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# IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW MASTER'S PROGRAMMES OF PHYSICAL THERAPY IN UKRAINE

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**Introduction:** Domestic higher education is gradually integrating with European higher education through reform. Since 2016, the speciality «Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy» has been included in the field of health care, the standard of higher education for the bachelor's degree has been approved. The analysis of professional training of future physical therapists-masters showed insufficient consideration of the experience of the best European educational practices in physical therapy. In the absence of a standard for a master's degree in higher education, a real and powerful step towards improving the quality of education in this speciality can be considered the participation of domestic higher education institutions in the EU Erasmus + project «Innovative Rehabilitation Education – Introduction of new masters degree programs in Ukraine», (nr.598938-EPP-1-2018-1-LV-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP) (REHAB).

**Aim:** To analyze the results of the EU Erasmus+ project «Innovative Rehabilitation Education – Introduction of new masters degree programs in Ukraine» (2018-2022) in higher education institutions, project participants.

**Materials and Methods:** Methods of theoretical analysis and synthesis, concretization, generalization and systematization of practical pedagogical experience in training masters in physical therapy were used in four Ukrainian institutions of higher education, namely: the National University of Ukraine on Physical Education and Sport, Lviv State University of Physical Culture named after Ivan Boberskyj, I.Horbachevsky Ternopil National Medical University, Sumy State University. Latvian Academy of Sport Education (LASE); Satakunta University of Applied Sciences (SAMK), Józef Piłsudski University of Physical Education in Warsaw (AWF), Lithuanian Sports University (LSU) and European Federation of Adapted Physical Activity (EUFAPA) took part in the REHAB project from the European side.

**Results:** The results of the REHAB project can be presented in accordance with its main objectives. (1). Improving the professional potential of university teachers: weekly courses for teachers and students in the form of winter, autumn schools and a week of physical rehabilitation; numerous online lectures, seminars, workshops. (2). Creation of new resources for teaching/learning/assessment: new master's degree programs in physical therapy with a total of 120 ECTS credits have been developed; educational and methodical support (presentations of lectures, manuals, methodical recommendations, etc.) of all disciplines. As the project is supported by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, project partners from Ukraine were involved in the preparation of the KROK-2 state qualifying exams and the pilot of the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE). (3). Creation of a special educational infrastructure necessary for the implementation of a new national professional programme in physical therapy: created training and educational-scientific laboratories for physical rehabilitation, the equipment of which was purchased at the expense of the project; the library funds of the institutions are replenished with an English-language mini-library of the world's best textbooks and manuals.

**Conclusions:** It is believed that the main goals of the project have been achieved. In the future, it is planned to disseminate the results of the project to other institutions of higher education in Ukraine and constantly update the content of disciplines following current trends in European education in physical therapy. This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

**Key words:** rehabilitation, education, Erasmus +, quality of education, education reform