



Changes in the education system and modern skills

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Abstract. Transformations in education and the cultivation of modern skills are vital for updating educational practices globally. The integration of new technologies, digital resources, and innovative teaching methodologies is enhancing the quality of education. Essential modern skills, including critical thinking, problem-solving, and effective communication, are enabling students to thrive in the professional world. These advancements are beneficial not only for students but also for educators and educational institutions. It is crucial that the evolving demands of the education system build upon traditional methods to equip future generations for success in the contemporary job market.

Keywords: higher education, continuous learning, digital transformation, modern skills, european higher education, educational reform, lifelong learning, critical thinking, problem-solving, communication skills, bologna process, educational technology, intellectual development, curriculum development, skills gap, workforce development, sustainable development, innovation in education, quality assurance, accessibility of education

Introduction. Monitoring of higher education underscores the necessity of continuous learning for achieving success across all disciplines. In today's rapidly evolving world, with increasing automation, individuals must acquire new skills to meet the demands of digital transformation. This fuels the demand for digitally proficient technical skills and broadens the scope of individuals interested in education and adaptation. This highlights the importance of lifelong learning and the acquisition of digital skills. The rise of online courses and distance learning has made education more accessible than ever. Students can now attend top universities worldwide from their homes, while professionals can upgrade their skills without interrupting their careers. This creates new opportunities for lifelong learning and professional development, enabling individuals to stay competitive and relevant in their fields.





Methodology. Based on the aforementioned context, this paper aims to identify and characterize the key challenges, trends, and development prospects in European higher education, as well as the potential for applying European experiences within the Russian context. The research employed:

- General scientific methods (analysis, synthesis, comparison, correlation, and generalization) to examine scholarly literature and materials related to the challenges and prospects of higher education in modern society, using European countries as examples.
- Theoretical forecasting to determine how to creatively apply progressive ideas and pedagogically valuable European practices to develop and modernize the Russian higher education system.
- Specific scientific methods, including a retrospective analysis to understand the evolution of the European higher education system from the late 20th to the early 21st century, and a systemic structural approach to systematize advanced ideas and generalize the practical experience of their implementation in European higher education.

Analysis of Recent Research and Problem Statement. Continuous learning is crucial not only for individual success but also for organizational success. Companies that prioritize employee training and development demonstrate higher productivity and profitability. Consequently, employers are increasingly seeking candidates with a strong desire to learn and acquire new skills. Furthermore, continuous learning significantly contributes to employee retention. When companies invest in their employees' professional growth, they foster loyalty and commitment, leading to longer employee tenure and reduced recruitment and training costs. In today's knowledge-driven economy, a company's value is closely linked to the intellectual capital of its workforce. Therefore, organizations that promote continuous learning and cultivate a learning culture are better positioned to attract and retain top talent, creating a competitive advantage through a workforce with diverse skills and adaptability to emerging technologies and trends. Continuous learning is essential for both individual and organizational success, enabling individuals to remain competitive and organizations to stay ahead of the curve and attract top talent. As technological advancements accelerate, continuous learning will become even more critical for everyone. Continuous learning is critical in today's fast-paced and rapidly changing world. It enables individuals to remain competitive in the job market, organizations to





stay ahead of the curve, and society to progress as a whole. Indeed, in the current age of digital transformation, continuous learning is more crucial than ever before. With technological advancements and automation replacing traditional job roles, individuals need to constantly acquire new skills to remain relevant in the job market. At the same time, organizations need to invest in their employees' professional growth and development to remain competitive and innovative. Moreover, continuous learning not only benefits individuals and organizations but also has a positive impact on society as a whole. It promotes economic growth, social mobility, and personal fulfillment, as individuals are better equipped to contribute to society's needs and tackle complex challenges. Continuous learning is also essential for sustainable development, as it fosters a culture of innovation and creativity that can drive progress towards a more sustainable future. The modern education system was formed in response to the beginning of industrialization, during the emergence and development of industrial enterprises. Such enterprises required a large number of workers who would perform narrow operations on a work schedule without unnecessary questions. To date, the education system in most countries has focused on accumulating knowledge. Currently, we are moving away from the era of industrialization, as all routine operations can be performed automatically through automation and digital technologies. Furthermore, the traditional education system was designed to train individuals for specific careers or professions, with little emphasis on the development of soft skills or personal growth. However, in today's rapidly changing and interconnected world, the ability to communicate effectively, collaborate with others, and adapt to new situations is becoming increasingly important. Continuous learning allows individuals to develop these skills, which not only benefits their own personal and professional growth but also enhances their ability to contribute to society and create positive change. Moreover, continuous learning plays a crucial role in addressing social and environmental challenges, such as poverty, inequality, and climate change. By acquiring new knowledge and skills, individuals can better understand the complexity of these issues and contribute to finding solutions. This, in turn, can lead to the creation of more sustainable and resilient communities and a better future for all.

Results. Leading scientists, international organization experts, and officials from developed countries recognized higher education as being in crisis at the end of the last





century. A 1994 World Bank report stated that higher education was in crisis worldwide. Western and domestic experts noted that the crisis was evident in:

- A lag in higher education research compared to real-world needs.
- Slow adaptation in training specialists for in-demand labor market roles.
- Declining quality of education.
- Decreased knowledge levels among graduates.
- Growing inequality in access to higher education for different social groups.
- Increasing dissatisfaction among students and parents.

Key reasons for the crisis included excessive state intervention, reduced funding, flawed management, and rising tuition fees. Currently, European countries are actively working to improve higher education and create favorable conditions for individual development and professional success. The Bologna Process, involving Russian higher education, is a significant and promising initiative. Initiated by the education ministers of France, Great Britain, Germany, and Italy, the Bologna process promotes a European dimension in education. The 1997 Lisbon Convention on recognizing higher education qualifications in Europe, signed by 43 countries, and the Sorbonne Declaration, outlining key trends in European higher education collaboration, are examples of this. Despite economic crises and social transformations, developed countries prioritize education and higher education, ensuring equal access for domestic and foreign citizens, recognizing that the primary goal of education is to develop the state's intellectual potential. Scientists and politicians have defined international goals and criteria for education, focusing on quality, trust, compatibility, mobility, comparison of qualifications, and attractiveness within the European Higher Education Area. Quality is the foundation for conformity, mobility, compatibility, and attractiveness in the European Higher Education Area, as emphasized in the Communiqué “Realizing the European Higher Education Area” at the Conference of Ministers of higher education.

Discussion. Analysis of European experiences suggests that reforms to address challenges in Russian higher education should include:

- Developing a scientifically sound state concept for higher education development and implementing a clear and consistent reform policy.
- Emphasizing market-oriented approaches.
- Encouraging diverse types and forms of higher education institutions.





- Motivating state institutions to use funds effectively and expand funding sources.
- Revising the state's role, limiting administrative interference, and granting institutions greater autonomy.
- Promoting the private sector in higher education.
- Identifying priorities and focusing on qualitative and equitable educational goals.

Three strategic approaches to resolving the higher education crisis include:

- Conceptual development of education.
- Autonomy and democratization of educational institutions.
- State promotion of quality assurance.

Autonomy and decentralization are particularly challenging for the Russian education system. While democratization and institutional autonomy are essential for modern development, existing issues and abuses necessitate administrative control, which state authorities exert at all levels.

Conclusions. Developing intellect is complex, requiring time, communication, and technology. Accelerating this with digital or educational technologies is beneficial. However, the tool should not overshadow the goal. Teaching students how to learn and conveying the importance of education are vital. In addition to technical and soft skills, instilling purpose and a lifelong love of learning is crucial. This equips students to navigate the digital economy and develop their skills throughout their careers. The ultimate goal is to cultivate a curious and adaptable mind capable of thriving in any situation. This requires a holistic approach encompassing technical skills, personal growth, social development, and a sense of purpose to prepare the next generation for the digital age. While digital technologies can accelerate intellectual development, the core idea is to develop a curious and adaptable mind. Teachers should inspire students by conveying the importance of education and instilling a passion for lifelong learning. An all-encompassing approach is essential, including technical skills, personal growth, social development, and a sense of purpose, to equip students for the evolving digital age and facilitate their skill development. Intellectual development is multifaceted and requires a holistic approach. While digital tools can help, the ultimate goal is to cultivate a curious and adaptable mind with a sense of purpose and passion for lifelong learning. By focusing on personal growth, social development, critical thinking, and ethical





considerations, we can prepare students for success and encourage them to make a positive impact.

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