

PARTICIPATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN THE NATIONAL STEPS STUDY IN UKRAINE: POTENTIAL AND PROSPECTS

Iryna Mykolaivna Holoviichuk, Doctor of Philosophy (Physical Education and Sports), Associate Professor, Head of Physical Education and Special Training Department of the University of Customs and Finance.

E-mail: irinadnu@gmail.com

ORCID ID 0000-0001-9259-8203

Viktoriia Volodymyrivna Kydon, Doctor of Philosophy (Physical Education and Sports), Associate Professor, Associate Professor of Physical Education and Special Training Department of the University of Customs and Finance.

E-mail: Vika.kidon@gmail.com

ORCID ID 000-0002-9056-5851

Zabiiako Yurii Olehovych, Senior Lecturer of the Physical Education and Sports Department of Oles Honchar Dnipro National University.

E-mail: socdnu@gmail.com

ORCID ID 0000-0002-6685-918X

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The article presents the opinion of the authors that higher education institutions ought to participate in the struggle for health saving of the nation. The purpose of the article is to investigate and identify the potential, role and prospects of higher education institutions in the national STEPS study (STEPwise approach to noncommunicable disease risk factor surveillance) in Ukraine in order to preserve the health of the Ukrainian nation by preventing the spread of noncommunicable disease risk factors.

Considering that noncommunicable diseases are the result of the combined influence of genetic, physiological, environmental and behavioral factors, the authors substantiate the relevance, feasibility and possibility for higher education institutions to use certain STEPS tools for implementation in the formal and informal education system, including questionnaires, surveys, certain socio-demographic and physical measurements, etc. The article presents the authors' opinion on the possibility for higher education institutions to collect data using the STEPS tools on behavioral factors (tobacco and alcohol consumption, unhealthy diet, poor physical activity); regional environmental factors (pollution and others); physical examination results (overweight and obesity); about some genetic and physiological indicators (in particular, information on the presence of diseases of the circulatory system); about socio-demographic indicators. The study also revealed the relevance and importance of intensifying the intersectoral cooperation between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and their subordinate structures in order to implement STEPS tools in the system of formal and informal education.

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