***Yuliia Shustak***

**NON-FORMAL ADULT EDUCATION**

**IN THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF UKRAINE**

The problem of modernization of education with the purpose to meet European standards, and growing requirements of contemporary society to the system of education are of great topicality in Ukraine today. In this context, non-formal adult education is extremely urgent. Being a relatively new concept in the Ukrainian pedagogical practice, it requires substantial legal support, backing from the society and the state. One of the most important steps towards the improvement of the efficiency of non-formal adult education in Ukraine is the enlargement of the legal framework in the field that would ensure its lawful operation and development.

The author brings to the light the essence of non-formal adult education, and analyzes the related concepts, which are being used to describe those phenomena in contemporary education system that contain features of non-formal education and are included into the legal acts of Ukrainian legislation. The author provides a detailed analysis of the legal framework of Ukraine in the field of education, and investigates the availability and quality of such concepts as non-formal education and adult education in the legal acts. The author notes that the coverage of these concepts in existing Ukrainian laws is insufficient and episodic, and draws the attention to the fact that the draft law “On amendments to some laws of Ukraine (concerning the recognition of non-formal education)”, suggested to be considered by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, provides the recognition of non-formal education at the state level and outlines its range of operation.

The author justifies the opinion that diligently formulated and extended legal framework is an important condition for the successful development of non-formal adult education and is essential for its functioning. It is being emphasized that the aspiration to provide a legal definition of the term “non-formal education” indicates that the legislature of Ukraine recognizes the importance of the implementation of international experience in legal acts of the state for the comprehensive development of the society as a whole and each individual in particular. Therefore adoption of the proposed law will make an immense contribution to the Ukrainian education system and to the integration of non-formal adult education and lifelong learning into the life of the nation.