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FUTURE ECONOMISTS DIGITAL COMPETENCE

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Abstract — **In the paper digital competence, its components and the importance of its development are described. Benefits and drawbacks of working with digital programmers are mentioned as well as the importance of acquiring the competence for autonomous students in learner-centered approach to studying.**

Key Terms — **digital competence, learner autonomy, learner-centered approach, MOODLE.**

In the society that changes very quickly, a key requirement for a future specialist is to be able to function effectively in virtual environment. In every educational sphere lecturers are integrating modern technologies into the teaching-learning process, but the whole system is still on the verge of changing.

We are aware that future professionals should not only be competent in their field but also be able to communicate using modern technologies, update and upgrade their skills and competences constantly [3]. Although universities educate a great number of people, some of the graduates are still unable to function effectively in the modern society. It is connected with the fact, that lecturers teach using the old systems and methods, outdated versions of the books and sometimes are unwilling to use wide-spread modern technical gadgets and systems.

Using the information-communicating technologies helps to develop creative potential of students, communicating and research skills [1]. It also makes the educational process more interesting, engaging and comfortable, thus motivating students to study, self-study and take the time to work on their personal, professional and psychological development.

For the development of a future employee it is vital not only to communicate, but also compare the products, their characteristics and functions, solve the problem connected with professional activities using creativity, variety of options and, at the same time, saving time.

Digital competence is one of the most important parts of modern education system and is a component of Life-long learning. This means the ability to use the acquired while learning skills critically, professionally and creatively in order to reach the goals and objectives that are connected with professional development, employment in general, education, and even social life [4]. It is a set of skills and knowledge, strategies and values which are essential for using information communicating technologies to solve the problems connected not only with communication as it is, but also with co-working, managing the information, making and spreading the content, forming the knowledge, it is a set of skills of being effective, independent, critical, accurate, autonomous, flexible, ethical, reflexive [6].

In learner-centered approach to learning it is difficult to imagine an autonomous student who lacks digital competence and is not ready to develop all the necessary skills to make the life easier and better. Digital competence helps the student understand the importance of their future profession, be able keep the track of time and follow all the modern tendencies in the world. Possessing it means that a person can easily switch from task to task, find a more convenient way to complete the assignment and work effectively with all the modern technologies, devices and gadgets.

Using the information communicating systems allows future economists to understand better all the processes at a company, to be trained to work with different financial and economical operations, data analysis, to be able to report, etc.

That is why at Simon Kuznets Kharkiv National University of Economics lecturers use MOODLE platform to work on the development of students' digital competence. This system allows not only to present the information, add some important data, it also provides opportunities for checking the knowledge, reviewing, testing and assessing the students. The is a wide range of tasks a lecturer can work with and a variety of assessing tools; it enriches the self-study tools as well.

MOODLE system especially helps in learning the languages, as the students get access to a number of tasks which it is impossible to complete at a classroom lesson. Some researchers [2] even prove that phonetical competence can be gained while using the computer course: a student can learn the phonetic rules, check pronunciation, practice, review and get a feedback result.

What is important is that the students are to choose the sequence of doing the tasks by themselves, they plan their study, set and achieve goals and are to reflect on the learning process, thus this is another step to becoming autonomous leaners.

Though using such system is really beneficial both for the students and for a lecturer, there are some drawbacks. Firstly, it takes a lot of time from the lecturer to prepare, especially at the initial stages of working with MOODLE. All the materials are to be digitalized and adapted to the programme which is time-consuming. It may also happen that after uploading data it is not saved and the lecturer has to start all over again. Secondly, students sometimes redo the tasks several times in order to get better results [5]. In this case they don't even need to possess particular knowledge, they can simply remember the answers and after the fifth try get the best result. The percentage of such students is quite low, as most of the them, if repeating, do that to understand the topic better and reflect on

the mistakes. Thirdly, there is a technical point of the system which can live a life of its own. Apart from access to computers or bad Internet connection, the programme may not work or show some results incorrectly. A student may forget to put a full stop at the end of a sentence or simply use a capital letter instead of a small one and the programme will consider this task as incorrect.

Thus, digital competence is vital for future professils as it allows to vary the range of tasks a person can do. And though some problems occur while developing the skills, this is the modern realia of our society and education.

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