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# ECONOMIC SECURITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION: OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS ANALYSIS

Urgency of the research. Higher education, as a part of ensuring competitiveness and economic security is the most vulnerable link for the challenges of globalization and internal threats that shows a clear need to study the factors of economic security of higher education and develop an appropriate strategy.

**Target setting.** The processes of higher education development nowadays require to study factors (opportunities and threats), which necessitate to develop appropriate methodological grounds.

Actual scientific researches and issues analysis. Economic security issues of higher education were researched by domestic and foreign scientists such as Alymova N. K., Batova V. N., Vahovych I. M., Dmitriev S. M., Mityakov S. N., Plotnikov M. V., Shiryaev M. V.

Uninvestigated parts of general matters defining. Managing the economic security of higher education requires the development of methodological basis for analysis of economic security factors of higher education, the algorithm of diagnosis, determination of criteria and limit values of economic security indicators.

The research objective. The systematization of the main factors and the development of methodological approaches to assess their overall impact on the level of economic security of higher education.

The statement of basic materials. The article has identified the existing problems systematized the factors that most significantly affect the development prospects of higher education in Ukraine. There has also been proposed the use of the coefficient of favorability (unfavorability) of the environment for estimating the cumulative effect.

**Conclusions.** Arrangement and analysis of internal and external factors of higher education economic security creates a basis for preventive and operative warning for undesirable consequences in the development strategy of higher education.

**Keywords**: economic security; higher education system; economic security factors (opportunities and threats) of higher education; coefficient of favorability (unfavorability) of the environment

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## ЕКОНОМІЧНА БЕЗПЕКА ВИЩОЇ ОСВІТИ: АНАЛІЗ МОЖЛИВОСТЕЙ ТА ЗАГРОЗ

Актуальність теми дослідження. Вища освіта, як складова забезпечення конкурентоспроможності і економічної безпеки країни, є найбільш вразливою ланкою для викликів глобалізації та внутрішніх загроз, що обумовлює необхідність дослідження чинників економічної безпеки вищої освіти та розробки відповідної стратегії.

Постановка проблеми. Процеси розвитку системи вищої освіти на сучасному етапі потребують дослідження чинників (загроз та можливостей), що обумовлює необхідність розробки відповідного методологічного обґрунтування.

Аналіз останніх досліджень і публікацій. Проблематику економічної безпеки вищої освіти досліджували такі вітчизняні та зарубіжні вчені як: Алимова Н. К., Батова В. Н., Вахович І. М., Дмітрієв С. М., Мітяков С. Н., Плотніков М. В., Ширяєв М. В.

Виділення недосліджених частин загальної проблеми. Управління економічною безпекою вищої освіти потребує розробки методологічних основ аналізу чинників економічної безпеки вищої освіти, алгоритму їх діагностики, визначення критеріїв та граничних значень індикаторів економічної безпеки.

Постановка завдання. Систематизація основних чинників та розробка методичного підходу щодо оцінювання їх сукупного впливу на рівень економічної безпеки вищої освіти.

Виклад основного матеріалу. У статті визначено існуючі проблеми та систематизовано чинники, які найбільш суттево впливають на перспективи розвитку системи вищої освіти України; запропоновано використання коефіцієнта сприятливості (несприятливості) зовнішнього середовища для оцінки їх сукупного впливу.

Висновки. Систематизація та аналіз внутрішніх і зовнішніх чинників економічної безпеки вищої освіти створить підгрунтя для превентивного і оперативного попередження небажаних наслідків в процесі розробки стратегії розвитку вищої освіти.

**Ключові слова:** економічна безпека; система вищої освіти; чинники (можливості та загрози) економічної безпеки вищої освіти; коефіцієнт сприятливості (несприятливості) зовнішнього середовища.

**Urgency of the research.** In the context of aggravation of financial, economic and political situation in the country, opportunities to ensure sustainable development of the national economy on the innovative principles are determined by the level of human capital, education and science, the

amount of resources invested in these areas of the national economy. Taking into account all mentioned above, the investment in higher education, which primarily form human capital, is the most efficient and prioritized as the potential of most sectors of the economy depends on the staff professional level. This is particularly actualized in the emerging knowledge economy, where higher education is the foundation of economic development, socio-economic progress of the country.

**Target setting.** The higher education system, as well as any open socio-economic system is characterized by trends that result from the combination of the functioning, development, reform and modernization. The course of these processes occurs under the set of factors that determine their content and quality and shows a clear need to develop appropriate methodological grounds.

**Actual scientific researches and issues analysis.** Economic security issues of higher education were researched by domestic and foreign scientists such as Alymova N. K., Batova V. N., Vahovych I. M., Dmitriev S. M., Mityakov S. N., Plotnikov M. V., Shiryaev M. V.

Uninvestigated parts of general matters defining. Managing the economic security of higher education requires the development of methodological basis for analysis of economic security factors of higher education, the algorithm of diagnosis, determination of criteria and limit values of economic security indicators.

The research objective. The article aims to systematize the main factors (opportunities and threats) and develop methodological approaches to assess their overall impact on the level of economic security of higher education.

The statement of basic materials. Researchers define the economic security of higher education as the state in which "guaranteed protection of national interests in higher education is provided and there is development of this sector in line with long-term and medium-term needs and priorities of social and economic development" [1]; "a complex of organizational, administrative, educational, social, legal and other measures to ensure the safety and security of staff, managers and students from potential threats, risks and dangers in their minimization and sustainable operation and development of the institution as a whole and each participant" [2, p. 40]; "the state of the economic potential of HEI, at which there is the guaranteed protection of economic interests of the university, its staff and students, the development of effective institutions in accordance with its mission, even under the most unfavorable conditions of internal and external processes" [3, p. 62].

The management of economic security of higher education system needs the identification of major threats, dangers and risks, which cumulative effect determines the level of economic security of higher education (ESHE). They are summarized in Fig.1 with the isolation of threats of external and internal action. The group of factors opportunities for the development of higher education according to the results of the expert evaluation is recommended to include the following: public policy in higher education; labor market situation in the context of academic staff proposals; a system of licensing and accreditation; a system of training, retraining and professional development of the scientific staff.

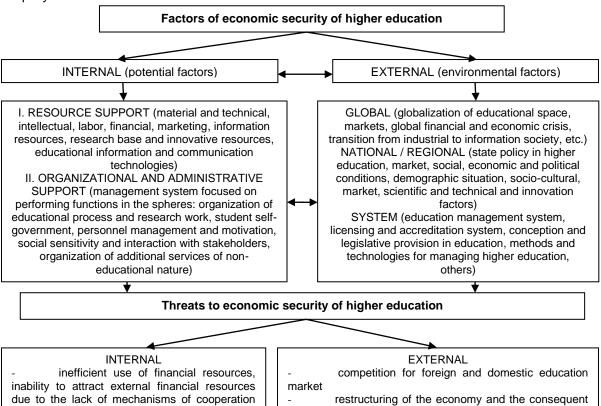
Analyzing the set of environmental factors there was expected to consider their multi-directional influence and assumptions in certain times, not all factors can be uniquely identified, taking into account the existing risks and uncertainty. To solve the problem there was used a dynamic analysis approach [4]. This allowed to estimate the cumulative impact factors of threats and opportunities factors on the level of economic security of HEI at a certain point of time using coefficient of favorability (unfavorability) of the external environment. This also made it possible to conclude that in 2016 the cumulative effect of environmental factors was - 0,213 (the prevalence of threats over the opportunities). The model of this indicator can generally be represented by the dependence:

$$k^{3C} \in \left\langle B_{1}(t), B_{2}(t), B_{3}(t) \right\rangle, \quad n \in \mathbb{N},$$

$$(1)$$

where  $B_1^n(t)$  – is the state of the n<sup>th</sup> environmental factor that at time t corresponds to the value determined according to the desirability theory [7] as such, as the assessment of which is to influence the realization of the economic potential of HEI may be provided and which favorably affects the level

of economic security of HEI;  $B_2^n(t)$  – the state of the n<sup>th</sup> environmental factor that at time t is beyond the values that correspond to the interval of desirability and which adversely affects the economic security of HEI;  $B_2^n(t)$  - the state of n<sup>th</sup> environmental factor whose value at time t cannot be uniquely identified.



- and partnership
- inefficient human resources structure and system of motivation of academic staff in higher education
- inefficient management in educational institutions
- specialties discrepancy directions of training for market situation in the context of the demand for specialists of certain professions
- decline the in graduates training at higher educational institutions, the discrepancy of their knowledge with current needs of the labor market
- lack of experience in interaction between higher educational institutions and stakeholders

- reduction in demand for specialists with higher education of different profiles
- low level of population solvency and resulting decline in culture as a teaching and learning
- the demographic situation and the potential number of university entrants including, those who departure to study abroad
- the outflow of highly qualified teachers and researchers abroad
- underfunding of higher education consequently, reducing its attractiveness for highly qualified staff
- investment climate (favorability) and investment funds (availability)
- inefficient system of management and regulation of higher education
- tariffs for energy, utilities, etc

Fig. 1. System of economic security factors of higher education (systematized and supplemented by the authors according to the data [1; 5; 6])

Details and analysis of environmental factors allow higher education institutions management come more reasonably to the development strategy of HEIs focused on achievement (maintaining) a sufficient level of economic security in the face of uncertainty and risk. Talking about the state level it

means to develop policies in higher education aimed at preventing threats and challenges of a global nature, the use of additional opportunities for competitiveness and development.

**Conclusions.** Arrangement and analysis of internal and external factors (existing and potential opportunities and threats) will give them an opportunity to take into account their impact on the development of both individual higher education institutions and higher education systems as a whole. This can also create a basis for preventive and operative warning for undesirable consequences and threats in the development strategy of economic security of higher education.

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