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DEVELOPING A MULTICULTURAL PERSONALITY BY MEANS OF EXPANDING THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AMONG UNIVERSITIES (BASED ON THE EXPERIENCE OF MARIUPOL STATE UNIVERSITY)

The article analyzes the main factors of developing a multicultural personality by means of expanding the international cooperation among universities. The basic vectors of activities that are to be carried out by a university aimed at development of a multicultural environment and a multicultural personality are examined through the experience of Mariupol State University.

The issue of developing a multicultural personality constitutes one of the most important tasks of the modern higher education. This issue is particularly urgent and relevant for multinational Ukraine. Indeed, education and science can help the society develop a humane model of behavior and a tolerant attitude towards other nations among the youth.

The statutes of most international organizations, as well as various conventions and declarations, including the Bologna Declaration, stipulate the idea that development of cooperation among nations in the fields of education, science, culture and information plays a significant role in peace-keeping and international mutual understanding.

For instance the Pedagogical Constitution of Europe states: "By educating children, forming their worldview and culture, a teacher helps them develop an ability to live and work in the conditions of multicultural interaction between the European nations" [2].

Modern education should become international and carry pronounced features of multiculturalism. By this we mean creating a multicultural

environment for students, which will ensure freedom of cultural self-determination for future experts.

Developing a multicultural personality by means of expanding the international cooperation among universities in various fields is currently one of the most important tasks of higher education in general. Education and science can help reveal efficient methods for reducing ethnic conflicts and struggling against xenophobia.

This issue grows particularly urgent in those areas that had historically been formed as multinational.

Donetsk region is populated by nearly 5 million people who represent over 130 nationalities. The biggest ethnic group is the Ukrainians, followed by the Russians and the Greeks. The Greeks left a deep mark in history, culture and religion. Ukraine is the home to one of the largest Greek diasporas in the world.

Mariupol State University (MSU) is situated in a half-million multinational city of Mariupol.

MSU was founded in 1991 due to democratic reforms in the country on the initiative of Mariupol City Council and City Greek Society. The Greek idea was

initially the key one for establishing the University given that Mariupol and adjacent 22 villages, founded by the Greeks, are populated by a large Greek diaspora, as well as that the headquarters of the Federation of Greek Societies of Ukraine is located in the city. The Federation is structurally organized, having its offices in more than 20 regions of Ukraine. Mariupol State University maintains active cooperation with the Federation.

Greece opened a “window to Europe” for Mariupol State University. It was Greece that helped MSU in establishing its first international contacts. Today Mariupol State University maintains cooperation with many countries. The University developed its own international cooperation pattern, which involves establishing relation both at the level of universities and at the level of parliaments, ministries of education, ministries of foreign affairs, regional and local state authorities, municipalities, foreign embassies, various foundations and embraces such countries as Cyprus, China, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia, and other countries.

Over the course of its existence Mariupol State University has been visited by three presidents of foreign states: President of the Hellenic Republic Konstantinos Stephanopoulos (in 1997), President of the Hellenic Republic Karolos Papoulias (in 2008), President of the Republic of Cyprus Demetris Christofias (in 2011), as well as by Members of European Parliament, ministers, ambassadors, governors, mayors, rectors, leading scientists, and famous journalists. Over the recent 5 years the University received more than

100 official foreign delegations totaling over 850 representatives.

Comprehensive international cooperation of Mariupol State University resulted in signing more than 87 agreements with leading world universities and institutions. MSU expands its participation in international education consortia within TEMPUS and Erasmus projects.

This work leads to successful results. More than 1,500 MSU students and faculty members took part in foreign internships in 20 countries over the recent 5 years. This figure is one of the highest among Ukrainian universities. It is noteworthy that the majority of these programs were funded by foreign partners of MSU.

Foreign professors, politicians and diplomats take part in the process of vocational training at MSU (only over the recent five years more than a hundred foreign lecturers taught at the University).

The aforementioned forms and vectors of implementing the international programs ensure the use of the leading teaching experience in the teaching process, as well as dissemination of the achievements of Ukrainian higher education abroad. However, the basic advantage is that they are focused on high-quality vocational training that can increase the graduates' competitiveness on the national and European labor markets. Today more than 700 MSU graduates live, learn and work in 22 foreign countries.

International cooperation is one of the main University's priorities. It is constantly being developed on a multilevel basis. Successful experience in international activities proves that in order to strengthen a university's international prestige and to improve the quality of education, a university should

develop cooperation with numerous foreign partners.

MSU developed a new international cooperation pattern which includes a wide range of measures and activities. This integrated approach enabled the University to bring to the interstate level some areas of cooperation with such countries as the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Cyprus, and the Republic of Italy.

Multi-vector cooperation is an important feature of the University's international activities.

MSU is a member of the following organizations: the European University Association, the European Public Law Organization, the Association of Mediterranean Universities, the Association of Juridical Universities of the CIS countries, the Association of the Partner Universities of the Russian Federation and Ukraine.



Rector of Mariupol State University, Professor Kostyantyn Balabanov and president of Cyprus Institute, Professor Costas Papanicolas during the signing ceremony of the Memorandum on Understanding in the presence of President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich and President of the Republic of Cyprus Demetris Christofias

The international cooperation pattern was first applied by MSU in its relations with the Hellenic Republic. The participants of comprehensive and multilateral cooperation of MSU with this country include the Ministry of National Education, Lifelong Learning and Religion of the Hellenic Republic; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic

Republic; the General Secretariat for Greeks Abroad of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic; the Embassy of the Hellenic Republic to Ukraine; the Center for Research and Development of Greek Culture of the Black Sea Coast; the Alexander S. Onassis Foundation; the Bodosakis Foundation; local authorities and

municipalities of numerous Greek cities (Athens, Zografou, Thessaloniki, Amfilochia, Ioannina, islands of Kalymnos, Rhodes, Corfu etc.). Fruitful cooperation of MSU with National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Ionian University, University of Ioannina, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Democritus University of Thrace, and many other Greek universities contributes to obtaining significant research results by MSU researchers. Around 100 MSU students and faculty members annually participate in internships in Greece.

The Institute of Ukraine-Greece Friendship and Hellenistic Studies effectively operates at MSU. President of the Hellenic Republic Karolos Papoulias attended the opening ceremony of this institution in May, 2008. His visit to Mariupol became one of the most significant events not only for the University but for the entire Azov Sea Coast Region, Donetsk Region and Ukraine in general. In the course of his visit the titles of the Honorary Citizen of Mariupol and the Honorary Professor of Mariupol State University were conferred on the President of the Hellenic Republic. The President addressed the faculty and students in a public lecture, praised the work of Mariupol State University, and underlined that "the University plays an important role in strengthening intercultural and international relations at all levels of cooperation; it supports learning and dissemination of the Greek language and culture among the multinational citizens of Ukraine creating a solid bridge of friendship and mutual respect between the peoples" [6].

Today MSU is the only university in Europe (except for Greece and Cyprus) where more than 600 students study the language, culture and history of Greece, as well as of the Greeks of Ukraine. It is also the only one with a Greek Philology Faculty. The research conducted at

MSU enables to provide systematic study of the Greek language, history, culture and traditions at a high academic level, to promote the culture of the Greeks of Ukraine, to promote the Hellenistic ideas in Ukraine. In joint effort with the Federation of the Greek Societies of Ukraine and the local authorities MSU holds numerous events on conservation of the Greek dialects and diaspora's culture.

The Greek Language Center successfully operates at MSU. It was granted the right to hold the qualifying examinations in Modern Greek and to issue the corresponding international certificate. The Ministry of National Education, Lifelong Learning and Religion of the Hellenic Republic appoints teachers of Greek to work at MSU.

Long-term friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation link MSU and the Republic of Cyprus. The Republic of Cyprus occupies a special place in the development of international relations of MSU, which cooperates with the Administration of the President, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Cyprus, the universities of Cyprus, the Anastasios G. Leventis Foundation, agencies and institutions of this country.

Post-graduate students and Master Degree students majoring in International Affairs annually get the opportunity to participate in an internship at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus, and namely at the Center for crisis management. The practice of international internships has become usual for MSU students. In addition to exploring the structure and the specificity of the Center, the internship program includes lectures by the leading Ministry experts on the Cyprus problem, on the features of the Cypriot relations with the European Union, etc.

MSU receives valuable support from the Government Press Service of the Republic of Cyprus. Due to its assistance, the best MSU students and faculty members annually have the opportunity to take part in internships in Cyprus, working and conducting research in the libraries and archives of the Press Service.

For many years Mariupol State University has been partners with the world famous Anastasios G. Leventis Foundation that provides the university with significant financial assistance and support in scientific, educational and cultural activities. Due to this support, post-graduate students and faculty members of MSU have the opportunity to work on their thesis papers at the premises of University of Cyprus for the period from three to six months. More than 10 MSU faculty members have taken part in research programs of this kind. In 2006, a unique library of Hellenistic Studies named after Konstantinos Leventis was opened at the Greek Philology Faculty. This library contains a collection totaling over 15,000 items. In joint effort with the Foundation the University has successfully implemented a unique project on publishing the "Anthology of Cypriot Literature" in Modern Greek and Russian. The Foundation has established annual scholarships for the winners of the statewide Olympiad in the Greek language, history and culture for university and school students, as well as the statewide contest of research works in Modern Greek which are held at MSU premises. Thus, we can argue that international activities of a Ukrainian university have created a unique situation where university's foreign partners financially support specific fields of the statewide Olympiad and the statewide contest.

Partnership relations have been established among MSU and the leading universities of this country: University of

Cyprus, University of Nicosia, Frederick University, Cyprus University of Technology. Agreements on cooperation with those institutions provide for joint conferences at the universities' premises, faculty members and students exchange, joint research and publishing activities.

Fruitful work of the MSU faculty on strengthening friendship ties and cooperation between Ukraine and Cyprus resulted in the decision of the President of the Republic of Cyprus Tassos Papadopoulos and of the Cypriot Government dated of July 4, 2006 to establish the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Cyprus in Mariupol. The consular district of the Consulate embraces Donetsk, Zaporizhia, Luhansk and Dnipropetrovsk regions. The work of the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Cyprus to Mariupol allowed for expansion of the cooperation between the two friendly nations in the fields of economy, trade, agriculture, tourism, education, science and culture. It continues to promote the establishment of international dialogue. The Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Cyprus to Mariupol with the support of the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Cyprus initiated an exhibition of children's art "Cyprus through Children's Eyes" dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the Republic of Cyprus, where the students of Mariupol School of Arts displayed their works. Currently, 114 works of young artists are displayed in the Cyprus Leventis Museum. In addition, the Honorary Consulate initiated and organized various programs for children's recreation in Cyprus. In 2011 only, 60 children from Mariupol and the surrounding villages had a unique opportunity to stay in Cyprus, all the costs for their stay being covered by the hosting party. In 2012, around 40 children participated in this program. It is worth mentioning that in 2013 the program will be organized as well.

On July 3, 2011 Ukraine received the first in the history of Ukrainian-Cyprus relations official visit of President of the Republic of Cyprus Demetris Christofias. In its course the President of the Republic of Cyprus visited the city of Mariupol that had become so friendly to his homeland, and, in particular, Mariupol State University. The titles of the Honorary Citizen of Mariupol and the Honorary Professor of Mariupol State University were conferred on the President of the Republic of Cyprus. He was also awarded with a medal "For Merits" of Mariupol State University. During his visit Demetris Christofias pointed out that "the emphasis in relations between Ukraine and Cyprus is given to collaboration in the field of education, where cooperation with MSU constitutes a striking example" [7].

On November 8-9, 2012 President of Ukraine V. F. Yanukovich paid a visit to the Republic of Cyprus, which was the first one in 20 years of diplomatic relations among the countries. The official delegation included the following representatives: Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Kostyantyn Gryshchenko, Minister of Finance of Ukraine Yuriy Kolobov, Minister of Education and Science, Youth and Sports of Ukraine Dmytro Tabachnyk, Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine Mykola Prysiazhniuk, Advisor of the President of Ukraine and Head of the Department for International Relations Andriy Goncharuk, Advisor of the President of Ukraine and Head of the Department for State Protocol and Ceremonial Yuriy Ladnyi, rector of Mariupol State University Kostyantyn Balabanov, chairman of the State Aviation Service of Ukraine Anatoliy Kolisnyk and others.

The visit of the Ukrainian delegation to Cyprus was intense and included a summit meeting with President of the Republic of Cyprus Demetris Christofias, President of the House of

Representatives (Parliament) of Cyprus Yiannakis Omirou, and Head of the Cyprus Orthodox Church Archbishop Chrysostomos II, as well as a joint business forum and some other events.

In practice, the visit of President Viktor Yanukovich resulted in signing a number of bilateral agreements on cooperation in the fields of maritime commerce and air transport, economy and business, higher education and physical culture. On the whole, the delegations have signed eight documents, including the Convention between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus on avoiding double taxation and preventing fiscal evasion from income and property taxes, the Intergovernmental Agreement on maritime commercial transportation, etc. This opens a new stage of cooperation between Ukraine and the Republic of Cyprus that was holding the EU presidency from July 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012. President of Cyprus Demetris Christofias assured his Ukrainian colleague that Cyprus would fully support the European aspirations of Ukraine. During the talks President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich and the President of Cyprus Demetris Christofias emphasized the great work of Mariupol State University in developing friendship and cooperation between the peoples of Ukraine and Cyprus. In the course of the visit, Kostyantyn Balabanov on behalf of the Ukrainian side has signed a Memorandum of Understanding among Donetsk National Technical University and Cyprus Institute providing for students and teachers exchange, implementation of joint research projects, organization and conduct of courses, seminars and symposia, exchange of information, documentation, publications and research results.

International cooperation of MSU with numerous partners from the Republic of Italy has been developing

rather dynamically. Among the partners of MSU are the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy, the Italian Embassy to Ukraine, the Dante Alighieri Society, the Italian Institute of Culture in Ukraine, local authorities of the District of Calabria, municipalities of Santa-Severina, Montalbano and the leading Italian universities, including University of Messina, University for Foreigners of Perugia, University of Calabria, Kore University of Enna, etc. In accordance with various international training programs, which are annually organized at MSU jointly with its Italian partners, the University students attend lectures on the history and culture of Italy, take part in research conferences, improve their knowledge of the Italian language, and get acquainted with notable cultural relics. Around 50-70 students of MSU annually take part in various programs in Italy.

In 2008 an Italian Culture Center was opened at Mariupol State University. Its main objectives include studying Italian and promoting Italian culture. The opening ceremony was attended by Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Italy to Ukraine Pietro Giovanni Donnici and Director of the Italian Institute of Culture in Ukraine, Professor Nicola Franco Balloni. The University was recognized as the basic university of Italian studies in the Eastern Ukraine. Since 2009 MSU provides a Bachelor course in specialty "Language and Literature (Italian)".

Since 2009 an examination center of the Dante Alighieri Society operates effectively at MSU. It has the authority to issue international certificates proving the level of knowledge of the Italian language that are recognized by the Italian Government. In order to participate in the opening ceremony of the Center in 2009, Secretary General of the Dante Alighieri Society, Professor Alessandro Masi and Director of the

Italian Institute of Culture in Ukraine, Professor Nicola Franco Balloni paid a visit to MSU.

The dynamic process of international cooperation of MSU with the Federal Republic of Germany includes developing relations of partnership with the German Embassy to Ukraine and the Consulate General to Donetsk, as well as German foundations and organizations. MSU students annually participate in the language training program Au-pair Vermittlung, which enables them to learn the language in Germany. MSU maintains successful cooperation with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Germany's largest organization aimed at international cooperation and implementation of bilateral exchange programs in the field of higher education. It offers a variety of programs for students, post-graduate students and young researchers providing opportunities to study and conduct research in Germany. The DAAD lecturers have repeatedly visited MSU, taught the students and the faculty members, and tested their knowledge. In joint effort with such German partners as the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, MSU has organized seminars and workshops for media experts, journalists, editors, teachers and students-journalists from different regions of Ukraine.

Mariupol State University is actively involved in implementing the initiative of the Consulate General of the FRG to Donetsk aimed at developing and implementing the Master Plan "Clean Air for Mariupol" funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany. The project participants include Donetsk Regional State Administration, Mariupol City Council, the System Capital Management Company, the German company "TUV NORD", Brandenburg Technical University, and a number of

German experts. This project is aimed at improving environmental education of the population of Mariupol, as well as working in order to reduce the quantity of harmful emissions into the city atmosphere. The meetings of the project participants held to analyze the results of the Master Plan implementation and the development of its subsequent phases were conducted in 2012 at MSU.

Development of the new vectors of international cooperation enabled MSU to dramatically expand the geography of its partner countries. Cooperation with partners from Great Britain has been deepening gradually. The most noteworthy is collaboration with St. James Research Center which assisted in creating an International Environmental Protection Center at MSU, as well as in conducting research and holding conferences. In accordance with the Cooperation Agreement concluded with University of Dundee and Frisby's College of English MSU students and faculty members annually take part in internships in those institutions. In 2011 cooperation with British universities expanded significantly since a new Agreement on scientific and educational cooperation was concluded with King's College London (one of the most prestigious European universities). Together with the Defense Studies Department of King's College London MSU organized a roundtable discussion "International security: current state and ways of maintaining" which was attended by 15 students of this College from 12 different countries of the world. MSU signed a cooperation agreement with the University of East London (EUL), which provides for setting up a joint double diploma program in different fields and specialties. In the summer of 2012 an instructor from MSU Oksana Avdan received a scholarship enabling her to participate in the EUL Business School.

Comprehensive cooperation of MSU with the Republic of Poland includes its partnership relations with the Embassy of the Republic of Poland to Ukraine, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University of Warsaw, Polonia University of Częstochowa, University of Silesia in Katowice, the Borussia Foundation, and others. Thus, according to the Cooperation Agreements with Polonia University a Polish Culture Center was established at MSU. Its opening ceremony was attended by the First Vice-Rector of Polonia University, Professor Maria Urbaniec. MSU students receive scholarships for academic courses in Polish universities; the number of students participating in the international program "Study tours to Poland" increases. An instructor of Polish Jeanette Pavlovych was appointed to teach at MSU by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland.

Cooperation with organizations and institutions of the State of Israel has established a new vector in international activities of MSU. Israeli Culture Center was established at MSU. The Center annually organizes Days of Israeli culture, and conducts classes in Hebrew, Israeli history and culture both for MSU students and for the citizens of Mariupol. New cultural and educational internships in the leading universities of Israel were launched for MSU faculty members and students. Consul General of Israel to Dnipropetrovsk, Director of the Israeli Culture Center of Dnipropetrovsk Helena-Haia Karol initiated statewide contest in the Hebrew language and Israeli culture to be held at MSU premises starting from 2011.

On February 20, 2013 the Second Secretary of the Embassy of Israel to Ukraine David Mamistvalov visited MSU on his business trip. He got acquainted with the activities of culture centers that are based at MSU, met with the University administration and with the

staff of the Israeli Education and Culture Center.

Due to the financial support of the Israeli Culture Center in Dnipropetrovsk, about 30 students of MSU study Hebrew as optional third foreign language, attend lectures on the history and culture of Israel, prepare research papers and creative projects in Israeli studies.

Establishing collaborative relations with institutions and organizations of the United States of America constitutes one of the perspective vectors of MSU international cooperation. Annually MSU students are actively involved in programs "Work and Travel USA" and "Camp Counselors USA". MSU repeatedly hosted presentations of the Fulbright program of academic exchange for students and faculty members. This international educational exchange program is funded by the U.S. Government and is aimed primarily at students, graduates, postgraduates, scientists, and teachers who have the opportunity to get engaged in research work in the U.S. throughout the year.

A modern video studio "MSU MEDIA" was created at the Philology Faculty of MSU in 2011 through a grant received by MSU after winning in the program of the Media Development Fund of the U.S. Embassy to Ukraine. The training laboratory, equipped with modern professional technologies, provides all the conditions necessary for practical training, working on Bachelor projects, producing video lectures, and modeling work situations during training sessions. Future broadcast journalists in 2012 could improve their practical skills in delivering speeches, shooting video with classical and virtual technologies, editing video footages, editing television programs, constructing footages and voicing them, etc.

It is rather important for MSU to maintain international relations with the Russian Federation. The University is a member of the Association of the

Partner Universities of the Russian Federation and Ukraine, as well as of the Association of Juridical Universities of the CIS countries (Moscow). Together with the latter MSU annually organizes a variety of research and communication activities. The Association of Juridical Universities annually provides 20 scholarships for the best students of universities-members of the Association to participate in the Summer Academy of European Public Law which is annually held at Mariupol State University. Top students-lawyers of MSU win scientific competitions held under the auspices of the Association and receive scholarships.

Mariupol State University has signed agreements on scientific and educational cooperation with Moscow State Institute of International Relations (University of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation), Peoples' Friendship University of Russia, Russian State University of Trade and Economics, Russian State University of Humanities, the Moscow City Government University of Management, St. Petersburg State University, Tyumen State University, and others.

The Department of Russian Philology and Translation of MSU is a member of the International Association of Teachers of Russian Language and Literature which is a part of UNESCO.

2008 was marked in the history of MSU by a new vector of international cooperation. The vector of People's Republic of China emerged when the University delegation consisting of Vice-Rector for Research Work Olena Bulatova and Head of the International Cooperation Department Mykola Trofymenko visited the city of Qiqihar which is a twin-town of Mariupol. In the course of the meetings with the leaders of the City People's Government, the administration of Qiqihar University, and the

administration of the Higher Pedagogical College, the delegation reached consensus and signed corresponding Agreements on cooperation between Mariupol State University and Qiqihar University. The Agreements provide for mutual students, graduate students, and faculty members exchange for participation in research and educational programs, conducting joint research conferences and other events. Chinese representatives stated that MSU was to become their first Ukrainian partner. During the return visit of the delegation of Qiqihar University to MSU in May, 2009 the parties signed the Agreement between Mariupol and Qiqihar Universities on establishing a Chinese Culture Center at MSU that would be aimed at studying the language and culture of China, as well as their promotion in Donetsk region. Pursuant to the Agreement, Qiqihar partners provided the Center with the necessary scientific, referential, educational, methodological and fictional literature. The Agreement on cooperation provides for the perspective establishment of the Ukrainian Cultural Center at Qiqihar University; MSU faculty members will have an opportunity to work.

According to the arrangements reached during the visit of the representatives of the Qiqihar Government to Mariupol and Mariupol State University, the parties discussed current issues on strengthening cooperation among Chinese universities and MSU; participation of students, graduate students and faculty members of both sides in scientific, educational and cultural programs in Ukraine and China; as well as studying of Qiqihar secondary school graduates at MSU. In 2011 MSU signed a new Cooperation Agreement with Yancheng Teachers' College, which significantly expanded the opportunities for cooperation with Chinese universities.

The University actively participates in grant programs of the UN Development Program, of the EU, etc.

A Center for Gender Studies and Education actively works at MSU. The main areas of its activities include education, research work, consultations and legal assistance to the citizens of Mariupol and the Azov Sea Coast Region. In May-July, 2012 it worked on the project "Equal participation of women in the decision-making process" that was aimed at implementation of the principles of gender equality in the decisions of Mariupol local authorities with respect of the peculiarities of certain gender groups concerning their current situation, needs and interests. The other objective of the project was to ensure gender balance in the region.

MSU is working on the project of the European Commission in language policy LLT-KA2-Languages ("Greek why not?" Project Registration Number: 511657-2010-LLP-GR-KA2-KA2MP). The project is to be implemented in 2011 – 2013. The participants of the consortium of universities and organizations for this project also include University of Strasbourg (France), University of Ankara (Turkey), British College (Greece), University of Argirocastro (Albania), Center for Hellenic Studies and Publications (Greece). The main objectives of the project are the development of a series of textbooks in Modern Greek and the improvement of the methodological basis for teaching Greek in Ukraine and the CIS countries. The project is funded by the European Commission.

Since 2009 MSU has started implementing international programs of joint double diplomas with University of Messina (Italy), University of Cordoba (Spain), Polonia University of Czestochowa (Poland). Work is underway to implement this experience in collaboration with University of East London.

The University participates in the ERASMUS program which is implemented by a group of universities, including University of Messina, University of Cordoba, University of Porto, Moscow State Institute of International Relations (University of the MFA of the RF), University of Gdansk, and others. It is worth noting that 4 students of our University have already participated in this Master's program.

Since 2009 Mariupol State University in joint efforts with its partner universities in France, Portugal, Romania, Moldova, Belarus, and Ukraine has been participating in the TEMPUS project "Modernization and development of professionally oriented courses (MODEP ETF - JP - 00408-2008)" funded by the European Commission. According to the "Focus" journal the University's work and results achieved in this international project have been recognized as some of the best among international programs involving Ukrainian universities [5].

Bachelor, Specialist, and Master educational and vocational training programs of MSU are based on the principle of linguistic pluralism. Currently, 23 languages are considered to be official languages of the European Union, 6 of them are taught and studied at MSU, namely, English, German, French, Modern Greek, Polish, Italian. Since 2010 students have got the opportunity to learn another foreign language – Hebrew. It was this particular aspect that drew the attention of Head of the Delegation of the EU to Ukraine Mr. José Manuel Pinto Teixeira, who headed a delegation of more than 30 diplomats from 16 European countries attending Mariupol State University during the celebration of the Europe Days in Mariupol (May, 2010). He said, "I am pleasantly surprised that the University has merged many European cultures and successfully develops them. I am

convinced that the University takes its rightful place in the process of European integration of Ukraine" [1].

It is worth noting that MSU actively supports and successfully implements various initiatives that are being implemented by the European institutions. A Regional Point of European Information is located at MSU. It carries out its activities on a regular basis, being designed to meet the needs of the Mariupol citizens and the residents of the Azov Sea Coast Region. The Center holds regular workshops and scientific consulting sessions for the public on the issues of Ukraine's European integration.

The University pays great attention to the exchange of experience on international cooperation with its foreign colleagues. For instance, on May 24-25, 2011 the University hosted the International Research Conference "Science and Education in the Modern University in the context of international cooperation."

The Conference was held in joint cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science, Youth and Sports of Ukraine, the National Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine, Donetsk Regional State Administration, Donetsk Regional Council, Stock Company System Capital Management, City Council of Mariupol, Mariupol State University, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic, the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Cyprus, the European Public Law Organization, the Anastasios G. Leventis Foundation (Republic of Cyprus), University of Ioannina (Hellenic Republic), University of Messina (Italian Republic).

The urgency and the importance of the Conference headline were evidenced by the interest of the scientific community as well as by the interest of politicians, central and local governments, foundations and

organizations in Ukraine and in foreign countries. The high level of the Conference was evidenced by the greeting addresses to the participants and guests of the Conference that were received from the heads of three states: President of Ukraine V. F. Yanukovich, President of the Hellenic Republic K. Papoulias, and President of the Republic of Cyprus D. Christofias.

The conference was facilitated by more than 300 participants – officials and representatives from the Ministry of Education and Science, Youth and Sports of Ukraine, the National Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine, institutes of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (such as V. M. Koretsky Institute of State and Law of the NASU, Institute of Economic and Legal Research of the NASU, Institute of History of Ukraine of the NASU, I. F. Kuras Political and Ethnic Studies Institute of the NASU), Legislation Institute of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Donetsk Regional State Administration, Donetsk Regional Council, Donetsk Chamber of Commerce and Industry, City Council of Mariupol, rectors and prominent scientists from more than 40 national universities and other higher educational institutions of Ukraine.

The high quality level of the conference was evidenced by wide representation of foreign participants from 14 countries of the world (Great Britain, Greece, Italy, Israel, Cyprus, China, Moldova, Germany, Poland, Russia, Portugal, France and Czech Republic). Among the participants were heads of diplomatic missions and cultural centers of foreign countries as well as rectors, professors and researchers from 26 foreign universities.

After getting acquainted with the pattern of international activities of Mariupol State University, the participants of the Conference identified its high effectiveness and efficiency in

the following areas: participation in international university organizations; cooperation with the Ministries of Education, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, regional administrations, municipalities, embassies and consulates, foundations, universities and research institutions of foreign countries; organization of international research conferences; internships in educational and research programs for faculty members and students; participation in international cultural programs, etc. In the proceedings of the Research Conference the international cooperation pattern of Mariupol State University was determined as innovative in its form and multifunctional in its content, which makes it relevant for dissemination and implementation into the activities of other higher educational institutions of Ukraine.

It is important to note that due to efficient work of MSU on developing a multicultural personality by means of expanding the international cooperation combined with the best traditions of national and international higher education, Mariupol does not experience any cases of xenophobia. One should consider that MSU teaches students originating from 15 regions of Ukraine and 11 foreign countries.

Thus, developing a multicultural personality is one of the major tasks of higher education. The results of international cooperation of Mariupol State University prove the efficiency of its own model of international cooperation, while multiple vectors of international activities of MSU are supported by the experience accumulated in the course of cooperation with various countries of the world. This experience is constantly being developed and enriched, vividly demonstrating how a university has to work on creating a multicultural environment and educating a multicultural identity.

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БАЛАБАНОВ КОСТЯНТИН
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ДЕРЖАВНОГО УНІВЕРСИТЕТУ)

У статті аналізуються основні фактори розвитку мультикультурної особистості шляхом розширення міжнародного співробітництва між університетами. Основні вектори діяльності університетів, які повинні бути спрямовані на розвиток полікультурного середовища і мультикультурної особистості, розглядаються через призму досвіду Маріупольського державного університету.

БАЛАБАНОВ КОНСТАНТИН
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ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ
УНИВЕРСИТЕТ)

В статье анализируются основные факторы развития мультикультурной личности путем расширения международного сотрудничества между университетами. Основные векторы деятельности университетов, которые должны быть направлены на развитие поликультурной среды и мультикультурной личности, рассматриваются через призму опыта Мариупольского государственного университета.