

**Shvetsova I. V.**

*Ph. D. (Pedagogy), Associate Professor, Associate Professor at English Language Department for Deck Officers, Kherson State Maritime Academy, Kherson, Ukraine  
ORCID ID: <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-6801-5204>*

### **FORMATION OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCY IN MARITIME EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION IN WAR CONDITIONS**

The war has made significant adjustments to the performance of higher education institutions and, in accordance with the forced circumstances, there was a need to change the organization of the educational process. The reorganization of the academic process is especially important for those educational institutions that were forced to move to the government-controlled territories. Despite the loss of the learning and training facilities, which is an important component of the development of professional skills of maritime specialists, as well as the forced relocation of cadets and teachers to different cities of Ukraine and the world, Kherson State Maritime Academy adapts to the current situation and carries on its activities as efficiently as possible.

In compliance with the President's Decree as of February 24, 2022, No. 64/2022 «On the Introduction of Martial Law in Ukraine» [1], and in accordance with the orders of the heads of higher education institutions, the educational process has been transitioned to a distance mode. The students of higher education of all specializations, courses and forms of study of KSMA study in accordance with the approved schedule of classes in a remote mode using distance learning technologies, LMS Moodle.

In the conditions of martial law, the leadership of the Academy, using video communications, in particular the Zoom platform, conducted a number of organizational measures, which ensured the full functioning of the institution and the fulfillment by employees of the tasks provided for by the thematic plans of scientific research and identified various.

The discussion on finding the ways to solve the current problems of Ukrainian maritime education and science, training of maritime specialists to form foreign language communicative competence in the conditions of war, which emerged in connection with the introduction of martial law in Ukraine as a result of full-scale, unprovoked military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, led to the discussion of topical issues and priority areas of ensuring the functioning of Ukrainian education, including exchange of knowledge and experience on the development of advanced digital technologies and information systems to ensure scientific and educational activities during the war, continuing work on improving the educational and methodological support of disciplines and improving the efficiency of the educational process through the introduction of modern approaches to learning, strengthening scientific cooperation and search for international partners to implement joint research projects and many others.

In regard to the above-mentioned circumstances and the determined tasks, the teachers of the English language have completed a number of tasks, namely, the work

on improving the educational and methodological support of the disciplines of the department and increasing the efficiency of the educational process through the introduction of modern approaches to teaching. To this purpose, work has been carried out on:

- Transferring textbooks for each course and the corresponding semester into the format of online classes on the Moodle platform:

- «While Ashore» (for 1st semester);
- «Welcome Aboard» (for 2nd semester);
- «Seven Seas Ahead» (for 3rd semester);
- «Lucky Voyage» (for 4th semester);
- «Across the Ocean» (6th semester);
- «Sail Safe» (for 8th semester);
- «ExtraMiler» (for 9th semester);
- «ExtraMiler» (for the 10th semester).

- Developed electronic manuals for part-time students.

- Individual electronic courses for teachers were improved. In e-courses in accordance with the syllabus of academic disciplines teachers create tasks that provide feedback from higher education applicants in the form of uploaded completed tasks, etc.

- Carrying out meetings of working groups on the testing of training modules on the Moodle platform allows teachers to make timely additions to the educational process in order to increase the effectiveness.

- One of the stages of the work was the updating of the Teacher's Books to the textbooks for the autumn semester and for the spring semester. The content of which provides a detailed description of methodological approaches to the implementation of all tasks, taking into account the level of knowledge of the academic group, as well as advice on the diversity of the exercise.

- Development, placement and quality control of test tasks for training modules on the Moodle platform according to the criteria: presence of technical/grammatical errors; compliance with the content (topic / module / course); ambiguity of the correct answer, etc.

In an effort to improve the effectiveness of the educational process, a series of open classes is planned (Distance Teaching and Learning, CLIL, Communication Strategies for Online Environment).

The Academy Administration continues to work on expanding the network of partners among foreign higher education institutions. Thus, cooperation with the University of Britain allowed to start a number of activities to train maritime specialists in the direction of forming foreign language communicative competence. In the framework of joint work seminars, guest lectures with native speakers, working meetings with project managers of the University of Plymouth are held. The organization of conversation clubs for 1st and 2nd year cadets has been started. Thanks to this project, cadets will be able to improve their level of English, especially spoken language, learn more about British culture. This is a great way to build deeper relationships with new students and provide an opportunity to develop their confidence and communication skills, which will contribute to working in a multinational team.

In the conditions of the established remote mode of work, the teaching staff continues to conduct scientific research:

- One of the directions is the work of the English Language Department on the scientific topic: «Implementation of active learning technologies in the process of preparation for effective maritime professional communication».

- The second direction is the work on scientific projects, the results of which are published in professional journals.

- The next direction is participation in scientific conferences. Thus, being forced to stay abroad, professors participate in various events that raise the scientific level and allow them to exchange experience.

Thus, it was very useful to visit the event «Long Night of the Sciences Halle 2022», which is held annually in Germany (Halle (Saale)). Scientists held a number of performances, lectures and other forms of presentation of their research. In particular, «Climate change and its impact on coastal regions», «The consequences of the war in Ukraine for Halle» and «Patterns of international terrorism»: MPI researchers raised topical and hot topics during the Night of Science (Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften) in Halle. Arne Harms, Deborah Jones and Carolyn Görzig spoke about their work and its relevance. (The German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina is the national academy of Germany and Martin-Luther-University-Halle-Wittenberg) [2].

One other event that was held in Germany and was of great significance for Ukrainian scientists was the «Chance for Science Conference 2022» (Leipzig) – Conference for academics affected by the war in Ukraine. The Ukrainian-German cooperation provided an opportunity to bring together scientists from different fields and to present their research [3].

Notwithstanding all the challenges, the staff of Kherson State Maritime Academy continues to effectively carry out organizational, research, educational activities in wartime.

In addition, teachers of the English Language Department for Deck Officers take part in both international and national scientific conferences, symposia, seminars, publish their works, improve educational and methodological work, etc. Among the prospects for improving the foreign language competence of maritime specialists is the introduction of new approaches in online education.

## References

1. President of Ukraine. (2022). *About the introduction of martial law in Ukraine* (Decree No 64/2022, February 24). Retrieved from <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/64/2022>.

2. Max-Planck-Gesellschaft. (2022). *Climate Change, War, Terrorism: Three Lectures during Science Night in Halle*. Retrieved from <https://www.eth.mpg.de/6101716/news-2022-06-08-01>.

3. Chance for Science gUG. (2022). *Chance for Science Conference 2022. Conference for academics affected by the war in Ukraine*. Retrieved from <https://chance-for-science.eu/index.php>.