

NATIONAL ECONOMICS COMPETITIONS AS A METHOD OF DEVELOPING SOFT SKILLS IN FUTURE BACHELORS OF BUSINESS ECONOMICS IN CHINA

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Skills of the 21st century is not an abstract concept, these are the skills that make the effective work and activities possible in our new world. They embody the requirements which modern companies are already giving to their employees. In this context, the experience of the companies of the country which economy has caught up and surpassed all other economies in the world over the past few years even despite the pandemic, – the People’s Republic of China – is certainly worth noting. In China, the most necessary “soft skills” that need to be developed in all the undergraduates are interaction, communication, collaboration, leadership and time management. So how are these skills formed in China?

The PRC actively uses case study, blended learning, which combines distance and full-time forms, flipped classroom model, when students can watch their teacher's lecture at home in their spare time, and the teacher can organize discussion and practice in the classroom using digital technologies. One of the methods we will focus on today is the research collective projects funded by the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China [1] for students of the Economics majors, which are implemented in the form of competitions. Such competitions for students are held on online platforms several times a year in different levels: the levels of universities, provinces and national level. We will analyze the participation of the Department of Business Economics of Jiaxing University in the national competition of the PCR as an example. a business simulator.

Regarding state-level competitions, it should be noted that POCIB (Practice for Operational Competence in International Business) [2] is a competition which is held annually on an online platform jointly launched by the Chinese International Trade Society, International Trade Magazine and Sega Software, and is a good example of an event that actively develops soft skills in Economics students.

POCIB focuses on students of higher education institutions specializing in Business Economics, International Economics and related specialties, and uses

simulation online games (business simulation) as the main method of introducing students to economics at the international level. Through the online platform, students buy virtual goods together in factories, draw up supporting documentation, advertise their stores, search for customers, place orders, sell them virtual goods and receive virtual money for it on the account of their team, which allows students to form skills of work in a real enterprise and gives them the opportunities for business practice and formation of operational competence in international business through innovative teaching methods.

Li Qiuping, one of the authors of this paper and one of the winners of this year's competition from Jiaxing University, Zhejiang [3], thinks that collaboration and interaction are not only about staying in the same classroom – some part of the work on this project is remote. A great deal of flexibility, understanding of cultural and local specific features is needed, because students sell goods to representatives of other countries, the ability to switch during almost simultaneous communication with colleagues from different cities in China, manage these information flows, cooperate with people at a distance. Communication in this case is not only the ability to write a good letter to a customer who will buy goods online, but also certain public speaking skills, the ability to give an oral presentation, communicate in a good language – in person, via gadgets, learn graphic and audiovisual ways of transmitting information in addition to printed text.

Thus, as we can see, China actively supports practice-oriented and project-based learning at the national level (organization of competitions), provincial level (organization and selection of universities for participation in competitions) and university level (preparation of student teams for participation in competitions) and motivates students to develop soft skills that are so necessary today. Undoubtedly, the organization of any competitions develops students' skills of purposefulness, time-management, leadership and perseverance. Not only do students learn to better understand their feelings and emotions, but they also develop empathy for each other, and shy students have the opportunity to find friends more easily.

References

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