O. Zamora

ENHANCING KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY CONCEPT VIA EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS

The research goal was to understand the importance of a coordinated response to the challenges aroused from offering educational services to foreign citizens and adults by Ukrainian universities. The paper presents the experiences on how the information and communication technologies may be used in addressing challenges of modern society while changing the teaching approaches. Given Internet and informational-communication technologies role in effective building of the inclusive knowledge society the paper presents the overview of three case studies observed during a 4-7 years period at the basis of Sumy National Agrarian University: peer-design of the education courses and MOODLE use for distance learning of foreign students (15 courses, 80 students), and rural citizens (386 farmers) education via Internet. The conclusions were delivered under the context of explored issues, challenges and opportunities of the knowledge society, open education and lifelong learning concepts. The paper highlights the importance of identifying good practices in specific areas of youth and adult education within the educational projects under the increasing foreign students flow into the country and rapidly rising number of rural unemployed. The researches outline the pressing need for collaboration in educational content development via engagement of not only peers but also learners in order to avoid a widening gap between educational institutions/scientists and individual learners. The need for development of adults' digital skills is increasingly becoming a key for implementation of the lifelong learning concept in Ukraine, and was also addressed in the paper. The validated framework, tools and methodology of the informational-communication technologies use should provide a structured approach to the educational content development within the current Ukrainian educational system. The results of the paper try to generalize the best approaches to reach the aforementioned goals which may be further used by universities working in the same field.

Key words: Knowledge society, prosumer, open education, MOODLE, e-learning.