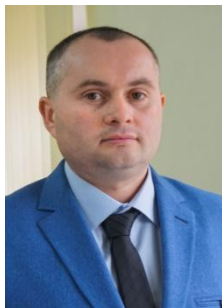


SCIENTIFIC AND PRACTICAL ONLINE-SEMINAR AS INNOVATIVE FORM OF METHODOLOGICAL WORK IN THE PERIOD BETWEEN TEACHER TRAINING COURSES



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Abstract. The theoretical foundations of the arranging and conducting scientific and practical seminars (online seminars) in the system of certification training of pedagogical employees of vocational education are analyzed and summarized in the article and the experience of department of methods of professional education and social and humanitarian disciplines of the Bila Tserkva Institute of Continuing Professional Education as for conducting similar events is also represented.

Keywords: scientific and practical online-seminar, teachers of vocational school, certification training, webinar, electronic resource.

1. INTRODUCTION

Today in the context of globalization and integration processes, the transition to market relations, dynamic changes in the labor market, society is in dire need of competitive professionals with a high level of general and professional culture. It leads to an increase in social requirements for the system of vocational education and therefore requires further improvement of all levels of teacher training courses in vocational schools, in particular new approaches to the organization of methodical work. Now it is important to build it so that each teacher can fully reveal his abilities and talents, acquire research skills, develop initiative and creative search.

Today an important factor of the professional growth of a teacher of vocational education institution is continuing education, because intensive processes of production and technological interaction require teachers to be informationally competent and systematically improve their own professionally significant qualities in both during and between the period of teacher training courses.

For today the category of teachers of is one of the most overloaded socio-professional groups of workers. They often do not have the time and energy to get acquainted with the latest scientific and pedagogical literature, the latest production technologies, advanced pedagogical experience, to understand it in detail, especially since the introduction of a new one always requires a huge additional amount of time and effort.

As practice shows, one of the important areas of methodical work in the system of vocational education is preparation and carrying out of scientific and practical seminars (conferences) which in the majority of institutions of vocational education of Ukraine gradually become traditional. The positive significance of such forms of work is that they contribute to raising the professional level of teachers of vocational schools, give them the opportunity to master the methods of professional-theoretical and professional-practical training of students, get valuable information on training and production issues, exchange experiences and establish useful scientific contacts.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

During the analysis of scientific and methodical literature and practical experience it is found out that the problem of organizing and conducting scientific and practical seminars (conferences) in pedagogical theory and practice has not been studied separately. General theoretical principles on the basis of planning and conducting such activities are partially presented in the reporting publications of methodical centers of both general secondary and vocational education of Ukraine [1, 2]. Some definitions of "scientific and practical seminar (Internet seminar)" are found in the publications of scientists of the Bila Tserkva Institute of Continuing Professional Education [3, 5].

3. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The purpose of the article is to analyze and summarize the theoretical foundations of the organization and conduct of scientific and practical seminars (Internet seminars) in the system of teacher training courses of vocational education institutions, to present the experience of the Department of Methods of Professional Education and Social and Humanitarian Disciplines of the Bila Tserkva Institute of Continuing Professional Education on conducting such events.

4. RESULTS

Scientific and practical seminars and conferences can be international, national, regional, intersectoral, city and even within one educational institution. The key to the success of the scientific and practical seminar is an elaborated program and topics of speeches, timely informing interested organizations, institutions and individual scientists about its holding. Texts of reports, messages, speeches (as well as information about the author), usually are sent in advance to the organizing committee of the seminar, and in plenary or sectional sessions they are heard and discussed.

Professionally-oriented scientific and practical seminars are organized taking into account the needs of teachers of vocational education institutions as for the acquaintance with the latest methodical and production achievements of science and best pedagogical practices. They are designed for in-depth study of current and important issues in both theoretical and practical terms. During the seminars it is possible to hold discussions, debates, business games, which help teachers of vocational education institutions to gain experience of creative work.

Thus, the scientific and practical conference (seminar) is one of the forms of methodical work in the period between teacher of vocational education training courses as well as their theoretical and practical training based on the identification and generalization of practical pedagogical experience [5].

The topic of the conference is determined in advance (3-5 months). The duration of its work is mostly 1-2 days. The main preparatory and organizational body of the conference is the organizing committee, formed from scientists-specialists, methodologists, representatives of production, pedagogical staff of vocational education system. The reports of the heads of sections are heard and the recommendations of the conference on the problem are discussed and approved.

The structure of the scientific and practical conference is usually as follows: *plenary session*, which addresses the main issues of the problem. Reports at the plenary session are usually made by heads of education bodies, scientists or experienced teachers (Minister or Deputy Minister of Education, Head of the Department of the Ministry of Education, Head of the Department of Education, Head of the Regional Department of Education, leading scientists, scientists of higher education institutions, teachers-innovators, experienced teachers of professional and theoretical training and masters of industrial training). *Work in sections* (as rule 4 or 5 sections) is usually planned on separate directions of the decision of the given problem. At sectional meetings, teachers share experiences of pedagogical work, observe and discuss classes on professional and theoretical and professional and practical training, make specific proposals for the effective solution of the issue under discussion.

At the final plenary session, the reports of the heads of sections are heard; the recommendations of the scientific and practical conference on the issue are discussed and adopted.

The experience of scientists and teachers-practitioners of the Republic of Belarus which define the scientific and practical conference as a form of joint activity of scientists, teachers and students is interesting. Its main purpose is generalization, acquaintance and propagation of the best experience of work, formation of own, research and scientific and methodical position, management skills, recommendations for improving this area of activity of the teaching staff, conducting experimental work on training and production issues. The defining features of the conference are: a large number of participants; the presence of participants invited from other institutions of vocational education, higher educational institutions, scientific institutions; comprehensive coverage of the problem. The practical part of the conference is implemented in sections and consists of watching fragments of training sessions "live" and on video, modeling of training sessions, demonstration of receptions, methods, means and technologies of training. As a rule, the

topics of scientific and practical conferences are determined by the most relevant professional-oriented problems and are related to the practical activities of the educational institution [4].

Due to the intensive development of information and communication technologies today it is possible to conduct scientific and practical seminars online, so-called Internet-seminars or webinars. This is a kind of web conference that takes place in real time communication between the participants of which is maintained by means of special software, which can be installed on the computer of each conference participant or using a web service. Today there are both free and paid services (platforms) for this type of event. To use these services, just go to the appropriate URL.

The teacher who conducts the Internet-seminar (moderator) has the opportunity to demonstrate slide presentations in MS PowerPoint format, organize voting and polls, which allows for interaction between webinar participants and the teacher. Blank slides of presentations can serve as a kind of electronic board for comments, where all webinar participants have the opportunity to leave any notes and comments on problematic issues. Webinars provide the opportunity to organize a mini-chat in real time and support both group (messages can be seen by all webinar participants) and private communication.

If there is a webcam, microphone and speakers, there can be video and audio communication between the teacher (moderator) and the participants of the webinar. The facilitator can give the right to speak to any participant of the webinar. Some services provide the ability to record a webinar and post it on the Internet for further viewing by any user of the network. Webinars can be useful both for discussing current issues of educational, production, scientific and methodical nature, and, for example, for organization of virtual meetings of methodical associations, which is currently actively implemented by separate educational and methodical centers of vocational education (Chernihiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Poltava). The webinar recording function can be useful in the absence of individual team members at a meeting.

The Department of Methods of Professional Education and Social and Humanitarian Disciplines of the Bila Tserkva Institute of Continuing Professional Education has many years of experience in conducting scientific and practical seminars of professional orientation of various types.

In 2012, the department created the first permanent Internet conference on the platform <http://hegelnet.org> "Modern lesson in vocational school: achievements and prospects". The materials of this conference were structured by two sections – professional-theoretical and professional-practical training with an indication of the profession. As practice showed, this conference was relevant and popular in pedagogical circles as evidenced by the scale of visits to the platform in the amount of more than 12,000 for the period from 2012 to 2014.

In this regard, the Department of Methods of Professional Education and Social and Humanitarian Disciplines decided to continue working in this direction on the basis of the Bila Tserkva Institute of Continuing Professional Education. Since 2015 the department has been systematically conducting international and all-Ukrainian Internet seminars. Teachers of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Moldova, Germany, the Kingdom of Denmark, the Kingdom of Norway, 24 regions of Ukraine and the city of Kyiv take an active part in their work.

The purpose of the seminars is to discuss the organizational and methodical principles of professional training of specialists according to modern models of education, to increase the innovative capabilities of the educational process in vocational education institutions, to set priorities for the development of accessibility, quality and efficiency of professional training for the automotive industry, restaurant industry, welding industry, garment industry, agar sector and construction industry.

Today scientific and pedagogical staff of the Department of Methods of Professional Education and Social and Humanitarian Disciplines at the stage of the test session and in the period between teacher training courses organizes and conducts international, national, regional scientific and practical seminars and conferences. First, it allows attracting experienced teachers-practitioners of the leading institutions of vocational education of Ukraine to exchange experience on actual issues of methods of vocational education, the implementation of educational innovations in the training of competitive workers and provides opportunities for vocational school teachers to publish

personal developments in electronic or printed publications. Secondly, these activities are carried out in the framework of research work of the Department of Methods of Professional Education and Social and Humanitarian Disciplines "Development of scientific and methodical competence of teachers of vocational schools according to innovative models in the system of continuing education" in order to improve the procedural component of teacher of vocational education institutions training courses.

In such way an innovative model of teacher of vocational education institutions training courses is implemented. The teacher of professional and theoretical training or the master of industrial training receives a certificate of participation in a scientific and practical event with the publication of their own materials, which gives him a competitive advantage when passing the next certification, together with the certificate of teacher training courses.

The website of the Department of Methods of Professional Education and Social and Humanitarian Disciplines (<http://methodica.inf.ua>) and the web portal of the Bila Tserkva Institute of Continuing Professional Education contain materials of Internet seminars of professional orientation:

- "Innovative technologies in the training of specialists in the automotive industry" <http://methodica.inf.ua/index1.htm> (created in April 2015), the number of posted materials is more than 100;

- "Innovative technologies in the training of restaurant specialists" <http://methodica.inf.ua/index2.htm> (created in April 2016), the number of posted materials is more than 170;

- "Innovative technologies in the training of skilled workers in welding" <http://methodica.inf.ua/index3.htm> (created in November 2017), the number of posted materials is more than 110;

- "Innovative technologies in the training of specialists for the garment industry" <http://methodica.inf.ua/index4.htm> (created in December 2018), the number of posted materials is more than 100;

- "Innovative technologies in the training of specialists in the agricultural sector" <http://methodica.inf.ua/index5.htm> (created in October 2019), the number of posted materials is about 130;

- "Innovative technologies in the training of construction professionals" <https://profosvita.org/course/view.php?id=574> (created in November 2020), the number of posted materials is about 100.

The website of the department also has links to previous scientific and practical activities and electronic educational and methodical publications:

- "Innovative technologies in the training of skilled workers in the construction industry" <http://hegernet.org/building> (November 2014);

- Electronic publications of the Department of Methods of Professional Education and Social and Humanitarian Disciplines <http://methodica.inf.ua/ev.htm> (2015–2020).

The materials of the above scientific and practical seminars are constantly used by the scientific and pedagogical staff of the Department of Methods of Professional Education and Social and Humanitarian Disciplines in the process of conducting classes on teacher training courses in order to professionalize content modules. Experience shows that this resource is effective for use in seminars and workshops as well as in the course of independent work of students. Links to the electronic resource of the department are included in the electronic educational complexes developed by the staff of the department for all categories of students.

The number of visits to the seminar "Innovative technologies in the training of specialists in the automotive industry" since April 2015 is more than 1000.

The number of visits to the seminar "Innovative technologies in the training of restaurant professionals" since April 2016 is more than 1300. The view of pages of the electronic resource of seminar is about 7000 times. The collection of more than 360 pages is prepared based on the materials of this scientific and practical seminar, the authors of which are more than 70 participants of the seminar.

The number of visits to other scientific and practical seminars and conferences varies on average from 1200 to 2000.

The audience of webinar users is quite large and the efficiency is high taking into account the number of students who use the electronic resource of the Department of Methods of Professional Education and Social and Humanitarian Disciplines in the process of teacher training courses.

The Department of Methods of Professional Education and Social and Humanitarian Disciplines aims to continue its activities in this direction and focus on the following key positions:

- to hold every year international and national scientific and practical Internet seminars of professional orientation;
- to work constantly on expanding the geography of participants in scientific and practical Internet seminars;
- to involve in these events leading specialists in the field, famous methodological scientists, representatives of regional educational and methodical centers, teachers-practitioners;
- to work on expanding the range of professional orientation of scientific and practical activities, to unite specialists and teachers of vocational education institutions of different regions of Ukraine;
- to add constantly new arrivals to existing Internet seminars;
- to intensify work at the forum to discuss actual issues of scientific and methodical and educational and production nature;
- to popularize this type of work in leading scientific and professional publications of Ukraine and abroad.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Thus, the intensive development of information technologies changes the modern world and forms of human communication. Online communities or teacher associations are a new form of organization of professional activity in the network. The main purpose of these communities is to provide opportunities for self-realization through joint network practice activity and to create of a single information pedagogical resource and exchange of experience.

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