.[3] Thus higher education institutions will be able to meet modern requirements for effective training and national security training in particular.

3 TRAINING OF NATIONAL SECURITY SPECIALISTS AT ULSIT

The University of Library Studies and Information Technologies offers its students 2 BA programmes: "National Security" and "National Security and Cultural and Historical Heritage", an MA program "National Security", as well as a PhD programme "National Security".[5] The training is conducted on the basis of legal and secondary legislation normative acts in higher education, as well as on internal normative documents. The admission of students is carried out according to an Ordinance adopted at a meeting of the Academic Council of ULSIT in accordance with the Ordinance on the State Requirements for Admission of Students, adopted by a Decree of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria. The expected outcome of training in the “Security” system in various BA and MA programmes in Bulgarian universities, including ULSIT, is the acquisition of knowledge, creating abilities and developing skills as well as the acquisition of expert competences in national security, necessary for middle and senior Levels of government hierarchy in ministries, agencies, non-profit, scientific, cultural and public organizations, training and fostering organizational and leadership qualities in them. Training is conducted in accordance with European standards and the models and achievements of leading Bulgarian and foreign higher education institutions. The syllabi are permanently adapted in view of the dynamics of changes in the national security system. This training provides opportunities for developing skills and abilities to identify and analyze trends in social processes and phenomena; to develop a modern large-scale capacity in the field of security; for interaction with the public, security structures and institutions, political structures, the media; group interaction and teamwork; for effective organization and high ethical standards; skills for working in a
multicultural environment and knowledge of good practices from Europe and the world in the field of security sector institutions and their activities. A leading goal in the training of students is that the National Security graduates should be competitive both in Bulgaria and on the European labour market, with their qualitative training, including both in-depth theoretical fundamental knowledge and developed practical skills. This training provides opportunities for developing skills and abilities to identify and analyze trends in social processes and phenomena; to develop a modern wide-range capacity in the field of security; to interact with the public, the security structures and institutions, the political structures, the media; for group interaction and teamwork; for effective organization and high ethical standards; for working in a multicultural environment and knowledge of good practices from Europe and the world in the field of security sector institutions and their activities. In the course of the training process students acquire knowledge of the different technologies for analysis in the national security system, the ways of designing the basic subsystems and the possibilities for optimization of each of them. Students are acquainted with the goals, elements, the structure and functions of the national security subsystems, as well as the interrelationships and the interaction between them with priority to the administrative and information aspect of the security in the corporation. Students learn the basics of managing national security units and ways to make and optimize solutions under risk and uncertainty. They acquire the necessary skills to organize the information security expertise of national security units. They acquire knowledge about information and communication systems as well as systems for providing resources for the national security. They acquire specialized knowledge about international and national legal security standards. Training is conducted on the basis of modern methodologies, with interactive methods, using multimedia, videos, simulations, etc. Practical case studies, situations, role-playing games, and management and legal simulations of real challenges from the activities of public institutions are dealt with in the seminar trainings.

4 CONCLUSIONS

It is necessary to take into account the fact that higher education institutions, in particular Bulgarian ones, skillfully combine educational activity with scientific research. Thus, the acquired innovative knowledge in a higher education institution is capable of moulding values and norms of behavior. In the context of globalization, the competitiveness of universities depends on their adaptability to external socio-economic and political changes, including the security environment. State policy and communication among all subjects in the higher education system is of great importance for achieving the basic objective - improvement of the quality of education and providing competitive staff in the field of national security.

REFERENCES