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# About InterRegioNovation

InterRegioNovation is the International Association devoted to the transfer and exchange of knowledge and innovations at all regional levels (country, region, city, community etc.) between knowledge transfer professionals (business, research institutions, policy makers, government agencies, individuals, others) in all countries of the enlarged Europe, CIS countries and from other continents for stimulating and enhancing economic and social growth in the regions.

This is a policy and research association that brings together all knowledge transfer professionals who are interested in delivering efficient, flexible, innovative and cost-effective services across the private and public sectors. We work closely with business, research and educational institutions, government agencies, policy makers, NGOs, media, individuals and other stakeholders to promote the interests of their industries.

Our members understand the changing needs of the transfer and exchange of knowledge and innovations and through continuous professional development, marketing and networking opportunities offered in this association, we keep current with the latest knowledge trends and issues that challenge people in their work and life journey. We also offer expansive opportunities for partner connection through our networks.

Journal "Regional Innovations" is one of the Association's tools for innovators and everybody who is interested in any aspects of innovation development.



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# **About journal**

On behalf of the Editorial Board, it gives us a great pleasure to welcome you to the second issue of 2021 of the Regional Innovations Journal dedicated to Leadership School for Ph.D Students.

The Regional Innovations publishes original research papers, policy analyses, review papers and book reviews in order to establish an effective channel of communication between business, research institutions, policy makers, government agencies, and individuals relative to the analysis of various aspects of knowledge and innovations transfer and exchange within regional dimensions.

This is an independent, peer-reviewed, Internet-based international journal devoted to publishing original research papers of highest quality, sharing ideas and discussing innovation sector within regional dimensions. The journal welcomes to submit research papers by exceptional innovators, leading universities, globally recognized business, government agencies, policy makers and political leaders.

We intend that our readers will be exposed to the most central and significant issues in innovations development. We wish to publish papers that exemplify the highest standards of clarity, and that promise to have significant impact on existing front-line debates or to lead to new ones. The journal explores key priorities of the knowledge and innovations transfer and exchange in terms of critical aspects of human life (economy, law, science, business, health, education, culture etc.). We therefore welcome submissions not only from established areas of research, but also from new and emerging fields and those which are less well represented in existing publications, e.g. engineering studies, biomedical research etc.

We also strive to ensure that being under expert evaluation, each submission will receive developmental and supportive comments to enhance the article. Our refereeing process will involve that each submission will be reviewed by one or more specialists in the relevant field. Articles will be added to the volumes and the journal audience will receive e-mails updates to encourage them to the new articles.

We are delighted with, and immensely grateful to the large numbers of colleagues, both members of the Associations InterRegioNovation and FranceXP (France), representatives from many universities in France, Latvia, UK, Azerbaijan, China, Nigeria, Belarus, Ukraine and other institutions, who have supported the editorial process. And we are very proud of the expertise that they collectively bring, which we believe is unsurpassed by any contemporary innovative journal.

We are immensely grateful to our colleagues for their support and advice through the process of setting the journal up, and for the confidence they have placed in us in supporting this initiative at a time of economic uncertainty.

In the development of the Regional Innovations to date, we would like to enlist the support of a number of organisations who wish to promote this online journal to their experts. To ensure its sustainability, we would also like to invite other organisations, networks, conferences and meetings to associate themselves with the Regional Innovations. We therefore aim for the Regional Innovations to become the leading online forum to globally disseminate outstanding research papers on innovation sector in regional dimensions. Being an online periodical, the Regional Innovations is also a forum for exchange of imaginative ideas readers wish to share. Contributions of articles on innovations sector and your comments about this issue are very welcome.

To this end, if you lead, represent, or are a member of any such organisation, please contact us to offer your support and commit to promoting the Regional Innovations as a publication outlet for research undertaken by your experts.

We do hope you enjoy and benefit from the Regional Innovations! And many thanks for staying with us in 2021!

Jean-François Devemy Editor-in-Chief



# About Leadership School for Ph.D Students

The readiness of a medical university graduate for modern professional activity is determined by presence not only of a certain system of professional knowledge, skills and abilities, i.e. hard skills, but also soft skills. The latter include managerial, leadership, team, communication, public and personal skills, which are essential for successful professional activity, in project management, in making informed decisions in risky situations, especially in a COVID-19 pandemic.

Given the huge importance of soft skills for Ph.D students in medical university, who will join the research and teaching staff in the future after defense of the dissertation, the online educational event "Leadership School for Ph.D Students" was held for the first time at the Kharkiv National Medical University in May-June 2021. International Association "InterRegioNovation" was the official partner and co-organizer of this event. A memorandum of understanding was signed within the framework of the Leadership School for Ph.D Students between Kharkiv National Medical University (Ukraine) and the International Association "InterRegioNovation".

This issue of the Regional Innovations Journal is dedicated to publishing the works of participants and speakers of the "Leadership School for Ph.D Students" and serves as a platform for discussion, as it highlights the point of view of the authors of this event on aspects related to soft skills. The management and staff of Kharkiv National Medical University express their gratitude to the International Association "InterRegioNovation" for assistance in organizing and conducting the "Leadership School for Ph.D Students" and look forward to further fruitful cooperation.

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# Contents

Iryna Kyrychok Tetiana Pavlenko Svitlana Kravchenko Olha Kuts	
THE ROLE OF THE ACADEMIC LIBRARY IN INFORMATION LITERACY PROGRAMS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS	7
Olga Sukhanova LOGICS AND BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR EVALUATION OF QUALITY OF DOCTORS' CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT USING THE ELECTRONIC PORTFOLIO	11
Nadiya Maksymenko Nadiia Cherkashyna FORMATION OF PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES IN THE STUDY OF A FOREIGN LANGUAGE AT HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS	15
Mykhailo Myroshnychenko Valeriy Kapustnyk Valeriy Myasoedov DEVELOPMENT OF SOFT AND HARD SKILLS FOR PHD STUDENTS OF MEDICAL UNIVERSITY AS A TOOL FOR THE FORMATION OF HIGHLY QUALIFIED SCIENTIFIC AND PEDAGOGICAL STAFF	19
Veronika Poliakova Anzhela Stashchak PROJECT: FROM IDEA IN HEAD TO REPORTING	21
Larysa Koltsova SOME MOTIVATIONAL TOOLS FOR SUCCESSFUL RESEARCH ACTIVITIES OF A GRADUATE STUDENT: HOW NOT TO LOSE THE HEART	25
Larysa Koltsova EFFECTIVE TECHNIQUES IN DEVELOPING A MORPHOMETRIC PROTOCOL FOR HUMAN ANATOMY RESEARCH	27
Olga Sidorova SKILLS POSSESSED BY YOUNG SCIENTISTS DURING EXPERIMENTS WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF LABORATORY ANIMALS	29
Svetlana Lutska THE PROBLEM OF FUNDRAISING IN IMPROVING THE DIAGNOSIS OF MYOCARDIAL IMPAIRMENT IN POLYTRAUMA WITH CONCOMITANT CARDIOLOGICAL PATHOLOGY	31
Anton Tkachenko Volodymyr Prokopiuk Anatolii Onishchenko SCIENTIFIC TALK: ANALYSIS OF FEATURES AND MISTAKES	33



Volodymyr Prokopiuk Anatolii Onishchenko Anton Tkachenko THE SCIENCE IN MODERN SOCIETY: OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEDICAL POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS	34
Anastasiia Rozhdestvenska Natalia Zhelezniakova NON-ALCOHOLIC FATTY DISEASE AND HYPERTENSION: VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS OF COMORBID PATHOLOGY	35
Svitlana Nevzorova LIFE QUALITY OF PATIENTS WITH THYROTOXICOSIS	39
<i>Vira Andrushchenko</i> PECULIARITY OF THE PEDIATRICIAN'S WORK IN CHILDREN WITH ASTHMA	40
Oksana Cherniavska, GAMIFICATION AS A TECHNOLOGY AND STRATEGY OF LEARNING AND TEACHING IN CONDITIONS OF COVID-19 PANDEMICS	42
Requirements for papers	45



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# DEVELOPMENT OF SOFT AND HARD SKILLS FOR PHD STUDENTS OF MEDICAL UNIVERSITY AS A TOOL FOR THE FORMATION OF HIGHLY QUALIFIED SCIENTIFIC AND PEDAGOGICAL STAFF

The quality of PhD training of students in universities has been and remains an urgent problem of medical education. In future, after the defense of their dissertations, this category of people will join the ranks of scientific and pedagogical staff of the university. They will take an active part in training of a doctor at all stages (undergraduate and postgraduate) of their formation as specialists.

Modern scientific and pedagogical workers, according to the approved professional standard for the group of professions "Teachers of higher education", must perform their job functions, which are a synthesis of hard skills and soft skills, at the appropriate level [1].

Hard skills are understood as professional skills, abilities and knowledge that are necessary to perform professional tasks. Hard skills directly depend on the acquired level of knowledge and skills during the study of fundamental and special disciplines at the medical university [2]. Soft skills are a set of communicative, leadership, team, public, personal and other non-specialized skills and abilities important for career growth [2]. Hard skills are known to be documented (with a higher education diploma), while soft skills are an integral quality of a personality that can only be tested in the course of one's professional duties.

The educational process in PhD students, from our point of view, should be aimed at developing their hard skills and soft skills. Most scholars agree with us, noting that soft skills should complement hard skills. Although some scientists emphasize that in the educational process more attention should be paid to soft skills because they provide 70-85% of career success, while hard skills - 15-30%.

A modern scientific and pedagogical worker of a medical university must be a highly qualified specialist, a well-developed personality, generate and implement ideas that change the world [3]. Therefore, it is extremely necessary to develop and improve the hard skills and soft skills acquired by him during his studies at the medical university throughout his life through various internships, trainings, courses, etc.

The challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century can be the impetus and reason that a person will be forced to change one profession, and possibly several professions in a lifetime. And in



this case, they must have, from our point of view, first of all, well-developed soft skills. Thus, the global pandemic COVID-19 radically changed both the content and forms of the educational process in the medical university, to which the scientific and pedagogical staff of the educational institution had to adapt quickly [4].

Given the importance of soft skills for a successful career growth, in May-June 2021 Kharkiv National Medical University held an online Leadership School for PhD students for the first time. 27 PhD students became students of the school. The speakers of this event were international and domestic experts. The international partner of the School of Leadership for PhD students was the International association "InterRegioNovation" (Paris, France); a memorandum of cooperation was signed with it. Considering the growing interest among PhD students in the PhD Student Leadership School, this event is planned to be held annually.

Thus, the educational process among PhD students at the medical university who will join the ranks of scientific and pedagogical staff of this institution in future, should be aimed not only at the development of hard skills, but also soft skills. The development of these integrated skills will allow a person to become a highly qualified specialist who meets the requirements of today and is able to adapt to the challenges of the XXI century. Conducting a School of Leadership for PhD students at the medical university, involving foreign and domestic speakers, is a good foundation for soft skills formation in this category of people.

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