

REPORT OF THE RECTOR OF LESYA UKRAINKA VOLYN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY 2020

2020 was a prominent year for the University; first and foremost, it should be noted that the University got its previous name – Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University. On October 15, 2020, according to the Unified State Register of Enterprises and Organizations, the return of the previous name of the University – "Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University" - is confirmed. The decision to rename the University was supported by the faculties and the conference of the work community. Accordingly, the following normative documents of the University were introduced and updated: University Charter, Development Strategy of the Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University, Development Program, Regulation on rating assessment of activity of scientific and pedagogical workers, departments, faculties (institutes).

Consequently, the formation of the University policy regarding promotion was implemented. During the reporting period, the above-mentioned policy was aimed at disseminating initiatives and coordinating efforts to raise the status of Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University, forming its positive image as an educational, scientific, and cultural center; promoting the strengthening of the University's representation in the information space of the region in particular and Ukraine in general; formation of corporate style and identity update; establishing effective communication between the University and entrants, students, and graduates; ensuring effective internal communication.

During the reporting period, several publications about the best students and graduates of the University were prepared. The official Instagram page of the University has been created. About 2000 users have followed this page. The goal is to reach the audience of potential entrants, improve communication with them and students of the University. The project "Lesyni porady (Lesya's advice)" (80 issues) was implemented.

About 20 videos with the best undergraduates' speeches were recorded to promote the master's degree program of the University. Many interviews with University management, lecturers, and staff have been published. A series of video

materials "Novyny Lesynoho vyshu (News of Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University)" has been launched: during this period, 10 final issues have been prepared.

In 2020, several important communication initiatives were implemented, which had a positive impact on the promotion of the institution and the promotion of its brand. Recognition of the regional center has increased, in particular, through the informative television project "Znai bilshe (Know More)", implemented by TV Company "Avers" and the University. During the reporting year, more than 40 programs aimed at potential applicants were recorded along with teachers; speakers revealed the content of micro-topics that can arouse public interest, explaining difficult moments, convincing the audience of the importance of certain discoveries, views, decisions, helping to develop important skills and worldviews.

During the reporting period, the University actively sent announcements and releases aimed at increasing the attendance of journalists at events organized by the University. There was an active exchange of information between the University and the media. It is related absolutely to all regional editorial boards, communication with mass media of Lviv, Rivne, and Ternopil regions has been established. Information about the University was sent for distribution to all-Ukrainian resources such as "UNIAN", "Obozrevatel", "Ukrinform" and others.

The main emphasis of the promotional policy is to verbalize the competitive advantages of Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University. There was a deepening of interaction with applicants and their parents. Promotional articles in the leading publishing houses of Volyn region: "Volyn", "Visnyk and Co" were published. An effective strategy of promotional influence on potential applicants was the placement of advertising materials about the University on the resources "Vstup.Osvita.UA" and "Vstup.Info", which covered Volyn, Rivne, Lviv, and Khmelnytskyi regions.

Promotional audio recording about the University is actively presented on the radio stations "Hit FM", "Lux FM", "Maximum", "Auto-radio", territorially covering Rivne, Lutsk, Kovel, Novovolynsk and other settlements of Volyn and Rivne regions.

An important segment of the promotional campaign was the broadcast of the message that the University provides quality educational services. For this purpose, the opportunities for outdoor advertising were used, which territorially covered the cities

of Lutsk, Novovolynsk, Kovel, and other districts of Volyn region. There are more than 60 promotional boards, as well as city lights.

Since Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University opened application for students for the first time in the specialty "Medicine", the video "#Secret_Laboratories" was shot, which was actively shared on social networks "Facebook", "Instagram", broadcast on TV Company "Avers" and "Channel12".

Among the priorities of the promotional work of the University - strengthening the brand recognition of "Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University"; a new logo and symbols of the University were developed and approved. Another aspect of promotional cooperation was the development and coordination of activities aimed at creating information, advertising, journalistic materials dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the University. Information about the achievements of the University was disseminated systematically and in a coordinated manner on various platforms and with the help of the most modern tools.

To conduct effective research work at the University, 17 research laboratories, 9 centers, and 2 research institutes are successfully operating. In particular, in 2020, 2 research and 1 training and research laboratory, and 4 new centers were opened.

In the reporting year, 6 state budget research works (4 fundamental and 2 applied) were successfully performed for the total amount of UAH 2,545,380 thousand. At the request of Ukrainian enterprises and organizations in 2020, the University performed 16 research works based on economic agreements, 11 of which - were works of the scientific direction "Forestry and garden design", 2 – "Mathematical Sciences and Natural Sciences", 1 – "Social Sciences". The total amount of funding for these research works amounted to UAH 146,000. In 2020, 5 individual research department works were registered at the Ukrainian Institute of Scientific and Technical Expertise and Information.

There is a positive tendency in the submission of applications for protection documents. The University has prepared 11 applications for patents and utility models and 16 applications for copyright registration certificates.

We have an increasing trend in the defense of doctoral dissertations by academic, research, and teaching staff of the University. Thus, in the reporting year, 8 scientists

defended their dissertations for the degree of Doctor of Sciences.

In 2020 six scientific journals were included in the list of scientific professional publications (category "B").

There is an increase in quantitative and qualitative indicators of publishing activity among academic, research, and teaching staff in journals indexed in Scopus and Web of Science databases. In particular, the University's scientists have published 83 scientific articles in journals indexed in Scopus databases, and 75 - in the Web of Science databases. 5 articles out of the total number have been published in the Q1 scientific journals.

During the reporting period, we actively worked on the development of the internal system of ensuring academic integrity and quality of education:

1. The Code of Academic Integrity of Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University has been developed and approved, which establishes the general basis, values, principles, guidelines, and rules of ethical conduct of persons working and studying at the University, and aims to form academic values and high academic culture; affirmation of moral values, social activity, and responsibility of each member of the University community; increasing the positive image and business reputation of the University in the national and international educational space.

2. Regulation on the Committee on Scientific Research Ethics of the Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University for implementation and control of observance of ethical principles and norms of scientific research have been developed and approved. The committee aims to implement policies and monitor compliance with the principles of academic integrity, as well as to protect the rights of subjects and ensure compliance with the principles of bioethics in research involving humans, biological material, or laboratory animals.

3. We were first among 153 higher education institutions of Ukraine in the Academic IQ Initiative - Academic IQ project, administered by the American Councils for International Education and supported by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and the US Embassy in Ukraine for the development of the internal system of ensuring academic integrity and quality of education.

Currently, the University has a strong partner base of 50 international

institutions. In 2020, BaiIn Shandong International Educational Company (China) became our partner. Currently, 14 applicants from China have enrolled in certificate courses in the Ukrainian language on an individual educational trajectory and specially developed educational and didactic materials.

We started the procedure of collaboration and signing agreements with:

- the Pedagogical University of Krakow named after the Commission of National Education (Republic of Poland) on scientific and didactic cooperation;
- Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń (Republic of Poland) on cooperation in the field of academic education and research;
- American Councils for International Education in Ukraine.

The University continues to implement the "Double Degree Diploma" program with such partner higher education institutions as Jan Dlugosz Humanities and Natural Sciences University in Czestochowa, the Pomeranian Academy in Slupsk, and the Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas. Students obtain diplomas in the following specialties: "Physical Rehabilitation", "Computer Science", "Physics", "Informational Technologies", "Mathematics", "Biology", "Biotechnology", "Social Work", "Tourism", "Culture and Art" and "Music".

In the framework of project activity, it should be noted that our University together with the NGO "Center for Public Education" with the support of the International Foundation for Social Adaptation has launched the next stage of the "Norway-Ukraine" project, which provides retraining and social adaptation of military officers, veterans and their families in Ukraine. The project is funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Erasmus + projects are being implemented at the University: "EU Studios at Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University" and "Youth School of Social Media Security". Cooperation with more than 10 foreign partners within the framework of Erasmus + academic mobility projects continues. Cooperation within the MEDEVAC program, the government's health and humanitarian program in the Czech Republic continue. The project is supported by the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Health, and the Czech Ministry of Defense.

The University in cooperation with the Volyn Medical Institute with the support

of Lutsk City Council within the project "Intersectoral cooperation strengthening for social cohesion (SC3)", co-funded by the European Union and the British Council in Ukraine, implemented the project "Psychosocial support of physicians during a pandemic".

Individual international grants have been implemented by University researchers with the support of the United States, Canada, and Poland.

In 2020, as part of the Visiting Professor program, scholars from the United Kingdom, the United States, and Poland were invited to conduct lectures (Danilo Contiero, Jacek Dehnel, Daniel Sherik, Tony Palmer).

The university has updated the educational offer for foreign students. We have a positive trend in the number of foreign students (this year we have 63 people).

If we analyze the data on the preparatory department, we can observe that after a break in the recruitment of foreign students to the preparatory department in 2020, a new academic group of 14 people was formed.

Analyzing the data of educational activities, it should be noted that the contingent of students of the University as of November 1, 2020, was 8190 people (9347 including the students of the College of Technology, Business and Law), in particular:

- full-time - 6511 students (7490 including the students of the College of Technology, Business and Law), namely: bachelors - 4973, masters - 1503, including foreign students - 35);
- part-time - 1679 students (1857 including the students of College of Technology, Business and Law), namely: bachelors - 1035, masters - 641, including foreign students - 3).

As of October 1, 2020, the teaching staff of the University is 772 full-time workers, including:

- Doctors of Sciences - 100;
- Professors - 90;
- Candidates of Sciences (Doctors of Philosophy) - 575;
- Associate Professors - 442.

In 2020, the Scientific and Methodological Council of the University considered

and approved 290 positions of educational and methodological publications; 21 positions of electronic educational resources; 33 editions that received the stamp "Recommended".

Practical training of students plays an important role in the organization of the educational process. In 2020, more than 330 training and internships were conducted at all faculties (institutes), and the University signed 382 agreements for student internships, including 73 long-term agreements. The bases of practices are the Department of Education of Lutsk City Council, Volyn Regional State Administration, Lutsk City Council, Lutsk District State Administration, LLC SM "Modern Expo", SE "ASZ № 1", JSC AC "Bogdan Motors", SE "Lutsk Repair Plant "Motor"", Volyn Regional Clinical Hospital, PJSC "SKF Ukraine", State Rehabilitation Institution "Center for Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Children with Disabilities "Prolisok", PJSC "State Savings Bank of Ukraine "OSHCHADBANK"".

During the reporting period, 3013 graduates of the University received diplomas: at the first (bachelor's) level - 1244 full-time graduates and 553 part-time graduates; at the second (master's) level - 807 full-time graduates and 409 part-time graduates.

In 2020, the admission of entrants took place at educational levels: at the first (bachelor's) level in 65 specialties - 69 educational programs; at the second (master's) level in 59 specialties - 69 educational programs. For the first time, enrollment based on complete general secondary education at the educational level "Master" was carried out in specialty 222 "Medicine".

As of August 22, 2020, 12,191 applications from entrants for the Bachelor's and Master's degrees were submitted to the Admissions Committee. Statistics show that the number of people willing to enter Volyn National University this year increased by 1,000 people compared to the previous year (mainly due to full-time education). The most popular among entrants was the educational program "Language and Literature (English). Translation", where 427 applications were submitted. Invariably a large number of entrants preferred the specialty "Law" - 391 applications; 243 and 240 applications, respectively, were submitted in the specialties "Preschool Education" and "Secondary Education. Ukrainian language and literature". Specialties "State Security" and "Hotel and Restaurant Business" are the leaders in the number of applications for

non-budget tenders submitted (170 and 123 applications, respectively).

An important indicator is a choice of priority. In 2020, 1306 entrants gave No.1 priority to our University, No.2 priority - 1266, No. 3 - 1056, No. 4 - 987, No. 5 - 922. As a rule, the highest priority is given to those specialties that are in the lead in terms of the number of applications submitted. An exception is the specialty 017 "Physical Culture and Sports", which closes the top three in the number of applications with No. 1 priority: of the 152 applications submitted, almost 50% had No. 1 priority.

This year, the Admissions Committee of the University at the educational levels "Bachelor" and "Master" from the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine received 1273 places of state order for full-time and part-time education. As of September 15, 1,426 people were enrolled at the expense of individuals and legal entities in all educational degrees, of which 1,120 study full-time and 306 part-time. 1675 students are enrolled in the first year of the Bachelor's degree, 1513 of them are full-time students, 162 are part-time students.

During the reporting period, the structure of the University was updated and the Educational and Scientific Institute of Continuing Education (ESICE) was created, which included:

- center for retraining and advanced training;
- preparatory department;
- Department of Postgraduate Studies, Doctoral Studies.

Aiming to promote the professional development of teachers and research and teaching staff, the Center for Retraining and Advanced Training conducts training programs for teachers of general secondary, preschool, out-of-school, professional (vocational), and professional higher education. Form of study - part-time. Courses were held for more than 40 groups of students with the participation of more than 1,000 people. Advanced training takes place in 20 specialties. 235 people received their second higher education at ESICE, 109 of which were enrolled in 2020.

During the reporting period, the Institute of Continuing Education:

- developed documentation and began work on certificate courses in the study of Ukrainian as a foreign language for foreigners and stateless persons;
- prepared entrants for external independent assessment in the following

disciplines: Ukrainian language, Ukrainian literature, history of Ukraine, Mathematics, Biology, English. Graduates of the preparatory department got additional points during the entrance to Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University. 19 students were enrolled in various educational programs;

- prepared educational and methodical documentation on enrollment in preparatory courses for in-depth study of a foreign language (with the indication of language); in preparation for the professional entrance examination for entrants based on the educational degree of junior specialist; to the Unified Professional Test (UPT) in Law and General Legal Training Competences; unified entrance exam in a foreign language (UEE); on preparation for creative and complex exams;
- agreed on cooperation with the Volyn Regional Small Academy of Sciences in the framework of part-time and distance work, which involves the preparatory department and research and teaching staff of the University, which conducts classes in part-time schools. Students of the part-time school of the Small Academy of Sciences of Ukraine have the opportunity to enroll in their education in the basic subject as training in preparatory courses. Training is conducted according to the program of preparation for external independent evaluation;
- created the Center for the Study of the Ukrainian Language for the Citizens of the People's Republic of China. Under an agreement with BaiIn Shadung International Educational Company (China).

As of October 1, 2020, 240 people are enrolled in postgraduate studies and 15 are in doctoral studies. Permission for educational activities was obtained for 26 specialties. The main results of the department of postgraduate and doctoral studies:

- 58 people were enrolled in the first year of postgraduate studies and 8 people in doctoral studies;
- Accreditation of educational and scientific programs in the specialties 011 "Educational, pedagogical sciences", 032 "History and archeology", 103 "Earth sciences" was successfully passed;
- 6 graduate students underwent internships, training, joint research abroad;

- 2 graduate students receive academic scholarships from the President of Ukraine and named after M.S. Hrushevsky;
- 1 graduate student implements an individual international grant with the support of the German scholarship program BAYHOST;
- 8 people out of 11 graduate students, were recommended for defense, and 3 out of 5 doctoral students, defended their dissertations.

This year we conducted an admission campaign for the first time and enrolled 7 students for the specialty 222 "Medicine" based on general secondary education: 4 on a budget form of education, 3 - on a contract basis. 13 students (on a contract form of study) are enrolled in the 2nd year based on a junior specialist.

Three new departments have been opened: human anatomy; histology and medical biology; clinical medicine. A new curriculum has been created, which provides for 25% of elective (for students' choice) subjects under the Law of Ukraine "On Higher Education". Modern textbooks for 1-2 courses have been identified and purchased. The Center for Innovative Technologies and Computer Testing of the University can prepare students for the licensing examination USMLE STEP 1. Databases of test questions are downloaded in the following disciplines: Anatomy, Histology, Medical Biology, Physiology. Preparation of bases on biochemistry, pharmacy is also practically finished.

Cooperation agreements between the University, the Regional Clinical Hospital, the Regional Perinatal Center, the Regional Dental Clinic, and the Regional Council have been updated and renegotiated in a tripartite format. These medical institutions are defined as clinical bases of the University. The agreement is concluded with Hemomedia Diagnostic Laboratory (Lutsk) and Volyn Medical Institute.

To attract foreign students to study at the Medical Institute, the University was registered on the list of the World Federation for Medical Education. A package of documents for the recognition of diplomas issued by the University, the Medical Council of India (MCI) is sent to the Embassy of India.

The scientific direction in medicine is developing. Intended areas - neuroscience: neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, neuron morphology, neurosurgery, psychology, psychiatry.

In 2020, important areas of economic activity were the improvement of conditions related to the study and living of students, the elimination of the dangerous condition of the University buildings, the rational and economical use of fuel and energy resources. The implementation of the energy-saving project "Higher Education. Energy efficiency and sustainable development" is in the process. The construction of a new multifunctional sports complex based on the practice of sports and recreation camp "Hart" on the lake Svityaz, Shatsk district, Volyn region continues.

Currently, the project documentation of PE "TAM PROJECT-SERVICE" has been prepared; an expert report on the consideration of this project documentation was issued by LLC "The first private expertise".

This year the construction of the University Church of St. Sophia - the Wisdom of God was completed and its consecration was held.

To ensure the educational process, reliable operation of buildings, the University constantly carries out capital and current repairs of buildings, classrooms, laboratories, dormitories, in particular:

- current repairs of classrooms in the educational building No. 7, located at 28, Vynnychenka St., were carried out for UAH 225,000 (total area - 135 square meters).

- current repairs of the auditoriums of the educational building No. 6 were carried out at the address: 15, Kovelska St. The amount of the contract is UAH 269,000. The total area of repair - 110 square meters. These classrooms are also furnished and equipped with new computer equipment, interactive whiteboards, and easels;

- current repairs of the lobby of the educational building No. 4 were carried out, where a modern recreation area was arranged. The total amount of the contract is UAH 252,000. The total area of repairs - 200 square meters.

One of the tasks performed by the economic part is the repair of the first block of dormitory No. 3 with the replacement of plumbing equipment, the repair of rooms that will be fully furnished.

Also, cosmetic repairs were carried out with painting and whitewashing of ceilings and walls, with cycling or installation of a new floor in the following buildings of the University (for UAH 670,000). In the main building (13, Voli Ave.), auditorium No.324 with an area of 33.8 square meters was renovated, also the archive building -

62 square meters, and the auditorium No. 316 with an area of 30.5 square meters.

Following the building norms on the accessibility of the educational institution for less mobile groups of the population, including people with disabilities, ramps were made in the educational and laboratory building No. 2 (9, Potapova St.), in the educational building No. 7 (28, Vynnychenka St.), in the educational building No. 5 (sports complex).

Repair works were carried out to maintain the proper condition of the sports and health center – "Hart" camp. The floor in "Vulyk (Beehive)" and "Pavuk (Spider)" was partially replaced. Two new pavilions for students and employees of the University have been set up on the territory of the base, a swing has been installed.

All purchases are made by the University through the electronic system ProZorro, which allows for saving money. Approximate list of goods and services for which the University funds were spent: purchase of natural gas together with the gas distribution service; water supply; drainage; electricity; heat supply; hot water; Ukrtelecom services; printing services (printing of diplomas, forms); photocopying and printing equipment (materials for office equipment, including toners and cartridges). Interactive boards, stationery was purchased; laboratory equipment (microscope repair) was repaired. Energy-saving lamps; sports equipment; tables and cabinets in the auditoriums were purchased.

The educational process at the university, being an integral part of the professional and personal development of future professionals, is carried out to form students' active citizenship, preservation, and enhancement of moral, cultural, scientific values and traditions of the University.

The priority in the educational work of 2020 is the formation of university values, patriotism, and respect for the educational institution, which was ensured through several events, including the inauguration of the new academic year, dedication to freshmen, the celebration of the 80th anniversary of Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University.

Teachers and students of the University participated in the All-Ukrainian patriotic race in athletics to commemorate the fallen Heroes of the ATO "I respect the soldiers, I run for the Heroes of Ukraine!".

One of the priorities of youth policy in Ukraine is the national and patriotic education of youth. Several events were organized for students, aimed to form high spirituality, a sense of social responsibility, and patriotism. Lectures of outstanding people of the present were devoted to this; General Andrii Kovalchuk, Hero of Ukraine, Deputy Commander of the Ukrainian Air Assault Forces, who was awarded many honorary orders, addressed the students. It is especially gratifying that this combat officer, a participant in UN missions and hostilities in eastern Ukraine, was born in Volyn. The meeting with the President of the Republic of Georgia from 2004-to 2013, former head of the Odessa regional state administration Mikheil Saakashvili was important. The topic of conversation was "Reforms of Ukraine: state and prospects".

Representatives of our University participated in the commemoration of the 77th anniversary of the UPA battle against the German occupiers in Novyi Zahoriv, Lokachi district, Volyn region.

During the reporting period, the student active representatives participated in the All-Ukrainian competitions of the Special Olympics of Ukraine in football, where "children of the sun" demonstrated and improved their abilities.

One of the important directions of activity was career guidance work. Numerous events were held during the reporting year, in which teachers and students took part. Several career guidance training was organized and conducted for those interested to improve the employment of students at all faculties and institutes.

As a result, the University is the best in Ukraine in terms of development. During the year in the ranking of "Top 200 Ukraine" our higher education institution became 17 positions higher than it was. According to the world ranking, Webometrics improved its position by 92 points and rose from 124th to 34th place; in the consolidated rating - from 37th to 32nd place. This is great progress because each of these ratings has a very complex method of calculation, which is influenced only by qualitative indicators and indicators of educational, scientific, and international activities of teaching and administrative staff, students.