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**MULTI-VECTOR INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION OF THE MODERN
UNIVERSITY (THE EXPERIENCE
OF MARIUPOL STATE UNIVERSITY)**

Under the modern conditions of expansion and widening of interuniversity cooperation based on solidarity and mutual respect, under the modern conditions of dissemination of human values and intercultural dialogue, international cooperation is becoming the guarantee of strengthening the potential of the world's universities against the challenges of global instability.

Development of high quality university education and science under the conditions of globalization requires well-coordinated solutions to particular scientific assignments which primarily include competitiveness of the national system of education with the help of international cooperation.

Nothing else on earth but university education is capable of creating the appropriate scientific potential of society and ensuring appropriate innovational development of Ukraine — that is the way that has no alternative [8]. The democratic development of the countries and the reforms going on in the Ukrainian society have created brand new grounds for development of university education.

For 20 years of its rapid and dynamic development, Mariupol State University (MSU) — the coeval of the independent state

of Ukraine — has become a significant educational, scientific and cultural center of high quality professional training in Donetsk District. It has become a major center of Ukraine's cooperation with foreign countries in the fields of education, science and culture.

Founded in 1991, due to efficient and self-sacrificing efforts exerted by the instructors and other staff members as well as due to the students' eagerness, MSU has been walking down the victorious road of its development: from the college status through the institute status to the university status. Now it is a classical university that has become a well-reputed high education institution both in Ukraine and abroad. Now it is an important educational, scientific and cultural center of professional training of Ukrainian intelligentsia, a leading center of spiritual revival of the Ukrainian Greeks and the most important center of friendship and international cooperation in the fields of education, science and culture.

No doubt, this would have been impossible without the permanent support provided by President's Administration of Ukraine, Ministry of Education and Science, Youth and Sports of Ukraine, Donetsk Regional State Administration, Donetsk Regional Council, Mariupol City Council, Federation of Greek Communities of Ukraine and numerous foreign partners and friends.

At the beginning of the University's existence, there were only 102 students taught by 12 instructors for five majors. In a short period of time, the big industrial city with the population of half a million residents saw the modern academic and research-based facilities, the informational infrastructure, the efficient teaching staff and well-adjusted international cooperation with many leading universities of the world.

Today Mariupol State University is a higher education institution that functions on the basis of autonomy and academic freedom as well as on the basis of the principles of democracy, humanism, patriotism and other human values. Today it is a higher education institution that provides for high quality of pedagogical services in conformity with the international standards. Today we have 4.500 students — full-timers as well as extramural and external students. The curriculum is carried out by 350 highly qualified instructors. Among them 48 are full professors and 150 are associate professors working either on our university's staff or on the staffs of the

leading universities of Ukraine, Greece, Russia, Cyprus, Germany, Italy and other countries.

For the years of the University's development, we have set up 5 faculties, 22 academic chairs and 20 majors in 10 fields of knowledge (pedagogy, culture, humanities, socio-political sciences, international relations, journalism and information, law, economics and entrepreneurship, management and administration, natural sciences). MSU is successfully developing the system of training its own teaching staff members. The emergence of Post-Graduate Department in 2005 and well-coordinated efforts aimed at our staff members' completing their candidate theses and doctoral dissertations at other leading research institutes and universities has made it possible to appreciably strengthen our scientific potential.

Due to high quality higher education the University's graduates obtain, they are very much competitive on the labor market, which is evidenced by their annual employment rates (90–95 per cent). Our graduates are well employed by the central government agencies and local governments, by educational institutions of all the levels of accreditation, by industrial businesses, by law-enforcement and judiciary agencies, by banks and loaning institutions, by mass media, by diplomatic representations, etc. More than 500 MSU graduates successfully work and go on for their education abroad in more than 20 countries of the world.

MSU has developed and is successfully implementing a **pattern of international cooperation** of its own [2] that provides for multilateral cooperation with education ministries, foreign affairs ministries, embassies, regional state administrations, mayors' offices, leading universities foundations of foreign countries, such as Austria, Australia, Belgium, Great Britain, Greece, Georgia, India, Spain, Italy, China, Latvia, Morocco, Moldova, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Poland, Belarus, Cyprus, Russia, Romania, the USA, Turkey, France, Czech Republic, Sweden, Switzerland and others.

Under the modern conditions, international cooperation of a university is its major activity. People will always deal with us. People will always be friends with the university that is well-known and well-reputed abroad. This university has a long future. Magna Charta Universitatum envisages regular exchange of information between the universities and development of new joint research projects as an active method of continuing educa-

tion. It was exactly for this reason that in 2004 MSU became one the first among the Ukrainian universities to sign Magna Charta Universitatum (in Bologna), and as early as in 2005, for the first time ever in Ukraine, MSU and Donetsk National University hosted the session of Magna Charta Observatory.

Ukraine constantly declares its aspiration to become a full-right EU member state. It is exactly for this reason that the University is constantly developing cooperation with foreign universities and is a full-right participant of the European and the global educational space. This is evidenced by the high level of foreign delegations. For the years of the University's activities, it has been visited by more than 1.000 official foreign delegations, the overall number of the participants being more than 1.700. among them are presidents, prime ministers, EU MPs, ministers, governors and city mayors, rectors of the leading universities and ambassadors of many countries. More than 80 agreements on scientific and educational cooperation with the foreign partners have been concluded.

MSU instructors and students take part in many international events. They successfully work for the sake of strengthening the international positions and authority of Ukraine and for the sake of creating a favorable international climate for its development and prosperity. Annually more than 300 instructors and students participate in educational, scientific and cultural programs in 20 countries of the world. Being the messengers of the Ukrainian culture and spirit, they promote dissemination of Ukraine's positive image abroad. Thus, instructors and students de facto implement the principles of Bologna Declaration, such as mobility of instructors and students, lifelong education, etc. This makes it possible to improve the level and the quality of professional training and to become competitive both in Ukraine and abroad.

MSU is a member of many international organizations, such as the Association of Black Sea Universities (Messina), European Public Law Organization (Athens), Association of Juridical Universities of the CIS countries (Moscow) and others. Due to the active effort exerted by Mariupol State University, in 2006 Ukraine was elected member of such well-known international organization as European Public Law Organization.

The University has held 6 state-level research conferences which have ensured appreciable dissemination of Ukraine's scientific and cultural cooperation with many foreign countries. Due to the sup-

port provided by numerous foreign partners, MSU has such offices as Representation of European Law Organization, Regional European Information Center for the EU Representation in Ukraine, Institute of Ukraine – Greece Friendship and Hellenistic Studies, Italian, Chinese, Israeli, Greek and Polish Culture Centers, Representation of International Dante Alighieri Society, Gender Studies Center, International Environment Protection Center, etc.

The success of MSU international cooperation is determined to a great extent by the support of the University provided by all the level of state power as well as by the scientific community and the diplomatic representations both in Ukraine and abroad.

International cooperation is a major priority of the University's activities which is developing on the multi-vector basis. Our efficient international cooperation proves that it is for the sake of strengthening the University's international authority and improving the quality of education that cooperation with foreign partners must be developed.

The University has developed a new policy of international cooperation which includes a number of measures to be taken. Due to the comprehensive approach, the University has managed to bring some issues of cooperation with such countries as Hellenic Republic, Republic of Cyprus and Italian Republic to the interstate level.

For the first time, MSU pattern of international cooperation was tested in the relations with Hellenic Republic. Among MSU partners of multilateral cooperation with that country are such agencies as Ministry for National Education, Lifelong Education and Religious Affairs of Hellenic Republic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hellenic Republic, Secretariat General for the Greeks Abroad for Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hellenic Republic, Embassy of Hellenic Republic to Ukraine, Center of Teaching and Development of Greek Culture in the Black Sea Countries, Education Research Center for Ministry of Education, Lifelong Education and Religious Affairs of Hellenic Republic, O.S. Onassis Foundation, Bodosakis Foundation, regional administrations and mayors' offices of many Greek cities (Athens, Zografou, Thessaloniki, Livadia, Olymbos, Amfilohia, Navpactos, Mesolongi, Ioannina as well as the islands: Kalimnos, Rodos, Kerkira, etc.). MDU researchers' appreciable results are determined by interuniversity cooperation with National and Capodistrian University

of Athens, Ionian University, University of Ioannina, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Democritus University of Thrace and many other universities of that country. Annually about 100 students and instructors of the University go on internships to Greece.

A part of MSU infrastructure is *Institute of Ukraine – Greece Friendship and Hellenistic Studies*. The opening ceremony of the Institute held in 2008 was attended **Carolos Papoulias – President of Hellenic Republic**. His visit to Mariupol became an important event not for the University alone. It became an important event for the Azov Region, for Donetsk District and Ukraine as a whole. At the time of the visit, President of Hellenic Republic was awarded the titles of Honorary Resident of Mariupol and Honorary Professor of MSU. President of Hellenic Republic gave a public speech to the instructors and the students. In his speech, he paid his highest compliments to the University's activities. He emphasized that “the University plays an important role in the strengthening of intercultural and interstate relations on all the levels of cooperation. It provides for learning and dissemination of the Greek language and culture among the multinational people of Ukraine, creating a bridge of friendship and mutual respect among the nations” [6].

Today MSU is the only university in Europe (except for Greece and Cyprus) where more than 700 students are either majoring or minoring in the Greek language as well as the Greek culture and history. It is the only university in Europe that has Greek Philology Faculty within its infrastructure. The research carried out at MSU makes it possible to ensure the highest level of academic instructions in the Greek language, history and traditions as well as to disseminate the culture of the Ukrainian Greeks and to promote Hellenic development in Ukraine.

A part of MSU infrastructure is *Greek Language Center* which has the right to hold qualification exams on the Modern Greek and to issue related international certificates. Ministry for National Education, Lifelong Education and Religious Affairs of Hellenic Republic provides the University with full-time instructors of Modern Greek.

Already for four years MSU has been holding *Summer Academy of Public Law*. The Academy's existence results from fruitful cooperation of MSU and European Public Law Organization. It is noteworthy that the University's students are active participants of the

Academy. The Academy holds a number of events for students from the whole world who are given the opportunity to update their professional competence by attending lectures given by prominent scholars and other scientists and to obtain related certificates of the international standard. Since 2010 the Academy was held jointly with European Arbitration Chamber (Brussels) initiated by the EU for the purpose of development and unification of international arbitration in the relations between Eastern and Western Europe. It is noteworthy that the Academy is attended by the best students of prestigious Ukrainian and Russian universities.

MSU and **Republic of Cyprus** are also bound up mutually beneficial cooperation. Republic of Cyprus plays an important role in the development of MSU international cooperation. The University stands in fruitful cooperation with President's Administration of Republic of Cyprus, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Cyprus, Ministry of Education and Culture of Republic of Cyprus, Anastasios G. Leventis Foundation as well as with other agencies and organizations of that country.

Annually post-graduates and students majoring in international relations have the opportunity of internship at *Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Cyprus*, namely at Crisis Management Center. The practice of international internships has already become quite a usual thing to happen for MSU students. Along with familiarization with the structure and the specificity of the Center's activities, the internship program includes lectures given by the leading experts of the Ministry on Cypriote issues as well as lectures on interaction of Cyprus and the EU, etc.

Active support to the activities carried out by Mariupol State University is provided by *the Spokesman's Office for the government of Republic of Cyprus*. Due to the Spokesman's Office, MSU students and instructors have the opportunity to go on internships to Cyprus, to work in the libraries and the archives owned by the Office and to carry out research.

For many years Mariupol State University has been standing in fruitful cooperation with the well-known *Anastasios G. Leventis Foundation* that provides for the University serious economic aid and multilateral support in the fields of science, education and culture. Due to the support provided by Anastasios G. Leventis Foundation, MSU post-graduates and instructors have the opportunity to complete their theses at University of Cyprus

over the period of three — six months. More than 10 instructors have taken part in those research programs. In 2006 Greek Philology Faculty set up a unique Konstantinos Leventis Library of Hellenistic Studios where there are more than 15.000 volumes. Jointly with the Foundation, the University has successfully implemented the unique project and published “Anthology of Cypriote Literature” in Modern Greek and Russian. The Foundation has established annual scholarships for the winners of the All-Ukrainian Contest on the Greek language, history and culture for school and university students as well as scholarships for the All-Ukrainian Contest of research theses concerned with Modern Greek held at MSU. Thus, one can make a conclusion that the international cooperation carried out a single university has created a unique situation when the University’s foreign partners provide financial incentives for particular events, such as the aforementioned All-Ukrainian contests.

The University has also established partnership with the leading universities of that country, such as University of Cyprus, University of Nicosia, Frederick University and Technological University of Cyprus. Cooperation with these universities provides for conferences, student and instructor exchange as well as joint research and publishing.

MSU fruitful work for the sake of strengthening friendship and cooperation between the peoples of Ukraine and Cyprus resulted in the decision dated of *July 4th, 2006* made by Tassos Papadoupoulos — President of Republic of Cyprus — and by the government of that country to set up *Consulate Honorary of Republic of Cyprus in Mariupol*. The Consulate’s span includes Donetsk, Zaporozhe, Lugansk and Dnepropetrovsk Districts. The activities carried out by Consulate Honorary of Republic of Cyprus in Mariupol has made it possible to considerably widen the cooperation between the peoples of the two friendly countries in the fields of economics, trade, agriculture, tourism, education, science and culture. The Consulate’s activities will keep promoting adjustment of international dialogue. By the initiative of Consulate Honorary of Republic of Cyprus in Mariupol, due to the support provided by Ministry of Education and Culture of Republic of Cyprus and on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Cyprus, we held a children’s art exhibition “Cyprus as viewed by children”. Students of Mariupol Fine Arts School took part of the exhibition. Today

114 works by young artists are exhibited at Leventis Museum of Cyprus. Besides Consulate Honorary initiated and organized various children's tourism programs. In 2011 alone, 60 children from Mariupol and the neighboring villages were given the unique opportunity to have rest on Cyprus. It is noteworthy that all the costs arising under the trips were borne by the host.

On July 3d – 5th, 2011, for the first time ever in the history of Ukraine, **Dimitris Christofias – President of Republic of Cyprus** – paid an official visit to Ukraine. At the time of his visit, President of republic of Cyprus visited Mariupol and Mariupol State University in particular. President of republic of Cyprus was awarded the titles of Honorary Resident of Mariupol and Honorary Professor of MSS. He was also awarded the medal of Mariupol State University “For the Merits”. At the time of his visit Dimitris Christofias emphasized that “special attention in the relations between Ukraine and Cyprus is paid to educational cooperation. Cooperation with MSU is a vivid example” [7].

MSU is developing dynamic cooperation with many partners from **Italian Republic**. Among the University's Italian partners are Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italian Republic, Embassy of Italian Republic to Ukraine, Dante Alighieri Society, Italian Institute of Culture in Ukraine, the administration of Calabria Region the administration of the island of Sicily, the mayors' offices of Santa Severina and Montalbano as well as the leading Italian universities such as University of Messina, University for Foreigners of Perugia, Magna Graecia University of Catanzaro, University of Calabria, KORE University of Enna and others. In accordance with the programs of various foreign internships organized annually by MSU and its Italian partners, the University's students attend lectures on history and culture of Italy, make presentations at research conferences, improve their knowledge of the Italian language and get familiarized with historical monuments. In 2009, jointly with University of Messina (Italy), University of Cordoba (Spain) and Moscow State Institute of International Relations (Russia), we began to implement the international program of “double diplomas” in the framework of ERASMUS.

In 2008 Mariupol State University set up *Italian Culture Center*. The Center's priorities are teaching the Italian language and dissemination of the Italian culture. The solemn opening ceremony was attended by Pietro Giovanni Donnici –

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Italian Republic to Ukraine — and Professor Nicholas Franco Balloni — Director of Italian Institute of Culture in Ukraine. The University was recognized as the basic educational institution on teaching the Italian language in Southeast Ukraine. In 2009 MSU set up the major “Language and Literature (Italian).

Since 2009 within the MSU infrastructure is *Examination Center for Dante Alighieri Society* that has the right to issue international certificates meant to evidence knowledge of the Italian language and recognized by the Italian government. For the purpose of participation in the solemn opening ceremony, Professor Alessandro Mazi — Secretary General of Dante Alighieri Society — and Nicholas Franco Balloni — Director of Italian Institute of Culture in Ukraine — visited MSU in 2009.

An important partner of MSU international cooperation is **Russian Federation**. The University is a member of *Association of Juridical Universities of the CIS countries (Moscow)*. Jointly with the Association, the University annually holds various scientific and communicative events. Association of Juridical Universities annually allocates 20 scholarships for the best students of the member universities for them to take part in Summer Academy of Public Law held annually at MSU. MSU best students majoring in law become winners of research contests held under the auspices of the Academy obtain the aforementioned scholarships.

The University has concluded agreements on scientific and educational cooperation with Moscow State Institute of International Relations — the university for Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russian Federation as well as with Russian Peoples’ Friendship University, Russian State University of Economics and Trade, Moscow Municipal University of Administration for the Government of Moscow, St. Petersburg State University, Tyumen State University, Nizhnevartovsk State University of Humanities, Vladikavkaz University of Administration and others.

Russian Philology Chair of MSU is a permanent member of International Association of Russian Language and Literature Teachers which is a member of the UNESCO.

The year of 2008 wrote another page into the glorious history of MSU, the University discovered a brand new vector of international cooperation — **People’s Republic of China** when a delegation from the University visited Qiqihar — the twin-city of

Mariupol. At the time of appointments with the administration of the People's government of the city as well as at the time of appointments with Rector and Vice Rectors of Qiqihar University and the administration of Higher Teachers' Training College, we signed related agreements on cooperation with Qiqihar University. This agreement envisages mutual exchange of students, post-graduates and instructors for the purpose of participation in educational and scientific programs, joint research conferences, etc. The Chinese representatives emphasized that MSU is their first Ukrainian partner. At the time of the visit of the delegation of Qiqihar University to Mariupol in 2009, Mariupol State University and Qiqihar University signed an agreement on creation of Chinese Culture Center at MSU. The Center's activities are aimed at teaching the Chinese language and culture and dissemination thereof in the Azov Region. In accordance with the agreement, Qiqihar partners provided the Center with scientific and reference literature as well as with literature concerned with teaching methods and books of fiction. Another agreement on cooperation is supposed to be concluded: an agreement on creation of Ukrainian Culture Center at Qiqihar University. MSU instructors will take part in the Center's activities.

In accordance with the agreements concluded at the time of the visit to Mariupol and Mariupol State University paid by Qiqihar government's representatives, vital issues were discussed, such as the strengthening of cooperation between the Chinese universities and MSU, participation of students, post-graduates and instructors from the both parties in scientific, educational and cultural programs in Ukraine and China as well as the opportunity for Chinese school graduates to learn at MSU. In 2011 we signed another agreement on cooperation with Yancheng Teachers' Training University, which considerably widens the cooperation prospects of MSU and Chinese universities.

The development of new fields of MSU international cooperation have made it possible to considerably expand the geography of the University's partner countries. Gradually we are intensifying cooperation with our partners from **Great Britain**. Here we cannot but mention St. James Research Center. Together with this center, MSU have created the International Environment Protection Center which carries out research and holds conferences. In accordance with the agreement on cooperation concluded with the

University of Dundee and Frisby's School of English, every year MSU students and instructors go on internships there. In 2011 the cooperation with British universities was considerably extended — we concluded an agreement on scientific and educational cooperation with King's College London. Together with the Royal College of Defense Studies, MSU organized and held a round-table talk on international security, discussed the current condition and the ways of protection. 15 students from 12 countries of the world participated in it.

Gradually we develop multilateral cooperation with **Republic of Poland**, including the Embassy of Republic of Poland to Ukraine, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, Polonia Academy in Chestochowa, Śląski University in Katowice, Borussia Foundation, etc. Thus, in the framework of the agreement on cooperation concluded with Polonia Academy, MSU created the Polish Culture Center. Professor Maria Urbaniets, First Vice Rector of Polonia University took part in its opening ceremony. Under the aegis of the Embassy of Republic of Poland to Ukraine, a teacher of the Polish language started working at MSU. In learning at Polish universities, MSU students get student grants. The number of student internships held in the framework of the international program «Study tours to Poland» is increasing.

Cooperation with organizations and institutions of State of Israel has become a new field of MSU international cooperation. MSU has created the Israeli Culture Center where they annually organize the Days of Israeli Culture and hold classes on Hebrew as well as on the history and culture of State of Israel both for students and for all the residents of Mariupol. New cultural and educational internships of MSU instructors and students at the leading universities of Israel are initiated. By the initiative of Elena-Khaya Karol — Consul General of State of Israel in Dnipropetrovsk and Head of the Israeli Culture Center — since 2011 MSU have started to hold the All-Ukrainian contests on language and culture of Israel.

One of the promising fields of MSU cooperation is collaboration with institutions and organizations of **the United States of America**. Every year MSU students take an active part in the programs «Work and Travel USA» and «Camp Counselors USA». Besides MSU have more than once organized presentations of Fulbright Educational Exchange Programs for the University's

students and instructors. This International Educational Exchange Program is sponsored by the American government and intended for, first and foremost, students, graduates, post-graduates, scientists and instructors who have an opportunity to carry out research in the USA for a year. MSU constantly develops cooperation with **Federal Republic of Germany**, including the Embassy of Federal Republic of Germany to Ukraine and Consulate General in Donetsk, German foundations and organizations. MSU students annually take part in the language training program Au-pair Vermittlung, having an opportunity to learn the language in Germany. MSU successfully cooperates with German Department of Educational Exchanges (DAAD) – the biggest organization in Germany responsible for international cooperation and implementation of the bilateral exchange program in the field of higher education. It offers some programs for students, post-graduates and researchers, giving them an opportunity to learn and carry out research in Germany. DAAD lecturers visited MSU more than once, delivered lectures for students and instructors and carried out testing. Together with the German partners (Konrad Adenauer Foundation and Friedrich Nauman Foundation), MSU holds seminars and training sessions media experts, journalists, editors, instructors and students majoring in journalism from different parts of Ukraine.

Gradually MSU is widening cooperation with the partners from **Moldova and Belarus**. Thus, according to the agreements on scientific and cultural cooperation concluded with Aleku Russo Beltsk State University (Republic of Moldova) and Byelorussian-Russian University (Republic of Belarus), university instructors exchange the results of their research. They participate in research conferences and seminars, etc.

As for the recent initiatives, it is necessary to mention such a new field of scientific and educational research and practices as gender studies. In 2010 Mariupol State University, Vadym Hetman Kyiv National Economic University and Vasyl Stefanyk Pre-Carpathian National University became the winners of the joint project of the European Union and the United Nations Development Program in Ukraine “The program of equal opportunities and rights of women in Ukraine”. In accordance with the memorandum on cooperation signed by the head of the UNO Development Program and MSU, *Gender Studies Center* was cre-

ated. Over a year, they have organized and held more than 50 training sessions on gender education and advised the residents of our region. In summer 2011 they launched the joint EU-UNODP and MSU project “The first summer session of the Open institute of equal opportunities “Equal opportunities: higher school and formation of civil society in Ukraine”. In accordance with the results of competitive selection, 20 candidates and doctors of science became the participants of the project. They represented the leading universities of the Southeast Ukraine: Donetsk National University, Tavrida National V.I. Vernadsky University, Zaporizhzhya National Technical University, Kyiv Slavic Studies University, Black Sea affiliation of M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University, Crimean Institute of Business and Mariupol State University. During that session, its participants investigated the issues of formation and development of gender science in the Southeast Ukraine, introduction of the gender-sensitive approach into the curricula of the Ukrainian universities.

The principle of linguistic pluralism is implemented at MSU’s Bachelor’s, Specialist’s and Master’s curricula. Today 23 languages are the official languages of the European Union, 6 of them being taught at MSU: English, German, French, Modern Greek, Polish and Italian. Besides in 2010 students got the opportunity to learn one more foreign language – Hebrew. It was this field of the activities that was emphasized by Jose Manuel Pinto Teixeira – Head of the EU Office in Ukraine – who headed the delegation of more than 30 diplomats from 16 European countries who visited Mariupol State University during the celebration of the *Days of Europe in Ukraine* (May, 2010). He said the following: “I am very much surprised to find out that a great number of European cultures is united and developed at the University. I am sure that this university occupies a worthy place in the process of European integration of Ukraine” [1].

It is noteworthy that MSU actively supports and successfully implements various initiatives implemented by European institutions as well. *Regional Point of European Information* functions on the permanent basis at MSU. It is intended to meet the needs of Mariupol residents and the needs of the Azov Region. Its activities provide for seminars, training sessions and advisory services the population on the issues of Ukraine’s European integration.

Since 2009 Mariupol State University as well as its partner universities of France, Portugal, Romania, Moldova, Belarus and Ukraine. take part in the implementation of the **TEMPUS** Project “Modernization and development of professionally-oriented courses (MODEP ETF – JP – 00408-2008)», which is sponsored by the European Commission. According to the Focus Journal, the activities of the University and the results of this international project were recognized as one of the best among the international programs the Ukrainian universities were involved in [3].

The results of international cooperation of Mariupol State University prove the efficiency of their own pattern of international cooperation. The multi-vector character of MSU international cooperation is confirmed by the experience of cooperation with different countries of the world, which is constantly developing.

Active development of international cooperation carried out by MSU today, promotes successful implementation of all the other University’s activities: the academic process, the scientific achievements, the up-to-date academic facilities, etc. A high movement and effectiveness of its development prove again and again that implementation of integration cooperation does not depend only upon the decisions of government institutions.

In constructing its own pattern of international cooperation and in determining the ways of its further implementation, MSU does not focus only on the economic and the socio-political developments of the Ukrainian society. It takes into consideration the general trends of European education’s development, the trends of university education’s development, in particular. Various forms of implementation of international programs MSU is involved in today ensures the exchange of modern teaching technologies, the use of the best foreign teaching experience in professional training and dissemination achievements of the Ukrainian higher school’s achievements. What is most important is that all these international programs are aimed at high-quality professional training as well as at improvement of the graduates’ competitiveness at the domestic and the global labor markets.

The constantly changing world requires adaptation of the national higher education systems to new changes. It is no coincidence that constant adaptation of higher education is determined as an important factor of competitiveness of the European space of university education, what was mentioned in Communiquй issued

by the conference of the European countries' ministers, responsible for the field of higher education (London, May 16-19, 2007) "On the way to the European space of higher education: answers to the challenges of globalization" [5].

Among the priorities of the development of higher education in Europe for the next ten years which were discussed at the conference of European ministers, responsible for the field of higher education in Luven, April 28-29, 2009, alongside the development of continuing education, ensuring equal access to education and its completion, using to the full extent the results of education on the constantly changing labor market, development of interdisciplinary curricula, extension of the funding mode, international openness, mobility and transparency in the development of higher education were specially emphasized [9].

Many Ukrainian higher education institutions have gained much experience of international cooperation, which undoubtedly favors internationalization of higher education, widens the opportunities of Ukrainian university graduates on the labor market, and the most important thing is that it makes them able to live in the poly-cultural environment and work under the conditions of a very severe competition.

The process of modernization of the national systems of higher education under the conditions of globalization does not require only the renovation of the regulatory framework of education and development of related recommendations. It must be aimed at the upbringing of a new generation of people, who accept the human values and live in accordance with humanistic laws, people who are seeking to establish peace, protection of the human rights and the values of democracy. However, the objective process of internationalization of higher education is complicated and contradictory, as to a considerable extent no balance is achieved between its cultural, educational and economic aims and no solution is found to the problems of establishing intercultural dialogue. The development of high quality and adequate university education and science under the conditions of globalization requires coordination in solving scientific problems.

Taking into account the importance and the urgency of the research of the problem of internationalization of education, MSU hosted the International research conference "Science and education in the modern university in the context of international co-

operation” that was held in May 23-25, 2011[4]. This conference was dedicated to the 20th anniversary of Independence of Ukraine as well as to the 20th anniversary of MSU, its coeval. The development of the university has become a peculiar reflection of rapid and dynamic growth of a young state.

Ministry of Education and Science, Youth and Sports of Ukraine, National Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine, Donetsk Regional State Administration, System Capital Management, Mariupol City Council, Mariupol State University, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hellenic Republic, Ministry of Education and Culture of Cyprus, European Public Law Organization, “Anastasios G. Leventis” Foundation, University of Ioannina and University of Messina were the co-organizers of the conference.

The vitality and the importance of the conference title were confirmed by the interest it aroused among researchers, politicians, representatives of the central government and local governments, foundations and organizations of Ukraine and foreign countries. The high level of the conference is confirmed by the welcoming addresses to the participants and the guests of the conference received from the heads of three states: President of Ukraine Victor Yanukovich, President of Hellenic Republic Carolos Papoulias and President of Cyprus Dimitris Christofias.

More than 300 participants took part in the conference — the heads of the representatives of President’s Administration of Ukraine, Ministry of Education and Science, Youth and Sports of Ukraine, National Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine, Institutes off National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (V. M. Koretsky Institute of State and Law for National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Institute of Industrial Economics for National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Institute of Economic and Legal Studies for National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Institute of History of Ukraine for National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, I.F. Kuras Institute of Ethnic Studies for National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine), Ukrainian National Memory Institute, Institute of Legislation for the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Donetsk Regional State Administration, Donetsk Regional Council, Donetsk Chamber of Commerce, Mariupol City Council, rectors and leading scientists of more than 40 national and other universities of Ukraine.

The high level of the conference is confirmed by a considerable representation of participants both from Ukraine and from 14 countries of the world (Belarus, Great Britain, Greece, Italy, Israel, Cyprus, China, Moldova, Germany, Poland, Russia, Portugal, France, Czech Republic). Among them are Head of Department of Higher and High Education for Ministry of Education and Culture of Republic of Cyprus, European Public Law Organization, “Anastasios G.Leventis” Foundation, St. James Research Center, Association of Juridical Universities, Head of the National Olympic Committee of Republic of Cyprus, heads of diplomatic missions and culture centers of foreign countries, rectors, professors and researchers from 26 foreign universities.

The participants of the conference took great interest in the report presented by Dmytro Tabachnyk – Minister of Education and Science, Youth and Sports of Ukraine, academician of the National Academy of Legal Sciences, Doctor of Historical Sciences and Professor – “Innovational development of Ukraine as a step forward that has no alternative”; Vasyliy Kremen – President of National Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine, academician of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and National Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine, Doctor of Philosophy, Professor – «Knowledge in the culture of globalism».

The following famous scientists addressed the plenary of the conference: Vice President, academician of National Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine, professor Volodymyr Lugoviy, academician of Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine, professor Mykola Yevtuch, corresponding member of National Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine, professor Mykhaylo Stepko, Rector of Russian State University of Trade and Economics, President of the Association of Juridical Universities, professor Sergey Baburin (Russian Federation); Rector of KORE University of Enna, professor Salvo Ando (Italian Republic), Rector of Yancheng Teachers' Training University, professor Xue Jiabao (People's Republic of China); Vice Rector for the Research of Moscow State Institute of International Relations (University) for Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russian Federation, Doctor of Historical Sciences, professor Olexiy Podberezkin (Russian Federation); Acting Director of Higher and High Education of Ministry of Education and Culture of Republic of Cyprus, professor Despina Martidou Forcier; Vice-Principle for Arts and Sciences of King's College London, profes-

sor Keith Hoggart (Great Britain); Director for International Ties and Cooperation with Investors, Stock Company System Capital Management Jock Mendoza-Wilson and others.

The participants were welcomed by the University's permanent partners: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Republic of Cyprus to Ukraine Evagoras Vryonides, Consul General of Federal Republic of Germany in Donetsk Claus Zillikens, Consul General of Czech Republic in Donetsk Antonin Murgash, Second Secretary of the Embassy of State of Israel to Ukraine Elena Khaya Karol and other honorary guests.

After the plenary the participants worked in eight workshops: role of education and science in the development of international cooperation; high quality higher education in the countries of the world; innovations, use of information and communication technologies in education and science; vital problems of continuing professional education in Ukraine and in foreign countries; national cultures of the world in the formation of the intercultural dialog; influence of the Greek language and culture on the formation of a multi-culturally educated personality; internationalization as a factor of competitiveness for higher education; cooperation of universities with foreign agencies and international organizations (the UNO, the UNESCO, the European Union, the Council of Europe, etc.)

In the framework of the conference a number of agreements on cooperation of MSU with leading foreign universities, well-known all over the world, were signed:

King's College London (Great Britain), Moscow State Institute of International Relations (University) for Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russian Federation, Russian State University of Trade and Economics, Moscow Municipal University of Administration for the Government of Moscow, KORE University of Enna (Italy), Yancheng Teachers' Training University (People's Republic of China), University of Ioannina (Hellenic Republic). This is a striking example of constant development of the University's international cooperation, search for new partners of scientific and educational cooperation, which favors the improvement of the quality of education and its competitiveness in the modern world.

Having got familiarized with the pattern of international cooperation of Mariupol State University, the participants of the conference pointed out its high efficiency in such areas as: participation

in the work of international university organizations; cooperation with ministries of education and foreign affairs, regional administrations, city councils, embassies and consulates, foundations, universities and research organizations of Great Britain, Greece, Israel, Spain, Italy, Cyprus, China, Poland, Russia, France, Germany and other countries; carrying out joint research; joint publishing; organizing international research forums; instructor and student internships in educational and scientific programs; participation in international cultural programs, etc.

In the resolution developed by that scientific forum, the participants of the conference determined the pattern of international cooperation of Mariupol State University as innovative in terms of its form and poly-functional in terms of its content, which vitalize its dissemination and use by other higher education institutions of Ukraine.

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1. Archives of Mariupol State University
 2. *Balabanov K. V.* International Cooperation of MSUH: formula for success / *K. V. Balabanov*. — Donetsk: Promin' Publishers Ltd., 2009. — 448 p.
 3. The best international programs // *Focus*. — 2011. — April 22. № 16 (229)
 4. Science and education in the modern university in the context of international cooperation: International research conference proceedings (May, 23–25 2011 p.). — Mariupol, 2011. — 565 p.
 5. On the way to the European space of higher education: answers to the challenges of globalization. Communiqué of the Conference of the Ministers of European countries responsible for the field of higher education. London, May, 16–19 2007 // <http://www.mon.gov.ua/education/higher>
 6. President of Greece highly appreciated friendly relations between Ukrainian and Greek peoples // *Voice of Ukraine*. — 2008. — May, 14 (№ 90).
 7. President of Republic of Cyprus visited Mariupol for the first time// *Mariupol time*. — 2011. — July, 7 (№ 27)
 8. *Tabachnyk D.V.* Innovational development of Ukraine is the road that has no alternative// Science and education in the modern university in the context of international cooperation: International research conference proceedings (May, 23–25 2011p.). — Mariupol, 2011. — P. 17–20.
 9. Science, technology and innovation in Europe. — Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union. — 2010. — 228 p.



After press-conference of President of Cyprus Dimitrus Hristofias, Mariupol, 2011



During the ceremony of the presenting of the Honorary professor diploma of the Mariupol university to the President of Cyprus Dimitrus Hristofias, Mariupol, 2011



Ambassador, Head of the European Commission (EC) Representation in Ukraine Jose Manuel Pintu Teisheira during the press-conference in the Mariupol University, 2010



The ceremony of the presenting of the Honorary professor diploma of the Mariupol university to the President of Cyprus Carlos Papulias, Mariupol, 2008