

# ХАРКІВСЬКИЙ НАЦІОНАЛЬНИЙ АВТОМОБІЛЬНО-ДОРОЖНІЙ УНІВЕРСИТЕТ

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# EXPERIENCE OF TRAINING THE PROFESSIONALS IN THE ECO-RECREATIONAL AND ECO-TOURIST ACTIVITY IN THE ODESA STATE ENVIRONMENTAL UNIVERSITY

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In 1990 at the Odessa State Environmental University (the former The Odessa Hydrometeorological Institute) a department of ecology that began training the specialists in the field of ecology and environmental protection was opened. At that time due to the ever-increasing man-made load on the natural environment, there was a need to open a new direction of training.

Over the course of almost 30 years at the OSENU several branches for training the specialists in the field of environmental science, environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources were formed. These include training in such programs as "Ecological Safety", "Hydroecology", "Agroecology", "Environmental Control", etc. However one of the important programs of training the specialists in specialty 101 "Environmental Science" is also training the specialists in the field of eco-recreational and eco-tourist activity.

As noted in the paper [1], tourism is a relatively environmentally safe industry. However there is a potential danger to the natural environment. In many countries of the world one of the directions of the environmental policy is the development of the environmentally-friendly forms of tourism. That is why since 1999 training the specialists in the field of "Environmental science, environmental protection and sustainable use of nature" specializing in "Ecology of a recreational and resort economy" has begun at OSENU.

Ecological tourism should ensure minimal impact on the environment. The presence of the objects of the natural reserve fund in the countries of the world can contribute to the development of ecological tourism.

The programs of specialist training on the specialty "Ecology of a recreation and resort economy" have changed for many years, namely, the list of disciplines, their content and the list of necessary knowledge and skills have changed.

Nowadays the specialists in the specialty 242 "Tourism" are trained at the **Nature Protection** Faculty of the OSENU. However training according to the educational and professional program "Organization of ecological and recreational activity" (higher education level "bachelor", 180 ECTS credits) and educational and professional program "Environmental science and environment protection" (higher education level "Master", 90 ECTS credits) within the training of the specialists in specialty 101 "Environmental Science" is carried out. The term of training is regulated by the Law of Ukraine "On Higher Education" [2].

The training curriculum for these programs contains disciplines of the variable component aimed at forming the appropriate competencies for the training of a future specialist, whose activity will focus on the development of the environmentally-friendly forms of tourism and the environmentalization of tourism activity in general

in Ukraine. These include: "Ecological tourism", "Recreational resources and health resort", "Man as a consumer: environmental aspects", "Ecological aspects of recreational and tourist activity".

The main goal of training the specialists according to these programs can be considered to be forming the skills of environmental justification of the optimal use of natural resources and the objects of the nature reserve fund. Ecological and tourist activity is a way of preserving a biodiversity of the natural ecosystems, natural monuments and a way of satisfying the cognitive, spiritual, aesthetic and other human needs.

The main competences to be acquired by future specialists in the field of ecotourism and recreational tourism activities are:

- the ability to organize environmentally-oriented forms of recreational activities;
- the ability to develop a complex of means to minimize the negative impact of mass recreation and tourism;
- the ability to apply environmental knowledge in the organization of environmental tourism activity, in the development of measures for the optimal use of ecological and tourist resources, in solving practical tasks for the protection of objects of the nature reserve fund [1, 3].

The main results of learning can be defined as follows:

- to be able to organize the various forms (including environmentally oriented) of recreational and tourist activities;
- be able to implement the principles of environmentalization of mass forms of recreation and tourism;
- be able to take into account the features of international recreational and tourist activity;
- knowledge of the negative consequences of mass tourism, the main characteristics of modern ecological tourism, world and state ecological and recreational resources, types and forms of ecological tourism, principles of organization of ecological tourism activities.

As an example, you can give the main components of the curriculum of the discipline "Ecological tourism":

1. The emergence and the main stages of the evolution of ecotourism in the world.
2. Basic concepts of recreational geography.
3. Classification features of tourism.
4. Resources of ecological tourism.
5. Consequences of recreational and tourist activity.
6. Prerequisites for the organization and implementation of ecotours.
7. Marketing in ecotourism.
8. The role of the public in the development of environmental tourism.

The issue of environmentalization of recreational and tourist activities in Ukraine and other countries of the world is currently relevant and not fully solved [4]. The terms "tourism" and "recreation" are quite close in meaning. And in the context of the implementation of the Concept of Sustainable Development, ecologization of

recreational and tourist activities is an important component of the country's environmental policy.

So we believe that training the specialists in the field of eco-recreation and recreational tourism activities within the specialty 101 "Environmental Science" is a necessary component of the higher ecological education of Ukraine. It should be noted that the activities of these specialists should be aimed at creating the conditions for the development of the technologies and the methods for minimizing the environmental pollution during the recreational and tourist activities. The organizers of ecological tours, environmental authorities, tourists, as well as local people should be interested in this. It is also necessary to take into account the experience of the world in the ecologization of recreational and tourism activities.

### References

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