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**QUALITY ASSURANCE, ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
AND ASSESSMENT PRACTICES:
REALITY OF UKRAINIAN UNIVERSITIES**

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Introduction. In times of war, Ukrainian universities strive to continue their educational mission in teaching and training, research, and social activities while facing the difficult realities of missile attacks, power cuts and blackouts. Finding themselves in the situation when higher education institutions have to combine survival mode and development, they fully recognise the crucial role of quality assurance in promoting academic excellence since the universities' reputations depend on the quality of academic practices and their graduates' knowledge and skills.

Materials and methods. This paper reviews governance and administration documents that define and regulate the implementation of the policy for quality assurance and academic integrity at Kyiv National Linguistic University and State University of Trade and Economics (Kyiv). Its purpose is to revise the main approaches to and practices of dealing with academic dishonesty outlined in statutes, strategic plans, codes of ethics, provisions, procedures and guidelines, regulations, and ordinances and evaluate their viability and efficiency under conditions when they are stressed and tested by the wartime challenges from the viewpoints of a teacher, an examiner, and a student thesis supervisor.

Results. The reviewed documents a) state that existing university organizational structures, educational pedagogies and practices are designed to protect, preserve, and promote academic integrity efforts

across the academic communities; b) suggest definitions of academic integrity developed from the universal characteristics of honesty and basic ethical principles and rules; c) list types of academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, falsification etc. and give a detailed explanation of each one; d) offer ways to detect instances of academic misconduct and provide guidance for teachers when breaches of academic integrity are suspected, for example, how to gather the evidence or use plagiarism checker tools; e) indicate the range of sanctions for improper academic behaviour from a verbal warning to expulsion from the university; f) outline the strategies to foster the environment of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility which include educational activities for university staff and students aimed at their academic integrity competence development.

Special attention in the documents reviewed is paid to the promotion of academic integrity in assessment practices and its ensuring while writing and defending a research paper. The responsibility to uphold academic integrity in all forms of assessment is on teaching staff. It means that the examiner is supposed to monitor the students completing the assignments while in conditions of air raids or power cuts the monitoring function fulfillment is impossible. These provide the opportunity and the incentive for cheating among examinees as well as contract cheating among students writing their bachelor and master qualification papers.

Conclusion. Ukrainian universities uphold a policy for academic integrity in evaluating students' academic performance and research work. However, the current realities in Ukraine present challenges including disrupted educational processes and limited access to resources, all of which complicate the adherence to academic integrity standards and create a precarious environment for both students and faculty. In situations involving air attacks, power outages or both, the emphasis on safety takes precedence over academic ethical norms, making it difficult to fully implement the guidelines or make them work efficiently. Thus, there is an urgent need to enhance and clarify the existing norms of academic conduct or to establish additional guidelines for both students and faculty in response to the frequent occurrence of hazardous situations.

A potential solution may involve implementing educational measures before, during and after academic activities, aiming at fostering a culture of academic integrity throughout the entire educational process. Further research could explore the efficiency of these practical solutions and develop a comprehensive approach to the design of assessment assignments.

Key words: quality assurance, academic integrity, Ukrainian universities, wartime challenges, assessment practices

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ACADEMIC INTEGRITY IN THE CONTEXT OF EDUCATION SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Introduction. In the post-information age, the understanding of academic integrity and culture is constantly expanding. Thus, the application of artificial intelligence technologies requires new approaches to citation, substantiation of research methodology, development of standards for acceptable means of its application.

Also, academic integrity crucially changes its means in societies at risk. From the beginning of the hybrid war in 2014 and full-scale invasion in 2022 Ukrainian society constantly suffers from the violation of basic human rights, the goals of sustainable development of the United Nations. Nowadays we should find the answers: how higher education can help to achieve the goal of building a peaceful and safe, socially cohesive society with good governance and inclusive institutions by encouraging integrity.