

The Summer Knowledge Academy as a Part of the University Research and Educational Environment

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Abstract

At the process of development of modern information society, the science, knowledge and information are established its selves as a leading factors of the economic prosperity of the society. Dissemination and transfer of knowledge are essential for the development of knowledge based economy. The new knowledge appears on the basis of existing studies, exchange of ideas, linking different social practices or connecting real and virtual .paradigms. This knowledge is on the basis of the UNESCO contemporary educational paradigm – from accredited qualifications to certified skills.

The purpose of this report is to present the experience of the Summer Knowledge Academy (SKA), which is structural unit at the State University of Library Studies and Information Technologies (SULSIT) - Sofia, Bulgaria in the implementation of its research and educational functions. Emphasis is placed on the choice of the model and content of training and certification programs for BA students, MA students, PhD students and young scientists. Another focus is placed on the structure and activity of the Academy.

The activities of the Summer Knowledge Academy focuses not only on the theory but also on the practice, by enabling different categories of students to participate in real cases and develop group projects under the direct supervision of mentors not only from the university but the practice as well. Thus gain knowledge and experience preparing them for their successful future career.

There are discussion for different programs of seminars and summer courses, involving experts from both the theory and practice of professionals and businesses. Through high levels of interaction and a dynamic and empirical approach, participants in the Summer Knowledge Academy will gain specialized knowledge and, most importantly, the capacity to apply that knowledge to add value in today's networked, technology-driven world.

1. Introduction

The concept of knowledge economy, accepted as a starting point the theory of the information society and in many signs it is close with it. Actually building an information society is closely intertwined with the development of the knowledge economy. Before addressing the main features and trends that are associated with the development of the knowledge economy should be emphasized that the common understanding of the important role of knowledge in the economy is not something new. Development of industries, there has always been based on different forms of knowledge [1, p.5]. According to E. Ignatova "in the context of the economy based on knowledge, human capital and its most important component - knowledge becomes a major source of economic growth and a factor of competitiveness" [7, p. 64]. However to be truly competitive an economy based on knowledge I. Arsenova says that "society must become better at creating knowledge through research, in disseminating them through education and their application through innovation." [8 p. 38].

"Knowledge is power" and all of us working in the name of the knowledge are convinced of this aphorism, said by Francis Bacon as early as in the 15th century and centuries after it was adopted to believe that he speaks of knowledge and skills of the individual. In the modern economy based on knowledge, as she writes in one of her studies L. Parizhkova "targeted search for knowledge provides us with the potential to transform nature, objects, on the one hand, on the other - stimulates our social responsibility to improve the society in which we live" [2, p.13].

However what does the knowledge economy mean? As every concept and the concept of "knowledge economy" there is no common understanding of its meaning and significance. Karl Dalman, director of the program "Knowledge for Development" at the World Bank gives the following definition of the knowledge economy: "... economy in which innovation processes - production, transformation, distribution and practical application of knowledge - become a major driver of socio - economic development." [3]. For the purposes of our analysis and summarizing the views of various researchers a working version of the term "knowledge economy" would look like - the knowledge economy is a new approach to economic realities in which the knowledge becomes a major resource of development. It

is important to accept that innovation processes appear a milestone in the knowledge economy and affect both the economic environment as well as on the social environment and politics. Innovation is the "key" to the survival of the organizations [4, p.443]. In knowledge management of an organization is taken into account the approach that its people apply the management of the existing knowledge, development of new knowledge, use and storage of data. All this contributes to the efficient and balanced use of organizational resources for the proper functioning of the organization as a system [5, p.47]. In essence, knowledge management covers all organizational processes by seeking synergistic combination of data and information capabilities of modern computer technology, to form a creative and innovative capacity of the human. In this sense, the educational sector should be developed according to the needs of learners and the requirements of the labor market. Investment in education is an investment in the successful future [6, p.138].

The universities as educational institutions take the necessary steps to build structures that meet the directives of the "Horizon 2020" of the European Commission to develop key technologies for economic recovery in the context of the knowledge triangle - research, education and innovation. The State University of Library Studies and Information Technologies has made a step in that direction, establishing the Summer Knowledge Academy, based on the new educational paradigm of UNESCO (Global Educational & Skill Forum, Dubai – 2013) - **by accredited qualification to certified skills.**

The purpose of this report is to present the experience of the Summer Knowledge Academy (SKA), which is structural unit at the State University of Library Studies and Information Technologies (SULSIT) - Sofia, Bulgaria in the implementation of its research and educational functions. Emphasis is placed on the choice of the model and content of training and certification programs for BA students, MA students, PhD students and young scientists. Another focus is placed on the structure and activity of the Academy.

2. The summer knowledge academy at the state university of library studies and information technologies

2.1 A short overview of the Academy

Summer Knowledge Academy (SKA) was established in 2013 and its structure was formed by the Academic Council of the State University of Library Studies and Information Technologies (SULSIT), as it appears a specific service unit with scientific and methodical nature into the structure of SULSIT. Leading person of the Academy is the Rector of SULSIT, who is also its Chairman. The operational management is carried out by General Scientific Secretary and Executive Organizational Secretary. Chief Scientific Secretary organizes and controls the implementation of current tasks and participate in solving issues related to the activities of the SKA. Executive Organizational Secretary coordinates the interaction between leaders and members of the expert groups, activity reporting to management, relations with partners and institutions in the development of projects and monitors the implementation of the activities of expert groups.

In the structure of SKA take part several expert groups with training and educational nature which have the task of preparing specialists in the following scientific fields:

- Books and Society;
- Intellectual Property;
- Library Science;
- Information and Communication Technologies;
- Cyber Defense and Cryptography;
- National Security;
- Knowledge Management;
- Cultural and Historical Heritage.

The most important activity of the Academy is the organization and implementation of training modules for students from the three educational degrees - bachelor, master and PhD in the form of courses, seminars, master classes, summer schools, internships, practices and other joint initiatives, according to requirements conducting fundamental and applied research in accredited professional fields in UNIBIT. Thus stimulate innovative activity and creates not only knowledge, but a practical skills, as a part of the unified learning environment for students and young scientists in the field of public communication and information sciences, informatics and computer science and national security.

Among the main objectives of the Academy is to promote the participation of students and young scientists in various thematic competitions and other projects that are aimed at increasing their

opportunities for self-improvement and professional development through the creation of new knowledge and new configurations of existing knowledge .

The main tasks of the Academy are to provide wider access to knowledge and its dissemination as a link between business and education to support education and professional development of students and young scientists and representatives of other higher educational institutions in Bulgaria and abroad or from various institutions and business.

Summer Knowledge Academy issue certificates and attestations with the appropriate symbols and signs for rewarding "apple of knowledge" in different categories: "distinguished scientist", "distinguished young scientist" "distinguished doctor", "distinguished students" which it is given every year at a special ceremony in the year's conference of SKA.

During the next academic years, there is the opportunity for the SULSIT students to take part in different educational and practical modules and programs of the Academy (in cooperation with the business), and as a result they will hold prestigious certificates and educational credits. One of the best practices in SULSIT is that the Academy successfully provides training and certification in academic programs at companies such as Oracle and MikroTik [9]. The transition from an accredited through certified education in ICT is directly related to the construction of complex links between education and business. Through participation in seminars and master classes, summer courses, involving experts from both the theory and practice of professionals and businesses they will have high levels of interaction and a dynamic and empirical approach. Participants in the Summer Knowledge Academy will gain specialized knowledge and, most importantly, the capacity to apply that knowledge to add value in today's networked, technology-driven world.

2.2 The first scientific conference “Contemporary Strategies and Innovation for Knowledge Management”: the first initiative of one year young academy

In the period 3rd – 4th December, 2014 in the main building of SULSIT was held The First Scientific Conference “Contemporary Strategies and Innovation for Knowledge Management”. The participants of the conference famous scientists, young scientists, PhD-candidates and students, members of the Academy. They had to present their own views of current problems, related to the Knowledge Management in the different scientific fields. This conference aimed to provoke a dialog field for hot point issues of Information and Communication Technologies, Library Science, Intellectual Property, Cultural and Historical Heritage, Book Science, National Security, Knowledge Management, Cryptography and etc.

3. Conclusion

The activities of the Summer Knowledge Academy focuses not only on the theory but also on the practice, by enabling different categories of students to participate in real cases and develop group projects under the direct supervision of mentors not only from the university but the practice as well. Thus gain knowledge and experience preparing them for their successful future career.

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