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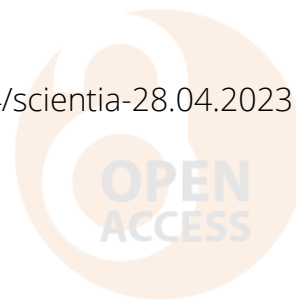
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**III International Scientific and Theoretical Conference**

Stockholm, 2023



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## **SOCIAL ADAPTATION OF FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS OF AN UKRAINIAN UNIVERSITY IN THE CONTEXT OF ONLINE LEARNING DURING THE WAR**

It is known that socialisation of young people is one of the most important social processes. Students gain social experience and become adapted to the new environment. They develop motivation and the ability to participate in the life of a certain social group and society as a whole. The problem of socialisation of first-year students is more complicated during distance learning, but at the same time it is very relevant in the context of modern education, as many universities have switched to online learning due to the pandemic of coronavirus and now also due to the martial law imposed in Ukraine. During online learning, students may experience some isolation, lack of communication with classmates and teachers, difficulties in learning the material and other problems that may affect their socialisation and academic performance. According to scientists, the student years are a sensitive period for the development of basic sociogenic potentials.

Therefore, it seemed important to us to study the peculiarities of first-year students' adaptation to the new educational environment, to identify the difficulties they may encounter in distance learning and the main ways to overcome them.

The purpose of the study was to research the process of socialisation of first-year students of Kharkiv National Medical University during distance learning, to identify the problems faced by students in adapting to the new educational process and social interaction with classmates and teachers.

Methods and results of the study. Forty six first-year students of Kharkiv National Medical University took part in the online survey, including 37 women (80.4 %) and 9 men (19.6 %). We used an online anonymous self-administered questionnaire on the base of Google Form. According to 67.4 % of the respondents, they have no difficulties communicating with their classmates, 26.1 % sometimes have difficulties, and the rest don't communicate with their classmates. Difficulties in communication were explained by problems with communication and fear of being active due to the high level of competition in the group. Thus, 80.4 % of respondents are completely satisfied with their position in the team, 19.6 % are partially satisfied.

When studying the peculiarities of communication between groupmates, it was found that 73.9 % of respondents seek help from their groupmates, 19.6 % try to solve the problem on their own, and 6.7 % turn to friends outside the group and teachers. To the question: "Who helps you most to 'fit in' with the student environment?" 84.8 % answered that there were their groupmates, 10.9 % - senior students, 4.4 % - students from parallel groups. 50 % of students believe that the advice of senior students can help them successfully adapt to the team, 15.2% - the advice of teachers, 15.2 % - the advice of parents and relatives, 13 % - the advice of a psychologist, and 6.5 % - the help of the dean's office.

Conclusion. According to the survey results, the majority of first-year students of Kharkiv National Medical University do not have any difficulties in communicating with their groupmates. Most of the respondents are satisfied with their position in the team, and for successful adaptation in the team, students rely most on help and advice from their groupmates and senior students. These data can be useful for developing recommendations for improving the socialisation of first-year students in distance learning.