

# The Overview of the Concept of Virtual Internationalization of Higher Education of Ukraine

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**Tempus project**  
**«E-internationalization for Collaborative Learning»**

**Project partners:**

Carinthia University of Applied Sciences, Austria  
National Technical University “Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute”, Ukraine  
Ilmenau University of Technology, Germany  
University of Maribor, Slovenia  
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece  
Taurida National V. I. Vernadsky University, Ukraine  
Ivano-Frankivsk National Technical University of Oil and Gas, Ukraine  
Kharkiv University of Humanities “People’s Ukrainian Academy”, Ukraine  
Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine  
St. Petersburg State Polytechnical University, Russia  
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*Concept of the virtual internationalization of higher education of Ukraine includes models and tools of virtual internationalization of higher education, the platform for supporting virtual internationalization of education in Ukraine and their practical examples.*

*The Concept is based on national traditions and all-European values; strategy and policy of project partner universities; analytical materials review received as a result of study of international experience in the field of internationalization; results of self-assessment of international activities of the partner universities in accordance with criteria of European Quality Improvement System (EQUIS); opportunities and experience of using information technologies to improve students’ and teachers’ mobility.*

## **Part 1. The model of virtual internationalization of education**

The virtual internationalization of higher education presumes the inclusion of different international components into research, teaching and administrative activity of higher education institutions on the basis of usage of new information technologies.

## **Part 2. Tools for internationalization of higher education**

In the model of virtual internationalization of higher education all the opportunities which provide web-technologies for communications, study and cooperation are completely realized. These technologies allow student groups and separate students to study and to meet with teachers and with each other while being at any distance from one another. Such modern means of communication are supplemented by computer study programs of multimedia type, which replace printed texts, audio- and videotapes. As a result, the student can get information for his study from different sources and also effectively cooperate with other students in virtual educational environment.

## **Part 3. The platform for virtual internationalization of education**

To simplify the creation of international e-partnerships between teachers, it's offered to create English-language internet-portal, where teachers from interested universities could search for matches and create e-partnerships with the help of modern information technologies.

## **Part 4. The examples of virtual internationalization of educational activity in Ukraine**

The examples of virtual internationalization of education are videoconferences, which were held in Ivano-Frankivsk National Technical University of Oil and Gas, International Business Planning Contest at National Technical University "Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute", and others.

## Conclusions

In a rapid development of international economic, social and cultural integration one of the major factors for increasing quality and attractiveness of education is its internationalization.

The internationalization of education is a process of including various international aspects into research, teaching and administrative activities of higher education institutions.

Wide access to modern information technology has provided the opportunity for intensive development of virtual internationalization of education. The universities got the perspective to increase their presence in the international education market and to increase the success in fulfilling their international objectives through the usage of electronic means for information exchange.

The development of modern information technology not only gives the opportunity but also requires to provide the virtual internationalization of education on the basis of usage of new pedagogic approaches for collaborative learning, learning in cooperation, “e-inclusion” and connectivity. The most common ways for realization of these approaches are videoconferences, Internet-forums, wiki-projects, Internet-simulations.

Other tools of groupware for organizing the brainstorming, project planning, knowledge management, dissemination of the results of joint work are permanently developing.

The development of virtual internationalization of education depends to much extent on the ability of teachers to find partners for cooperation in foreign universities.

To simplify the creation of international e-partnerships between faculty, it's suggested to create English-speaking internet-portal, where teachers from interested universities could carry out the search of each other and to create e-partnerships with the help of modern information technologies.

The experience of Ukrainian universities demonstrates how they use different approaches for applying information technology for virtual internationalization of education. It also confirms the desire of Ukrainian universities to implement and to develop the similar approaches on condition that there are relevant international partners.