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Видавець Букаєв Вадим Вікторович
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Oleksii Lystopad,
Doctor of Pedagogical Sciences, Professor,
Head of the Department of Preschool Education
State institution “South Ukrainian National Pedagogical University
named after K. D. Ushynsky”,
26 Staroportofrankivska St., Odesa
ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3121-324X>
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.24195/FutureEducation2026-1>

EUROPEAN EDUCATIONAL POLICY ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AS A BENCHMARK FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF UKRAINE'S NATIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEM

The concept of sustainable development has been brought to the fore by profound global transformations affecting the economic, social, environmental, and digital spheres of public life. In this context, education is not only a tool for transferring knowledge, but also a strategic factor in shaping responsible citizenship, innovative thinking, and a culture of long-term social sustainability. The implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the field of education is particularly important in the context of civilizational challenges related to climate change, digitalization, and social inequality [2].

Ukraine's European integration vector of development determines the need to harmonize national education policy with the priorities of the European Union, in particular regarding the formation of sustainable development competencies, ensuring the quality of education, inclusiveness, and digital transformation. In this regard, the modernization of the national education system is a strategic task of state policy, which involves the implementation of European quality standards, the development of academic integrity, the autonomy of educational institutions, and the introduction of innovative educational practices. This raises the scientific problem of determining the potential of European sustainable development education policy as a benchmark for structural and substantive transformations of the Ukrainian education system [1].

The theoretical and regulatory framework of modern European education policy is shaped by strategic initiatives aimed at ensuring quality education, social cohesion, and innovative development. The key framework guidelines are strategic documents in the field of education and training, which focus on the development of life skills, digital skills, support for inclusiveness, and the implementation of the principle of lifelong learning. Interstate cooperation in higher education is also important, ensuring quality standards, academic mobility, and mutual recognition of qualifications [4].

An important component of the regulatory framework is the European Green Deal, which integrates environmental considerations into all areas of

public policy, including education. The educational component of this strategy involves shaping environmental awareness, developing “green” competencies, and updating the content of educational programs to reflect the principles of climate responsibility and rational use of resources. Educational institutions are seen as centers for shaping a culture of environmental responsibility and social solidarity [1].

An essential conceptual basis is the integration of the provisions of international documents on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals into national education strategies. In particular, ensuring quality, inclusive, and accessible education, developing competencies for a sustainable lifestyle, and promoting the values of human rights and global citizenship are defined as strategic guidelines for education policy. In this context, education is interpreted as a system-building mechanism for achieving sustainable development, which gives it a cross-sectoral and transformational character [5].

Among the priorities of European sustainable development policy in the field of education, digital transformation plays a decisive role, encompassing the modernization of the educational environment, the updating of teaching content, and the development of digital competencies among students and teachers. The development of digital literacy, critical thinking, information security, and skills in using innovative technologies is seen as a prerequisite for competitiveness and social mobility in a digital society [2].

An important area of focus is ensuring inclusiveness and equal access to quality education regardless of social status, place of residence, or individual characteristics of learners. Education policy is geared toward overcoming educational inequalities, creating a barrier-free environment, and implementing principles of social justice in line with the values of the European Union [2].

The greening of the educational environment is defined as a component of integrating sustainable development principles into the educational process. This involves shaping an ecological culture, developing sustainable lifestyle competencies, introducing resource-saving practices, and updating the content of educational programs in line with today's environmental challenges. An essential priority is the establishment of academic integrity and a culture of quality. Ensuring transparency in assessment, adherence to ethical standards in scientific and educational activities, and the development of internal systems for ensuring the quality of education are considered the basis for institutional trust and the sustainability of educational systems in the European space.

The implementation potential of European sustainable development policy in the field of education for Ukraine is primarily linked to the harmonization of the regulatory framework in line with European approaches to ensuring the quality of education, institutional transparency, and academic integrity. The harmonisation of national legislation with European framework

documents contributes to the integration of the Ukrainian education system into the common educational space and increases its international competitiveness.

Modernizing educational content involves reorienting toward a competency-based model that emphasizes the development of key and professional competencies, including digital, civic, environmental, and entrepreneurial competencies. This approach ensures that educational programs meet the challenges of modern society and the needs of the labor market, and also promotes the formation of responsible citizenship and a culture of sustainable development.

An important area is the development of professional training for teachers in the paradigm of sustainable development. This involves updating teacher training programs, integrating interdisciplinary modules, developing digital and managerial competencies, and fostering readiness for innovation and educational leadership.

Institutional autonomy and educational leadership are considered prerequisites for the effective transformation of educational institutions. Expanding managerial autonomy, developing strategic planning, internal quality assurance systems, and a culture of responsible management create the foundation for the sustainable development of the national education system in the context of European integration.

Adapting European experience in the field of sustainable development education policy is accompanied by a number of challenges caused by socio-economic and security factors. Ongoing transformation processes, limited financial resources, demographic changes, and the impact of military circumstances complicate the implementation of systemic reforms and innovative approaches. In these conditions, ensuring the stability and continuity of the educational process becomes strategically important.

An important factor is the institutional capacity of educational institutions to implement changes. The level of management culture, human resources, the availability of material and technical resources, and the effectiveness of internal quality assurance systems determine the possibilities for adapting European standards to the national context. Uneven distribution of resources between regions can exacerbate disparities in access to quality education.

The need for systematic digital and managerial transformation deserves special attention. This involves upgrading infrastructure, developing the digital skills of teachers and administrators, and introducing modern mechanisms for strategic management and e-governance. Without a comprehensive approach to digitalization and modernization of management processes, the implementation of European approaches may be fragmented and fail to ensure the expected institutional sustainability.

European educational policy on sustainable development serves as a strategic guideline for the modernization of Ukraine's national education system. It outlines priorities in the areas of digitalization, inclusiveness, environmental sustainability, and academic integrity, which together form a comprehensive vision for the sustainable development of the educational environment.

The effectiveness of implementing European practices in the Ukrainian education system depends on a combination of regulatory, institutional, and value transformations. Achieving results requires harmonizing legislation, modernizing educational content, developing professional training for teachers, and strengthening institutional autonomy and a culture of educational leadership. Together, these factors create the conditions for the formation of a sustainable, competitive, and integrated education system within the European educational space.

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