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## ARE INTEGRATION CLASSES BEING CRITICIZED?

### ІНТЕГРАЦІЙНІ КЛАСИ: КРИТИКА?

**Halytska O. V.**

*PhD in Philology, Associate Professor,  
Associate Professor at the Department  
of German Philology  
Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National  
University  
Lutsk, Ukraine*

**Галицька О. В.**

*докторка філософії (філологія),  
доцентка,  
доцентка кафедри німецької  
філології  
Волинський національний  
університет імені Лесі Українки  
м. Луцьк, Україна*

According to international and European law, including the Declaration of Human Rights (Article 26), the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the European Reception of Refugees Directive, Germany is obligated to provide refugee children with the same access to education as its citizens. In some German states, refugee children attend mainstream classes, while in others they are placed in so-called ‘welcome classes’, integration classes or international preparatory classes exclusively for migrant pupils [1; 3].

In 2023, the Department of German Philology at Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University provided tutoring lessons to approximately 60 Ukrainian children and young people studying at the upper secondary school (Freiherr-vom-Stein-Gymnasium in East Westphalia), thanks to the new chairman of the ‘Bridges of Friendship to Ukraine’ association, Dirk Kaiser.

Since the start of 2023, Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University students have been tutoring Ukrainian pupils in integration preparatory classes. Currently, around 80 children are receiving support from Ukrainian students in the project, who are gaining inclusive experience in primary schools in Buende, Germany. They have analysed experiences with integration classes since 2023/2024 as part of the research group.

Despite the benefits of these classes, they have received criticism: Tutors are not provided with clear guidelines on what or how to teach. The lessons offered are often dissimilar to regular school lessons and may include elementary language and maths instruction in German. Tutors will therefore need to create personalised assignments for each pupil to complete and hand in.

In practice, the segregation of migrant pupils within schools has more negative than positive effects, says education expert Juliane Karakayali. The welcome classes operate as a parallel system that is not integrated into the regular school system, potentially stigmatizing pupils [2].

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## **FAKE VS CRITICAL CONSUMPTION OF INFORMATION**

### **ФЕЙК VS КРИТИЧНЕ СПОЖИВАННЯ ІНФОРМАЦІЇ**

#### **Kolisnychenko A. V.**

*PhD in Philology,  
Associate Professor at the Foreign  
Languages and Translation Department  
National Aviation University  
Kyiv, Ukraine*

#### **Колісниченко А. В.**

*кандидат філологічних наук,  
доцент кафедри іноземних мов  
і перекладу  
Національний авіаційний  
університет  
м. Київ, Україна*

#### **Kharytska S. V.**

*PhD in Pedagogy,  
Associate Professor at the Foreign  
Languages and Translation Department  
National Aviation University  
Kyiv, Ukraine*

#### **Харицька С. В.**

*кандидат педагогічних наук,  
доцент кафедри іноземних мов  
і перекладу  
Національний авіаційний  
університет  
м. Київ, Україна*