



Tempus



Date of a public lecture: 28.11.2013

Venue: Belarus State Economic University

Lecturer: 1), Natalia Popok, dean of the School of International Business Communications, Natalia Mahilenskyh chief of the department

Topic: "European higher education modernization agenda and the role of educational leadership".

The lecture was delivered to professors, associate professors, assistant professors, teachers of the departments of BSEU, administrative staff of the university as well as students within the framework of the annual conference "The world in the XXI century: political, economic, social and cultural issues". The lecturer covered such topical problems of today's system of higher education as:

- 1) The social dimension and the modernization of higher education.
- 2) Funding of higher education.
- 3) The importance of the national context.
- 4) Impact of the economic crisis.
- 5) Student financial support.
- 6) Barriers to quality teaching and learning.
- 7) Educational leadership.

The main point of the lecture can be defined as follows:

- 1) Social dimension encompasses equal opportunities for access to quality education, as well as equity in treatment, including adapting to individuals' needs, whereby education and training systems are aimed at providing opportunities, treatment, and access that are independent of socio-economic background and other factors that may lead to educational disadvantage.
- 2) Universities are key players in Europe's future and for the successful transition to a knowledge-based economy and society. However, this crucial sector of the economy and of society needs in-depth restructuring and modernization if Europe is not to lose out in the global competition in education, research and innovation.
- 3) Public funding of higher education institutions is the main source of income for large parts of the higher education landscape in all EU member states. More than 70 % of higher education institutions' funding comes from the public purse and for the states, funding is a major steering mechanism for higher education. HEI try to use a considerable part of the funds they receive to introduce more diversity into higher education, to increase performance management, or to adapt the provision of higher education to the demands of the economy.
- 4) Across Europe, the economic crisis has had a significant impact on both participation and funding levels in higher education and will continue to influence developments in these areas. Responses to the economic crisis, which has now become a crisis of public finances, continue to vary considerably, depending on the national context, economic situation and political priorities.
- 5) Educational leadership is the term applied to administrations of educational establishments that strive to create positive change in educational policy and processes. Educational leaders are trained to advance and improve educational systems or institutions.

To prepare the lecture, Natalia Popok had used the materials provided during the lectures and training held in Braganca in October, 2013, as well as the studies of the European Commission, and material of the conferences on higher education modernization available on the Internet.