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## **NEW APPROACHES TO THE SYSTEM OF EFL TEACHER TRAINING IN UKRAINE**

Recent changes and developments in education and society set new requirements to the system of EFL teacher training in Ukraine. The improvement of teacher quality has become vitally important. In response to these requirements New Generation School Teacher' project jointly initiated by the British Council Ukraine and the Ministry of Education and Science Ukraine was launched in March 2013.

Taking into account the best national and international education practices, the working group of the project has been designing the Core Curriculum in Methodology. Its aim is to enable pre-service foreign language teachers to teach effectively in line with the European Profile for Language Teacher Education. The latter presupposes:

- integration of academic study and the practical experience of teaching
- the flexible and modular delivery of pre-service language teacher education
- an explicit framework for teaching practice, etc.

The core curriculum is distinguished by its innovative character which is ensured first of all by:

1) *Approaching theory through practice.* It means that the curriculum is designed in such a way that all the theory is processed in relation to what the students will see or do in the classroom. Considering teaching practice an integral part of the methodological training, we suggest extending it to Years 2-4. In our opinion it will contribute to students' evolution into teachers.

2) The new core curriculum can give EFL teacher training institutions a chance to unify the *approach to assessment* in the Methodology course. Students' practical teaching skills become the focus of assessment in the new curriculum. This approach suggests a range of innovative assessment forms, such as portfolios, presentations, reflective essays, lesson plans, materials evaluation and others. There is also a set of appropriate assessment criteria for each of these forms.

3) The next innovation concerns *the modes of delivery*. The new core curriculum is based on participatory mode rather than on the traditional lecture mode. Following the words of *Rod Bolitho*, the consultant of the project, that "teaching is a practical job, a doing job", we think the delivery should be done in the English language through task-based sessions, interactive mini-lectures, workshops, case-study, reflective journal writing, guided self-study, etc. Such approach will contribute the development of students' critical thinking skills as well as their professional competence.

4) The next innovation is *updated and new content of the Methodology course*.

So, the curriculum includes 22 modules of 30 hours each. There are modules that update and reconceptualise traditional ELT Methodology content areas, e.g. Teaching grammar and vocabulary in context, Developing intercultural competence, Planning teaching.

There are also completely new modules which are represented by:

- Second language acquisition
- Learner autonomy
- Catering for special educational needs (SEN)
- Classroom action research
- Continuous professional development.

The suggested innovations in the Methodology course are supposed to change the existing system of EFL teacher training in Ukraine making it relevant to the European Profile for Language Teacher Education.