STEP | Supporting Trauma-Informed Higher Education Practices

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STEP Project Newsletter #6

STEP Project Presented at an International Scientific and Practical Conference:“Current Issues in Personal Development amid Social Transformation”

On 23–24 April, the International Scientific and Practical Conference “Current Issues in Personal Development amid Social Transformation” took place.

The conference was held in a hybrid format, with online sessions on the university’s Zoom platform and in-person sessions hosted by the Department of Psychology and Pedagogy at Khmelnytskyi National University. More than 255 participants attended in person, online and in absentia, representing 100 institutions, organisations and other establishments from 13 regions of Ukraine and nine countries: Ukraine, the United States, Norway, Israel, Finland, Croatia, Poland, England and Germany.

During the conference, the international Erasmus+ STEP project on trauma-informed higher education was presented with the participation of the university’s leadership and the international project team.

Kateryna Skyba, Vice-Rector for Scientific and Pedagogical Work at KhNU, Doctor of Pedagogical Sciences and Professor, and Yevhen Pavliuk, Dean of the Faculty of Health, Psychology, Physical Education and Sport at KhNU, Doctor of Pedagogical Sciences and Professor, spoke about the university’s involvement in the international STEP project on trauma-informed higher education under the Erasmus+ programme.

They emphasised the project’s strategic role in modernising higher education in Ukraine and worldwide by introducing trauma-informed approaches to support students and academic staff during periods of crisis. KhNU’s participation in the project helps create a safe and inclusive educational environment by integrating leading European practices to strengthen the psychological resilience of the entire academic community.

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Kateryna Skyba, Vice-Rector for Scientific and Pedagogical Work at KhNU, Doctor of Pedagogical Sciences and Professor and Yevhen Pavliuk, Dean of the Faculty of Health, Psychology, Physical Education and Sport at KhNU, Doctor of Pedagogical Sciences and Professor, presents the STEP project.

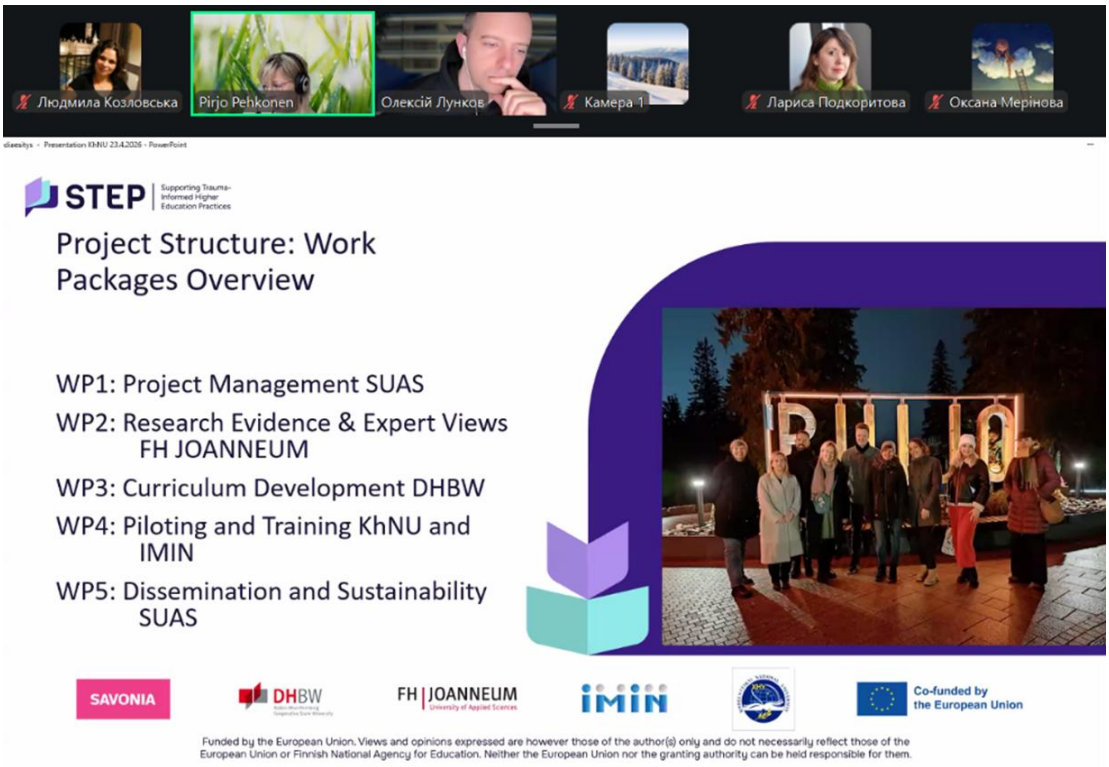
The project was explored in greater detail in the presentation entitled “Towards Trauma-Informed Higher Education: Strengthening Teachers’ Pedagogical Competences” delivered by Finnish and Croatian partners: Pirjo Pehkonen, MSocSci, Senior Lecturer and Educational Consultant at Savonia University of Applied Sciences; Jukka Aho, MHSc, Senior Lecturer and Educational Consultant at Savonia University of Applied Sciences (Finland); Iva Tadić, PhD, Senior Research Assistant at the Croatian Institute for Migration Research; and Marko Turk, PhD, Senior Research Associate in Pedagogical Sciences at the Croatian Institute for Migration Research and Associate Professor (Croatia).

A survey is currently being conducted among students and academic staff at higher education institutions in the partner countries to assess their needs for trauma-informed teaching and learning approaches. The next steps involve developing a teaching curriculum based on the survey results and delivering training for teachers on trauma-informed education in higher education.

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