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## **THE ROLE OF MULTILINGUALISM IN ENHANCING GLOBAL COMPETENCY AND CAREER PROSPECTS: THE CASE OF UKRAINE'S EDUCATION SYSTEM**

Multilingualism has steadily been integrated into modern education and professional training. Importance is gaining ground in focusing on such elements as cultural and linguistic diversity for knowledge sharing and mutual understanding in the increasingly globalized world. Hence, multilingualism forms a significant basis for personal and professional development. Many countries, such as Ukraine, are boldly integrating multilingual programs within their education systems. This will enrich the global awareness of students and make them more attractive to prospective employers in the increasingly competitive labor market. The focus on multilingualism and multiculturalism is indeed essential in preparing learners to thrive in an increasingly connected world. The approach is considered a crucial element in the modernization of the higher education system. Its geographical position, openness to other cultures, and interest in European integration make it greatly influential in the national educational systems [1]. The Ukrainian education system in STEM fields is being designed to meet the rising need for professionals who can navigate diverse linguistic environments, ensuring that students are not only proficient in their technical subjects but also in various languages. This integrated method helps students acquire those proficient communication skills that improve their workplace utility both in Ukraine and on global platforms. These institutions have also initiated a curriculum initiative to provide language classes alongside traditional STEM subjects to provide a more extensive education and to prepare students for the anticipated increase in demand for multilingual abilities, which is increasingly recognized in the global market. This provides larger access to a more diverse range of educational resources and scientific research, as people that are multilingual have an advantage: they can utilize multiple foreign resources that are not easily understood in their native language. Additionally, using multiple languages facilitates an opportunity to participate in numerous international exchanges, this results in rich cross-cultural experiences. Additionally, their linguistic abilities can facilitate the study of different courses in different countries and educational institutions, which will expand their academic scope. This multifaceted advantage can significantly improve their educational and career prospects in today's globalized world. For example, European universities offer multilingual courses so that students from different countries can study together, creating a cross-cultural learning environment. In Ukraine, some courses, especially in the field of information technology, are taught in English so that foreign students can study and promote knowledge exchange. Mastering multiple languages can significantly improve graduates' prospects in the global job market, as it gives them valuable communication skills that are highly sought after by employers. In today's interconnected world, the ability to master multiple languages can make candidates stand out from their peers, open doors to international opportunities and promote cross-cultural understanding. Furthermore,

bilingual or multilingual people often demonstrate greater adaptability and problem-solving skills, making them an asset to a diverse team. Ultimately, mastering multiple languages not only enriches personal development, but also contributes to career success on an international level. The labor market is more competitive. For professionals who want to work in companies with international connections, proficiency in English and other European languages is important. In many international companies, such as Deloitte and PwC, knowledge of English is a must for senior positions. This shows that being multilingual is becoming a key factor for Ukrainian professionals who want to succeed in a global environment [2]. As the demand for multilingual employees continues to increase, taking steps to improve language skills can significantly improve career prospects. Investing time in learning a new language can also boost your confidence and improve your cultural sensitivity, making professionals better prepared to navigate the complexities of the global marketplace. Multilingualism facilitates cross-cultural communication. Learning multiple languages develops cross-cultural communication skills, which are very valuable for working in international teams. Ukrainian students who speak English and other languages can participate in exchange programs such as Erasmus+, which allows them to get to know the cultural features of other countries and better adapt to international groups. In turn, the cross-cultural competences of graduates positively affect their occupational effectiveness. Being a multilingual country of European-Asian cultural crossroads, Ukraine has always paid significant attention to language learning and use. While the Ukrainian language has gained the upper hand in domestic policies, foreign languages, in particular English, German, French, and Polish, are increasingly gaining importance. The tendency towards the above is reinforced by the ever-increasing international position of Ukraine and efforts for European integration. This is great for sparking an interest in including introduced foreign languages in the teaching process of higher education. This can go further to support the emergence of international mobility programs and joint research projects with partner universities around the world, or just the exchange of knowledge between students of different countries. Foreign language skills enable Ukrainian students to participate in international cooperation programs such as Erasmus+ and Horizon 2020, giving them the opportunity to acquire new knowledge, learn from leading European universities and adapt to a multicultural environment. The mastery of multiple languages is essential for the development of cross-cultural communication, which is now a necessary part of professional work. The ability to understand cultural differences and adapt to foreign customs and norms is essential for any specialist working in a globalized environment. Ukrainian students participating in exchange programs can immerse themselves in the culture of other countries, which promotes their personal development and helps them in their future professional lives. Multilingual education not only develops language skills, but also promotes tolerance of other cultures and understanding of their values and traditions. Research shows that speaking multiple languages not only expands students' educational opportunities, but also increases their chances of employment in international companies. Students who speak multiple languages show greater

adaptability and cross-cultural communication skills, which positively affects their career prospects and helps to cultivate a new generation of professionals ready to work in a globalized world. The modern job marketplaces higher demands on professional skills, especially foreign language skills. Ukrainian graduates who know multiple languages have more flexibility in choosing jobs and can apply for positions in international companies that require communication with foreign partners. In Ukraine, many companies such as Deloitte, PwC, Google, Samsung, etc. value multilingual professionals who can work in a multicultural environment and provide high-quality services to international clients. In addition, knowledge of foreign languages provides more opportunities to participate in international training, internships and professional events, thereby promoting professional development and expanding professional contacts.

By promoting multilingual education, Ukraine not only enriches students' personal and professional development but also strengthens its position in the globalized economy and prepares a new generation to thrive in a connected world.

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