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### **Abstract**

*Traditional professional training of highly qualified specialists in Ukraine, in view of modern trends, needs fundamental changes. The author adheres to the point of view that the introduction of innovative pedagogical methods and technologies is a guarantee of quality training of future teachers of a professional school. Methods are described that will allow students to apply their knowledge in real production situations, to reveal their potential, including creativity, which is an integral part of a competent specialist. The author notes that modern professional education should have a proactive nature, be aimed at the future, at the development of key competencies of the individual, the formation of culture, independent and creative thinking, and the ability to make a conscious choice.*

**Keywords:** vocational education, vocational training teacher, food technologies, innovative methods.

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***Bilotserkovets Marina,***  
*PhD in Pedagogy, Associate Professor,*  
*Associate Professor of Foreign Languages Department,*  
*Sumy National Agrarian University,*  
*Sumy, Ukraine*  
*ORCID ID 0000-0003-4692-3444*

### **HEURISTIC TECHNOLOGIES APPLICATION FOR FOSTERING MEDIA LITERACY AND CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS OF STUDENTS**

*The paper deals with the issues of students' media literacy and critical thinking boosting in the lessons of English as a foreign language. The project within the framework of Erasmus+ programme reveals that the functioning of the European media space, the formation of the national information space and countering manipulations in it. It is considered to be pivotal for European integration paradigm of Ukrainian higher education. It is found out that efficient realization of Jean Monnet Module is fulfilled due to application of various heuristic technologies. Usage of such heuristics as Socratic dispute, Socratic questions, Associations, Analogies, Bloom taxonomies, Brainstorming, Interactive lecture, case*

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*studies, Searching-Creative Activities are under review. It was concluded that heuristic technologies are targeted at the development of students' critical thinking, research skills and evoking insight skills.*

**Key words:** *critical thinking; heuristic technologies; information space; Jean Monnet Module; media literacy.*

Since November 2022, the international project “EU strategies extrapolation for boosting students’ media literacy in Ukrainian HE” started functioning at the Sumy National Agrarian University (SNAU) with the support of the Jean Monnet Foundation within the framework of the EU Erasmus+ Program.

The project is aimed at popularizing the main directions of EU policy in the field of media education and involving Ukrainian higher education institutions in the European discourse

on media literacy in the conditions of Russia’s unprovoked military invasion in Ukraine.

Our project is based on the strategies of the European Union, because European countries during the 20th century (including in the conditions of the Cold War and significant information activity of the USSR) gained comprehensive experience in the large-scale implementation of media literacy at all levels. In this discourse, media literacy includes all the technical, cognitive, social, civic, ethical, and creative abilities that enable a citizen to access information through the media; effectively use, safely and responsibly create and share media content across various media platforms [2].

The concept of the project consists of raising the awareness of student youth, scientific and pedagogical workers and the general public about the current trends in the functioning of the European media space, the formation of the national information space and countering manipulations in it; development of approaches, forms, methods and tools that would have a positive impact on the development of media literacy and critical thinking, promote intercultural communication, support European integration and further international cooperation both in academic and future professional activities [3].

Heuristics methods and technologies are widely used for provoking students’ thinking, namely Socratic dispute, Socratic questions, Associations, Analogies, Bloom taxonomies, Brainstorming, Interactive lecture, case studies, Searching-Creative Activities, etc. [1].

While learning the issues of “Information space: national and global contexts”, that concerns the history of media, European information space nowadays and the most influential information agencies, students are working the following objectives:

give definitions to the following concepts: “information space” and “national information space”,

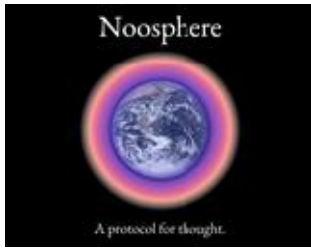
comment on the specific features of the European information space;

define components and functions of a national informational space, realize the necessity of its defense;

present the stages of the evolution of media from the ancient times up to the present; perform searching activity in electronic media.

The students are presented with a concept of information space, as an environment where information is formed, collected, stored and distributed, it includes information interaction of organizations and citizens, satisfaction of their information needs, individual and social consciousness, information and telecommunication infrastructure and information itself.

Next they are asked a Socratic question: “Do these two pictures have anything in common?”



Applying the heuristic of search in analogies, they are getting an insight, that it was Ukrainian scientist V. I. Vernadskyi, who primarily suggested the ideas of space filled with information or the formation of an “intelligent” space – the “noosphere”. He singled out the following socio-cultural factors forming the noosphere: the spread of man over the entire surface of the planet; development of means of communication; discovery of new sources of energy (nuclear, solar, etc.); mass democratization of the state system; the explosion of scientific creativity in the 20th century, and the information environment, that thanks to the cultural assimilation of technology, turns out to be an indispensable means of forming the unity of the human mind.

Bloom taxonomies usage enables students’ realizing that the national information space is understood as the entire set of information flows of both national and foreign origin, which are available on the territory of the state: newspapers, magazines, other periodicals, books, printed materials, news agencies, films, television, radio, other electronic media and communication services, all types of information storage and dissemination technologies.

The information space creates conditions for the participation of citizens in making significant decisions and determines the availability of legal information for various categories of people, the level of openness of the information space largely depends on the openness and public order for democratic changes. In addition, mass media provide representatives of various social groups with the opportunity to publicly express their opinions, find and unite like-minded people, clearly formulate their interests and represent them in public opinion.

National information space  
Functions Components



The method of Socratic dispute makes students be aware of new challenges Ukraine facing in terms of armed aggression and dynamic development of information technologies, that require a clear response in matters of information security. The information security of the state is supported by the “Information Security Strategy of Ukraine” adopted in 2021, which made it possible to limit the broadcasting of Russian TV channels and Russian media products, control printed literature, introduce economic sanctions (restriction of the activities of some Russian social networks), expel from the territory of the state employees of Russian propaganda media, etc.



What do you think the author of the picture wanted to express?

Write down a caption for it.

Using the heuristic of associations, students are suggested to answer a questions: “What do you think the author of the picture wanted to express?” and write down a caption for it.

Then students are engaged to a case study to explore why Ukraine has long chosen the path to European integration, which requires, among other things, the entry of Ukraine into the information space of the EU for the purpose of information exchange, ensuring information security and mutual cultural enrichment, popularizing Ukrainian culture and national values. It is especially important to cooperate and integrate the information spaces of Ukraine and the EU now, during a full-scale war started by the Russian Federation. Due to cooperation, the whole world knows about war in Ukraine and actively helps Ukrainians to resist the aggressor, accept refugees, provide humanitarian aid, etc.

These issues are regarded to be essential as mass media is the brain of the nation, which thinks for the nation, ponders all its affairs, offers certain solutions... the heart felt by the nation beats to the beat of millions of hearts. The national information space ranks second in importance after state independence. If the state does not ensure the use of its information field in the interests of the state and its citizens, then its information space will be used against itself [4, p. 6].

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