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NATIONAL-PATRIOTIC EDUCATION IN THE INNOVATIVE EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

Breslavska Hanna*Candidate of Pedagogical Sciences, Lecturer at the Department of Primary Education**ORCID: 0000-0002-6144-4890**V.O. Sukhomlynsky Educational and Scientific Pedagogical Institute**Admiral Makarov National University of Shipbuilding*

Abstract. *This article explores the distinctive features and contemporary challenges of national-patriotic education among university students within the innovative educational environment of higher education institutions. It identifies key areas, methods, and tools for effective patriotic education, with particular emphasis on the integration of digital technologies, interactive teaching methods, media platforms, and social partnerships. The study highlights the significance of civic engagement, student volunteering, and media literacy as mechanisms for fostering national consciousness and active citizenship. The research also underscores the growing importance of national identity and civic responsibility in the context of ongoing sociopolitical transformations in Ukraine. Based on theoretical and practical frameworks, the article argues that national-patriotic education is becoming a strategic component of modern educational policy, requiring interdisciplinary approaches, institutional support, and active student involvement to ensure its relevance and effectiveness.*

Key words: *patriotic education, educational innovations, higher education institutions, civic education, national identity.*

Today, the national idea, which acts as a unifying and consolidating force for society while fostering active citizenship and personal development, is among the key priorities of the Ukrainian educational system. This idea is formally reflected in the *Law of Ukraine "On Education"* (2017) and the *Law "On Higher Education"* (2014), which emphasize the importance of forming a responsible and patriotic citizen as a central objective of the educational process. Additionally, the *Concept of National-Patriotic Education of Children and Youth* (approved by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine in 2015) provides a comprehensive framework for integrating patriotic and civic components into all levels of education.

In recent years, there has been a growing emphasis on the organization of educational processes within institutions, particularly in alignment with the Concept of the National System of Education. This system is recognized not only as an essential tool for intellectual development but also as a mechanism for preserving national



identity and cultural continuity. As noted by prominent Ukrainian scholars such as Ivan Bekh, Hryhoriy Filipchuk, and Vasyl Kuz, national-patriotic education is a vital factor in shaping the moral, cultural, and civic character of an individual capable of defending and promoting the interests of the nation.

The national system of education is regarded as a crucial factor in the harmonious development of the individual. It has evolved historically through the collective experience and pedagogical traditions of the Ukrainian people and is based on a set of views, beliefs, ideals, traditions, and practices aimed at shaping the worldview and value orientations of the younger generation. This system ensures generational continuity, fosters respect for cultural heritage, and facilitates the transmission of social experience and national values. In particular, O. Vyshnevskyi and Yu. Rymarenko emphasize that national education is inseparable from the broader cultural and historical context in which it operates, making it a key determinant in the formation of a cohesive and active civil society.

According to the *National Strategy for the Development of Education in Ukraine until 2021* (approved by the Decree of the President of Ukraine No. 344/2013), one of the strategic goals of state educational policy is to build an effective national education system and ensure the socialization of children and youth. This strategy emphasizes the need to prepare young people for constructive participation in public life, guided by principles of democracy, human rights, and national consciousness.

In this context, modern educational efforts should guide young people toward global culture, universal human values, and the development of global thinking. Such priorities are also reflected in international frameworks, such as UNESCO's concept of *Education for Global Citizenship*, which emphasizes intercultural understanding and shared responsibility for sustainable development.

At the same time, the methods and forms of education must remain deeply rooted in national traditions while incorporating the best achievements of both Ukrainian and global pedagogical thought. Ukrainian educational scholars, including O. Savchenko, N. Bibik, and I. Ziaziun, highlight that the balance between preserving national identity and embracing educational innovations is essential for ensuring the integrity and



competitiveness of the national education system. According to O. Savchenko, national-patriotic education must be integrated into the broader structure of holistic personality development, combining ethical, intellectual, and social dimensions.

Moreover, contemporary educational strategies encourage the use of innovative pedagogical technologies, project-based learning, and student-centered approaches that align with the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) standards. This synthesis of tradition and innovation serves as the foundation for forming an active, competent, and globally oriented citizenry without compromising cultural and national identity.

One of the key objectives of modern higher education is to cultivate not only professional competencies but also civic consciousness, national dignity, and a strong sense of patriotism among students. This aligns with the priorities defined in the *Law of Ukraine "On Higher Education"* (2014), which highlights the importance of fostering values-based education in the interests of national security and cultural preservation.

According to prominent Ukrainian scholars such as Ivan Bekh, Oleksandr Vyshnevskyi, and Hryhoriy Filipchuk, national-patriotic education is fundamental to shaping both personal and social responsibility in future citizens, especially within the context of preserving national identity, cultural continuity, and ethical behavior. I. Bekh emphasizes that patriotic consciousness is a central component of moral education, while O. Vyshnevskyi views national-patriotic upbringing as a system of interactions that form value-oriented behavior rooted in historical heritage and civic duty.

This perspective is further reinforced by international researchers. James A. Banks, in his theory of multicultural civic education, argues that the inclusion of cultural diversity and identity in curricula fosters democratic values and social cohesion. Similarly, Murray Print highlights the essential role of civic education in sustaining democratic societies and strengthening political literacy.

In the context of ongoing sociocultural transformations and geopolitical challenges — particularly the military aggression against Ukraine — national-patriotic education has acquired heightened relevance. As stated in the *Concept of National-*



Patriotic Education of Children and Youth (2015), such education is a strategic resource for national resilience, unity, and cultural sovereignty.

The innovative educational environment of higher education institutions provides new opportunities to realize the pedagogical potential of national-patriotic education. This is achieved through the integration of traditional values with modern technologies, such as digital media, virtual learning environments, interactive pedagogies, and project-based methods that promote critical thinking and collaboration. Ukrainian researchers such as Kateryna Chorna and Yuliya Rudenko emphasize that blending cultural heritage with innovative teaching tools not only enhances educational outcomes but also reinforces student preparedness to address contemporary civic, social, and national challenges.

These trends reflect a broader shift toward socially responsible and technology-enhanced education that supports the formation of a proactive, informed, and patriotic youth committed to the democratic development and protection of Ukraine.

National-patriotic education involves cultivating in students a deep awareness of their national identity, respect for cultural heritage, and readiness to defend the sovereignty and independence of their country. This priority is enshrined in key Ukrainian normative documents such as the *Concept of National-Patriotic Education of Children and Youth* (2015) and the *Law of Ukraine "On Education"* (2017), both of which identify patriotism as a foundational principle of the educational process.

According to Ukrainian scholars such as Oleksandr Kasyanov, Oleksandr Kirychuk, and Vasyl Kuz, national-patriotic education is closely associated with the formation of national consciousness, moral values, and civic responsibility. These scholars argue that patriotic education is not limited to knowledge of historical facts but encompasses emotional, spiritual, and behavioral dimensions that foster a lasting connection to one's cultural roots and civic duty. V. Kuz particularly emphasizes the importance of educational strategies that harmoniously develop personality traits through the integration of national values into daily student activities.

This type of education is also aligned with globally recognized frameworks, such as UNESCO's concept of *Education for Global Citizenship*, which stresses the



importance of cultural identity, global interconnectedness, and civic engagement in modern educational systems. In this sense, national-patriotic education in Ukraine resonates with international efforts to foster informed, responsible, and culturally rooted global citizens.

National-patriotic education operates on the basis of a synthesis of pedagogical, cultural, social, and psychological approaches, allowing educators not only to transmit knowledge but also to cultivate meaningful value-based development. As Hryhoriy Filipchuk highlights, this process must be systemic, gradual, and lifelong, forming a cohesive worldview in the younger generation that aligns personal well-being with national interests and social responsibility.

The innovative educational space of higher education institutions includes a variety of tools and practices that enhance the implementation of patriotic education. These include:

- **Digital platforms and multimedia resources** that engage students in interactive learning of history, culture, and civic knowledge;
- **Student-driven media projects** that enable the creation of patriotic content, such as podcasts, documentaries, and social media campaigns;
- **Virtual museums, digital archives, and online exhibitions** showcasing national heritage and historical memory;
- **Blockchain or AR/VR-enhanced environments** for immersive historical simulations and collaborative projects focused on national topics;
- **Collaborative platforms for social initiatives and student volunteerism**, helping reinforce civic responsibility and leadership through practical engagement.

Together, these tools foster a learning environment in which national-patriotic values are not only taught but lived, practiced, and internalized through experiential, emotionally resonant, and technologically supported activities.

• **Digital platforms for interactive learning**, which integrate multimedia content, gamified simulations, and virtual reality components to encourage active engagement, contextual understanding, and the development of critical thinking. For example, platforms such as *Google Arts & Culture* or Ukrainian initiatives like



Learning.ua allow students to explore national history and culture in an immersive, visually engaging format.

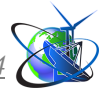
- **Services that support social initiatives and student volunteering**, empowering students to participate in socially significant projects and cultivate civic responsibility. Volunteer platforms such as *Волонтерська платформа* and university-based initiatives encourage youth participation in community work, environmental activities, and social support projects, fostering empathy, leadership, and a sense of national unity.

- **Media projects where students create patriotic content**, such as podcasts, short films, digital exhibitions, and blogs. These projects enable creative expression and reflective analysis of themes such as identity, cultural memory, and historical heritage. The creation of student-led media outlets and social media campaigns serves as a powerful tool for promoting national values in contemporary digital formats that resonate with youth audiences.

- **Platforms for online discussions on history, language, and culture**, including forums, webinars, and academic social networks. These platforms foster dialogue, debate, and critical reflection among students from diverse regions and academic backgrounds. They provide safe spaces for exploring complex national issues, developing tolerance, and reinforcing cultural identity through collaborative learning.

According to researchers such as L. Petrova and N. Ivanenko, the use of such tools not only modernizes the educational process but also ensures that national-patriotic education remains engaging, accessible, and relevant in the digital age. These scholars point out that integrating digital technologies with traditional educational methods enhances the effectiveness of national-patriotic education, bridging the gap between traditional national values and contemporary forms of communication.

National-patriotic education in higher education institutions is a multi-component and dynamic process that requires an innovative pedagogical approach, interdisciplinary collaboration, and active student engagement. This process is closely linked to state priorities as defined in the *Concept of National-Patriotic Education of Children and Youth* (2015) and the *Law of Ukraine "On Education"*, both of which



emphasize the strategic importance of fostering patriotic consciousness and national identity as components of national security and societal cohesion.

Table 1 – Examples of Innovative Platforms for Patriotic Education

Platform / Project	Focus Area	Description
"Yedyni"	Language environment	Online courses in Ukrainian language
"Diia. Digital Education"	Civic education	Modules on statehood, rights, and obligations
"Patriot UA"	Student initiative	Videos and blogs on culture and identity

The integration of digital technologies, project-based learning, interactive media, and partnerships with civil society organizations ensures the effective formation of patriotic values and civic responsibility among university students. For instance, the incorporation of digital storytelling, simulated civic practices, and online heritage projects enables young people not only to acquire knowledge but also to actively reflect on national issues and engage in socially meaningful activities. Collaboration with NGOs, youth associations, and volunteer initiatives also reinforces the practical application of patriotic values in real-life contexts.

These approaches, grounded in both national educational traditions and global best practices, foster the development of a new generation of socially aware and proactive citizens capable of leading societal change and contributing to the sustainable development and security of Ukraine. They are particularly relevant in the current sociopolitical context, marked by hybrid warfare, the defense of national sovereignty, and intensified efforts to assert cultural and historical identity.

As noted by contemporary scholars such as Hryhoriy Filipchuk, Yurii Rymarenko, and Murray Print, education that is both nationally conscious and innovation-driven is essential for preparing young people to navigate, adapt to, and influence a rapidly changing world. Filipchuk emphasizes the necessity of a value-based and emotionally meaningful educational experience, while Print and Banks (2007) highlight the significance of civic and multicultural education in sustaining democratic societies and promoting social cohesion.



Thus, national-patriotic education, reinforced by technological innovation, evidence-based pedagogy, and civil society engagement, plays a crucial role in forming not only qualified professionals but also responsible and empowered citizens capable of contributing to Ukraine's democratic future and national resilience.

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