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## INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS IN THE SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

**Summary.** Modern integration processes, which are actively developing around the world, are reflected in the development of individual national economies as a whole and their individual industries. The field of higher education is no exception. Internationalization of higher education is one of the main directions of the new concept of higher education reform in Ukraine. The aim of the article is to study international cooperation in the framework of international projects and the formation of a system of international cooperation in higher education institutions on the example of the State University of Infrastructure and Technologies. System of international cooperation in State University of Infrastructure and Technologies is formed on the basis of the designated strategic priorities, directions of realization and results. The implementation of the formed system will give the State University of Infrastructure and Technologies the opportunity to participate in international projects in an equal and full manner, increase the number of foreign students, invite foreign lecturers to become a fully recognized university in the world, which provides high quality education. The proposed system of international cooperation can also be applied to other higher education institutions, taking into account their specifics.

**Key words:** international projects, system of international cooperation, strategic priorities, higher educational institutions, State University of Infrastructure and Technologies.

**Problem statement and its connection with important scientific and practical tasks.** Modern integration processes, which are actively developing around the world, are reflected in the development of individual national economies as a whole and their individual industries. The field of higher education is no exception. Internationalization of higher education is one of the main directions of the new concept of higher education reform in Ukraine. Within this process, international cooperation of universities is becoming important, in particular, the role of international projects in the system of international cooperation is growing. After all, in these condi-

tions, an important criterion for the success of the university is the level of its internationalization, or rather the level of its international activities.

**Analysis of recent publications on the problem.** A significant contribution to the study of various aspects of international cooperation of higher education institutions was made by such famous scientists as Artomov, I.V. [1], Dyman, T.M., Bonkovskyi, O.A. and Vovkohon, A.H. [2], Galtsova, O. and Dmytrychenko, M. [3], Khoruzhyi, H.F. [4], Kucherenko, D.S. and Martyniuk, O.V. [5], and others. The diversity of views of scientists, as well as the lack of a common view on this

issue led to the relevance and choice of the topic of the scientific article.

**Allocation of previously unsolved parts of the general problem.** The analysis of publications indicates a significant amount of existing views and research on international cooperation of higher education institutions. However, despite this, the problem of international cooperation of higher education systems of different countries and, in particular, the role of international projects in international cooperation, is insufficiently studied, relevant and needs further development.

**Formulation of research objectives.** The aim of the research is to study international cooperation in the framework of international projects and the formation of a system of international cooperation in higher education institutions on the example of the State University of Infrastructure and Technologies.

**An outline of the main results and their justification.** According to the authors, one of the important directions in the development of higher education is international cooperation, university partnerships and the export of educational services, the main objectives of which are the integration of the enlightenment system [6; 7].

The system of international cooperation of any university in the world is characterized by content and is based on certain principles. Consider this system on the example of the State University of Infrastructure and Technologies (SUIT). International cooperation in SUIT is considered as a process of formation and development of equal and mutually beneficial partnership between educational entities of different countries.

Its main content is:

- international educational activities, implemented in the form of the provision of educational services to citizens of foreign countries;
- international educational cooperation, providing for the academic mobility of students, graduate students, lecturers and employees, participation in international programs in various fields;
- international scientific and technical cooperation, namely: the implementation of joint research and projects, the organization of international conferences, the publication of scientific papers;
- participation in the work of international educational organizations, it is not an end in itself, but a necessary fac-

tor for determining and correcting a medium and long-term strategy.

The fundamental principles of the development of international university activities are:

- initiative and openness to innovations;
- compliance of international initiatives with the interests of the state and the development priorities of the SUIT;
- equal and mutually beneficial partnership;
- the partnership interaction of all units of the SUIT, which is carried out on an ongoing basis, has been agreed;
- orientation to world standards and the positive experience of partners;
- communicative and interethnic tolerance;
- preservation of national traditions and universities customs.

International cooperation and integration in the field of education really helps to increase the mobility of lectures and students, the independence of students, their level of self-organization. New prospects are now opening up in cooperation between domestic higher education institutions, in particular, the State University of Infrastructure and Technologies (SUIT) with foreign universities.

SUIT is a member of the International Association of Maritime Universities (IAMU), whose goals are to maintain high standards of maritime education, providing the world shipping industry with qualified personnel at the international level, promoting safe navigation and the Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO), the world's largest international non-governmental organization in the sector shipping.

In the framework of this cooperation, SUIT provides an expert assessment of the submitted project proposals for research, competitions, IAMUs are annually announced. Three SUIT scientists are IATU international experts. In addition, representatives of the University for the first time entered the permanent delegations and working bodies of key international organizations in the field of sea and river transport.

An important component of international cooperation in the field of higher education is the attraction of foreign citizens to study. Over the past three years, the share of foreigners in the total number of students at SUIT has grown from 4.79% to 4.94% (Figure 1).

Figure 2 shows the structure of foreign students by countries, which indicates that there is a steady demand for SUIT educational services in the countries of the former Soviet Union.

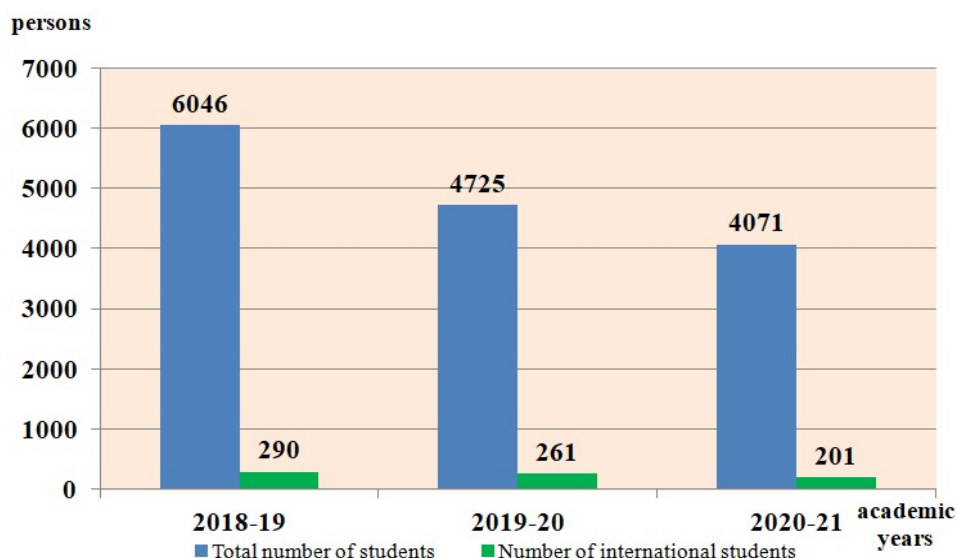


Figure 1. Number of students in SUIT 2018–2021 academic years, persons

Source: developed by the authors based on [8]

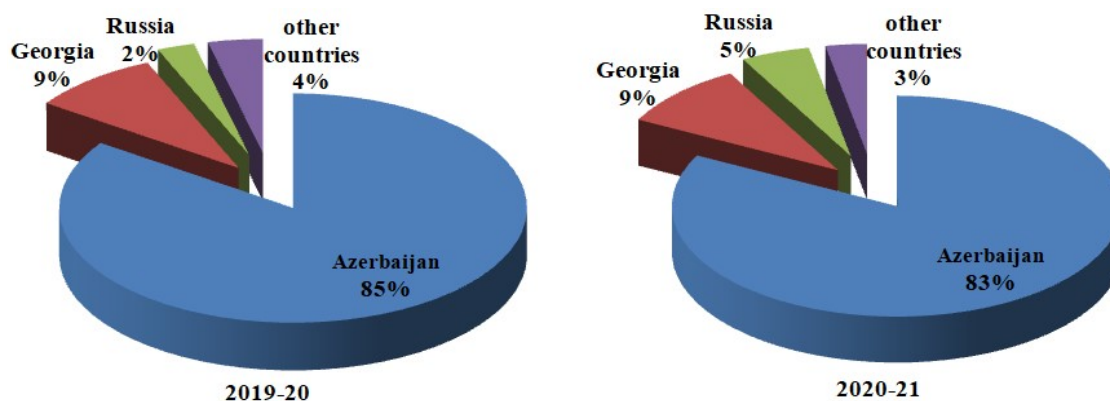


Figure 2. Structure of SUIT foreign students in 2019–2021 academic years from around the world (in %)

Source: developed by the authors based on [8]

A double diploma program with the Higher School of Economics and Labor Protection in Katowice (Poland), educational and the professional program «Business Administration», which also allows our students to join all mobility programs administered by the European Union.

Since 2016, SUIT has been involved in a number of projects. History of international cooperation of SUIT in the framework of international projects is given in table 1.

So, now SUIT has the appropriate resources and a significant number of highly professional and motivated employees,

who are constantly acquiring new competencies in ensuring the SUIT internationalization based on the best world practices and experience. This gives SUIT the opportunity of equal and full participation in the European programs of academic mobility, international projects and so on.

The solution of the tasks set is possible on the basis of introducing the suit system of international cooperation, which is proposed by the team of authors and is included strategic priorities, areas of implementation and expected results of international cooperation (Figure 3).

Table 1

International cooperation of SUIT in the framework of international projects

Deadlines	The program to which the project belongs	Project name	Purpose or mission
01/12/2013 – 01/02/2017	Tempus IV (Trans-European Mobility Programme for University Studies)	«Knowledge Transfer Unit – From Applied Research and Technology – Entrepreneurial Know-How Exchange to Development of Interdisciplinary Curricula Modules – KTU» 544031-TEMPUS-1-2013-1-AT-Tempus-JPHES	intensification of interaction of universities with industrial partners and commercialization of university activities
01/06/2018 – 31/07/2020	Erasmus+ KA1. Academic mobility	Erasmus + KA107 – Learning Mobility of Individuals between Programme and Partner Countries	implementation of academic mobility of students, educational and the professional program and staff in partnership with: – Latvian Maritime Academy (Riga, Latvia), specialty 271 «Sea and river transport»; – Lithuanian Maritime Academy (Kaunas, Lithuan), specialty 271 «Sea and river transport»; – Jan Dlugosz University (Poland, Czestochowa), specialties 081 «Law» and 121»Software Engineering»
15/10/2018 – 14/10/2021	Erasmus+ KA2. Cooperation projects	«Crisis and Risks Engineering for Transport Services – CRENG» 598218-EPP-1-2018-1-PL-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP	support for the development of crisis engineering and risks in the field of transport services to ensure the sustainability of transport systems of Ukraine (UA), Azerbaijan (AZ) and Turkmenistan (TM) for their integration into the global transport network
15/11/ 2019 – 14/11/ 2023		«Academic Response to Hybrid Threats – WARN» 610133-EPP-1-2019-1-FI-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP	enhancing national security and overcoming the lack of security services caused by the emergence of hybrid threats
25/02/2021 – 28 /05/2021	«Norway – Ukraine. Professional adaptation. Integration into the state system» (NUPASS)	Agreement between the International Charitable Foundation «International Fund for Social Adaptation» (IFAS) and the State University of Infrastructure and Technologies	The subject of the Agreement is professional retraining of servicemen, veterans and members of their families in the form of course training under the program «Business Management» on the basis of the educational and scientific center of postgraduate education of the State University of Infrastructure and Technologies

Source: developed by the authors based on [9; 10; 11; 12; 13; 14]



The most important strategic priorities for the implementation of the international activities of SUIT are:

1. Improving the image of the national education system of specialists for the transport industry in the world market of educational services.
2. Strengthening our own competitive positions in the global educational space.
3. Continuous integration into the European and world educational, scientific, economic and cultural space in order to achieve high international standards in academic and scientific work, improve the quality of training of specialists, develop own scientific and technical potential, create a sys-

tem of human value orientations in the university environment, disseminate foreign countries achievements and experience SUIT.

4. Development of SUIT as a university of international level, the quality of educational and scientific activities of which complies with the requirements of leading universities in the world.

5. Development of cooperation with international, multinational companies to ensure the competitiveness of university graduates and the expansion of international cooperation in the framework of existing partnerships.

6. Cooperation with international organizations:

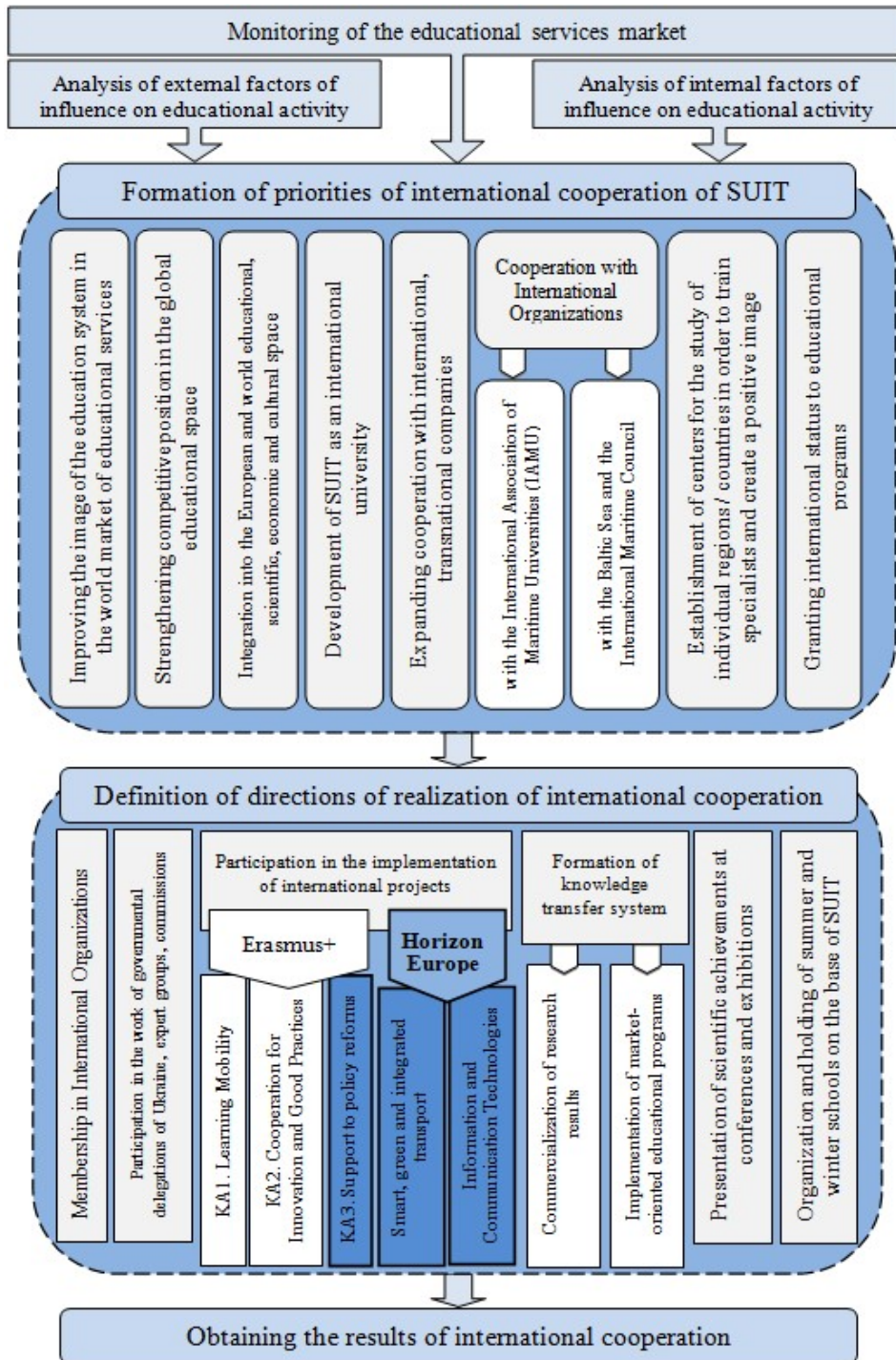


Figure 3. The system of international cooperation of SUIT

Source: developed by the authors

– The International Association of Maritime Universities (IAMU), the purpose of which is to maintain high standards of maritime education, providing the world shipping industry with qualified personnel at the international level, and promoting safe navigation. In the framework of this cooperation, SUIIT will participate in joint projects and events, provide an expert assessment of the submitted project proposals for research, competitions, IAMU are annually announced.

– Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO) – the world's largest international non-governmental organizations in the shipping sector.

7. Establishment (with the support of the respective embassies) of centers for the study of individual regions / countries or related problems in order to train specialists who are able to develop, research and work on issues of the corresponding direction.

8. Granting international status to the SUIIT educational programs.

The main directions for the implementation of SUIIT system international cooperation are:

1. SUIIT membership and working in International Organizations.

2. Participation of SUIIT representatives in the work of government delegations of Ukraine, expert groups, commissions: International Maritime Organization (IMO), Danube Commission; European committee for drawing up standards in the field of inland navigation (CESNI).

3. Formation of joint scientific programs, consortia for the integration of university research in the European and world research space, in particular, ensuring the active participation of university scientists in the implementation of international projects of the Erasmus Plus Program.

4. An increase in the share of foreign lecturers at SUIIT through the implementation of academic mobility projects of the Erasmus Plus Program projects. Expansion of the geography of SUIIT penetration into the educational markets of other countries. An increase in the number of international students at SUIIT to the level of 14% (today – 4.94%).

5. Participation in trainings conducted by Horizon Europe [15] national contact points, in particular, at the National Transport University in the direction of «Smart, green and integrated transport» and at the National Technical University of Ukraine «Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute» in the direction of «Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)» and initiating and conducting business meetings to form consortia for submitting grant applications.

6. The formation of a knowledge transfer system, which is designed to ensure the transfer of knowledge, including technology, experience and skills, from the university to external customers – enterprises, public and state structures, which leads to innovation in the economy and public sphere, and includes two main processes: commercialization of research results and implementation of market-oriented educational programs.

7. Presentation of the scientific achievements of SUIIT at national and international conferences and exhibitions by expanding the funding of relevant business trips at the expense of grant funds.

8. Organization and holding of summer and winter schools on the basis of SUIIT for individual students, representatives of partner universities and other educational institutions and scientific institutions.

The effectiveness of the implementation of the directions to SUIIT system of international cooperation can be assessed by achieving the following results:

1. maximize potential capabilities and resources of the university to achieve results in all areas and aspects of international activity;

2. attraction of international resources to the university for the development of educational and research activities through the implementation of international projects;

3. monitoring the current state and potential opportunities for international cooperation in the institutes / faculties, departments and divisions of the university, involving them in expanding the international educational and scientific cooperation of the university;

4. formation of a mechanism for the interaction of institutes / faculties and departments to implement the main goal and tasks of international activity: development of the information infrastructure of international activity, the creation of informational relationships between the information system of the international service and the information system of the university;

5. expansion of international contacts necessary to ensure scientific and practical activities and educational and methodical work of the university;

6. improving the quality of training of students and faculty, as well as expanding their horizons through their professional growth and raising consciousness through participation in international programs and projects;

7. increasing the university ranking by increasing the significance of the «International Activity» Index;

8. intensification of the university's entry into international educational associations, organizations, programs, funds in the form of full or associate membership. Distribution of advertising information on scientific, educational, cultural achievements and university achievements among international foundations, associations, partner universities;

9. expanding the geography of international cooperation of the university for signing international cooperation agreements with educational and scientific institutions and increasing the effectiveness of international cooperation at the level of departments, institutes / faculties, the university as a whole.

As well as increasing the reputation of SUIIT as a reliable and prestigious partner for foreign universities in the implementation of interuniversity relations.

Conclusions and perspectives of further research. Integration of the Higher education system of Ukraine into the European Higher Education Area, together with preservation and development of the national achievements and progressive traditions, is one of the fundamental principles of the state policy of Ukraine in the field of higher education.

Development and implementation of the System of International Cooperation is a priority task for the established State University of Infrastructure and Technology. These are Higher educational institutions with different traditions, resources, directions of international activity, as well as the level of development and approaches to international policy implementation.

To implement the proposed system of international cooperation, the authors are conducting further research on the development of a mechanism for its practical implementation, taking into account the expansion of the possibilities for SUIIT participation in Erasmus+ KA3 and Horizon Europe projects.

Formation and introduction of the State University Of Infrastructure And Technologies system of international cooperation will enable us to create a new, dynamic, modern university for transport industry and turn it into an international educational and scientific complex for providing the quality of higher education.

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## МІЖНАРОДНІ ПРОЕКТИ В СИСТЕМІ МІЖНАРОДНОГО СПІВРОБІТНИЦТВА

**Анотація.** Сучасні інтеграційні процеси, що набувають активного розвитку в усьому світі, знаходять своє відображення у напрямках розвитку окремих національних економік як в цілому, так і їх окремих галузях. Не є винятком і сфера вищої освіти. Інтернаціоналізація вищої освіти є одним із основних напрямів нової концепції реформування вищої освіти в Україні. В межах цього процесу вагомим значенням набуває міжнародне співробітництво університетів, зокрема зростає роль міжнародних проектів в системі міжнародного співробітництва. Адаже в цих умовах важливим критерієм успішності університету є рівень його інтернаціоналізації, а точніше рівень його міжнародної діяльності. Метою статті є дослідження міжнародного співробітництва в рамках міжнародних проектів та формування системи міжнародного співробітництва у закладах вищої освіти на прикладі Державного університету інфраструктури та технологій. Методологічною основою статті є принципи наукового пізнання, зокрема об’єктивності та системності. Використання принципу об’єктивності дало змогу неупереджено проаналізувати інформаційну базу, праці та погляди українських та зарубіжних вчених. У статті проаналізовано історію міжнародного співробітництва в рамках міжнародних проектів та визначено принципи розвитку міжнародної діяльності Державного університету інфраструктури та технологій, сформовано систему міжнародного співробітництва Державного університету інфраструктури та технологій. Система міжнародного співробітництва в Державному університеті інфраструктури та технологій формується на основі визначених стратегічних пріоритетів, напрямів реалізації та результатів. Впровадження сформованої системи надасть можливість Державному університету інфраструктури та технологій брати рівноправну та повноцінну участь у міжнародних проєктах, збільшити кількість іноземних студентів, запрошувати іноземних викладачів, стати визнаним університетом у світі, який забезпечує високу якість освіти. Запропонована система міжнародного співробітництва також може бути застосована для інших закладів вищої освіти з врахуванням їхньої специфіки.

**Ключові слова:** міжнародні проєкти, система міжнародного співробітництва, стратегічні пріоритети, заклади вищої освіти, Державний університет інфраструктури та технологій.