

Educational System in Different Countries of Europe

The main items of 21 century are knowledge and skills. Education is a “key” to sustainable development, peace and stability, both in the country and beyond its borders. It became one of the most important factors in the formation of a new quality of the economy and society. Deprivation of education cannot lead the country to the successful future. Only knowledge development in various spheres of life will contribute promotion and modernization. That, who owns the information, owns the world, but to be able to perceive and process the incoming information correctly, people need education.

A person’s communion to the culture, human society, accumulated to previous generations knowledge begins with education. It also gives people life guidelines, affects the formation of the worldview and ensures continuing of language, traditions, thereby contributing to formation of national identity and preservation of national culture. Education is needed not only to be able to create contact with aliens, but also to save prestige of the state among the leading countries of the world.

European educational system reform led to creating the Bologna process. This system will prepare qualified specialist with “new” outlook. An accent on educational achievements of a student makes him/her a central figure of educational process. The Bologna process ensure that the prestige of European education system in the world will be as high as the prestige of European science and culture.

With the development of innovations and technologies Europeans have more and more practice in distance education or “e-learning”, as it is also called. This system of education is interactive and flexible, because it does not depend on time and geographical limitation. “E-learning ” allows students to refuse uncomfortable timetable and combine studying and working.

Admittedly, Finnish educational system is recognized the best in Europe. A characteristic feature of it is that children do not start studying earlier than 7 years old: the educational program of kindergarten is rationally related to elementary school. Compulsory education lasts 9 years. After that, students have the opportunity to continue their education and get an upper secondary general education in gymnasium. The universities in Finland have a practical orientation, combining educational process with professional practice.

French educational system is different with its progressive approach and experimental techniques. In France studying at school begins at the age of 6 years old. The primary school lasts 5 years. Then, when they are 11 years old secondary schools and later colleges begins. The highest level of school education in France is the lyceum. Essentially, it is a preparatory stage before entering the university. French higher education can be got in specialized schools and specific institutions outside of universities.

The education system in Germany is a three-stage structure, which consists of primary, secondary and higher education. Studying in primary schools starts at the age of 6 and lasts for 4-6 years. The course in secondary school lasts from 10-12

to 16 years old and in high school from 16-19 years old. A total length of the full education course is 13 years. The main principle of higher education in Germany is “academic freedom” – a system that allows any student personally to determine the list of disciplines.

The UK education system as the English one is based on the standard of quality. Modern British education system consists of four steps: Elementary School, Secondary School, Further Education and Higher Education. There are 11-year studying is compulsory schools for children at the age from 5 to 16 years old. Before 3-4 years kids go to school, they have to attend a kindergarten. At the age of 7 they pass to Junior school, and at the age of 11 they go to Secondary school. To enter the university students must have an A-level certificate. The higher educational system in the United Kingdom is shown as traditionally academic universities and vocational-oriented polytechnic colleges.

Educational system of Ukraine is presented by a huge amount of educational institutions that prepare leading specialists in various areas. General secondary education children receive at schools. Schools in Ukraine are three-steps. The 1st step is primary school, the 2nd is secondary school and the 3rd is high school. Secondary schools can function as a lyceum or gymnasium. In Ukraine higher educational system is presented as University, Academy, Institute, Conservatory and College. Students attend classes every day except weekends. They also attend lectures, seminars, work with materials in libraries and resource centers.