

**Distance learning of foreign languages in Ukraine:
present situation, problems and perspectives**

Implementation of information technologies has become one of the most important directions in improvement and modernization of education. Distance learning of foreign languages is becoming popular in Ukraine as it has many advantages: reduction of cost; availability of course regardless of location and time of the day; individual rhythm of studying; ability of learning material in different sequence.

Most of higher educational institutions in Ukraine have developments in distant courses design and corresponding technical, methodological and stuff supplying. Ukrainian Center of Distance learning in NTUU 'KPI' provides students with a wide range of distance courses including business English, grammar and ESP. The courses are being tested in experimental groups.

Nevertheless, there are still some problems in providing distance education to the vast masses of population. Among them are low capacity of internet in some regions of Ukraine, especially in rural areas; lack of qualified teachers in this field; difficulties in identification of students during the exams; problems with students' motivation and self-discipline. Moreover, distance learning does not give students the opportunity to work at oral communication skills. Students in distance learning courses do not get the practice of verbal interaction with professors and other students.

Taking into consideration the present situation, we determine the main tasks of distance learning development in Ukraine: creation of national and regional subsystems of education and corresponding telecommunication networks with internet access; development and certification of new distance courses; staff training.