
Book of Abstracts

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Universality, Multipurpose and Interdisciplinarity of Foreign Languages Major Skillset: Survey Study

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Abstract

Transformative shifts in the knowledge economy of the XXI century, Industry 4.0 development and elaboration of networked society, emergency digitization due to quarantine measures has imposed pressing revisions onto job market demands of Liberal Arts university graduates' skillsets, upon entering the workforce. This, in turn, stipulates reevaluation of the comprehensive professional competences perceived by stakeholders of Foreign Languages programs.

The study aims to critically review the applied case and best practices of Borys Grinchenko Kyiv University (Ukraine) in development of multipurpose orientation, universality and interdisciplinarity of skillsets for students of European (French, Italian, Spanish, English, German) and Oriental (Mandarin Chinese, Japanese) Languages major programs. The survey analysis is applied for in-depth diagnostics of professional competence and projected employability of in-training linguistic specialists. The investigation seeks to identify various groups of applied skills, digital skills, and interdisciplinary soft skills, customized for up-to-date Foreign language university programs. The survey sample consists of 447 respondents across 4 years (Freshman to Senior) of the Bachelor's programs in European and Oriental languages.

The study findings disclose: assessment of skills, crucial for successful professional development overall; systematization and assessment of skills, enhanced by higher philological education; evaluation of a philologist training universality/versatility by stakeholders; estimation of a philologist training interdisciplinarity by stakeholders; core professional values a linguistic education can help actualize; social spheres estimated most accommodating or lucrative for a foreign languages education skillset; employment options and projected career paths for a foreign linguist in Ukraine; estimated needs and avenues of upskilling or retraining by Foreign Languages majors to meet dynamic job market requirements.

Keywords: universal skills, inter-disciplinary skills, digital skills, multipurpose, linguistic training, survey