ABSTRACTS

A.Yu. Zabolotskyi

THE ISSUE OF THE QUALITY OF DISTANCE EDUCATION

The concept of quality in online teaching is complex as, indeed, is distance learning itself. There is much literature on the quality of higher education, with many terms and concepts. Often it shows the tension between the roles of quality assurance as a means of accountability and as a way to improve quality. There is another key issue as to the role of student in determining quality. Some argue that the definition of quality in higher education must proceed from the fact that online learning is a process of co-production between the online learning environment and the student, the student being a starting point of quality across all the different fields of on-line study.

Student's activity is an important aspect of ensuring the quality of online education. Online learning should not be something that is just «delivered» to a passive student. Instead, the quality of on-line education is built through the process of communication between students and teachers. At the University of Economics and Law «KROK» a survey of students' distance learning has been conducted. The factors of quality that students themselves have identified as important include:

– support in training, using a wide range of media;

– technical standards (where technical standards are not met, students tend to get very negative experience);

– transparency and accessibility of information about the course and the institution that offers the course;

– course structure and flexibility;

– type of «didactic settings», which includes factors such as learning outcomes, content (including reference materials), teaching and learning methodologies and materials on the site.

Key words: distance learning, the quality of distance learning, information and communication technology in education.