COMMODITY SCIENCE IN UKRAINE: PRESENT AND FUTURE

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Abstract

Formation and development of commodity science and training specialists in this field in Ukraine are shown. The most important components of training highly qualified specialists in commodity science in KNUTE is analyzed. The basic tasks of commodity science development for the future are formed.

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Introduction

Training commodity science specialists in Ukraine has deep roots and more than a century-long unique experience starting from several specialized schools in the early twentieth century till now, when more than 150 educational establishments of different levels of accreditation successfully train specialists in commodity science (Mazaraki, 2008).

Commodity science is the knowledge that systematically examines goods at all stages of the life cycle, methods of evaluation of their consumer value, regularities of goods assortment and quality requirements for the efficiency of their production, turnover and consumption. The object of commodity science is the goods as products of work are aimed to meet customer needs and methods of their theoretical and practical evaluation. The subject of commodity science is the consumer value of goods, regularities of expression and conservation (Standard of Ukraine 3993:2000). The system of means and methods of the study factors in the formation and conservation of consumer properties of goods during the life cycle is the basis of commodity science methodology.
Scope, objectives and functions of commodity science specialists are greatly enhanced, the social significance of commodity science research has been increasing as a result of transformation processes in education and the economy of Ukraine, the reform of state supervision on the internal market, consumer protection, improvement of the legal and institutional framework for the implementation of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and EU, necessity for Ukrainian goods to enter into the new markets.

Apart from traditional evaluation of goods quality, commodity science specialists, among other came to the management of goods quality and safety based on introduction of international standards, identification of forgery, peer review of legislative acts, and in fact – to the system work of the formation of a high level of life quality of Ukrainian citizens as consumers.

**Training commodity science specialists**

Providing highly qualified specialists is vital for sustainable growth of trade. The leading role in this process belongs to the higher educational system. Kyiv National University of Trade and Economics (KNUTE) is the leader in training commodity science specialists and it has been leading the development of appropriate higher education standards in Ukraine since 1993.

National state standards of education – educational qualification characteristics, educational professional programs, regulations evaluation of students' knowledge have been operating more than ten years. Standards of higher education are based on competence approach.

The new list of field of knowledge and specialities, according to which candidates for achieving higher education in Ukraine are trained, came into force in 2015 (Decree No. 266). According to this document training specialists in commodity science and trade entrepreneurship is carried out within the field of knowledge “Management and Administration” in the speciality “Entrepreneurship, trade and exchange activities”. In KNUTE training specialists is carried out in the following specializations:

**Bachelor educational degree:**
- Commodity Science and Commercial Logistics;
- Commodity Science and Foreign Trade Organization;
- Wholesale and Retail Trade;
- Customs Affairs.

**Master educational degree:**
- Organization of Wholesale and Retail Trade;
- Commodity Science and Commercial Logistics;
Commodity Science and Foreign Trade Organization;
- Customs Affairs;
- Safety and Quality of Goods Management.

**Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Doctor of Science educational degrees:**
- Commodity Science of Nonfood Goods;
- Commodity Science Food Products;
- Technology of Food Products.

In KNUTE the program of measures was created to implement provisions and recommendations of the European higher education aimed at developing autonomy and quality assurance of higher education to meet the requirements of the Law of Ukraine “On Higher Education” 2014 (Law No. 1556-VII). On April 28, 2016 according to resolution of KNUTE Academic Council was approved the following:
- Higher education standards of KNUTE on training Bachelor, Master and PhD candidates in the specialty “Entrepreneurship, trade and exchange activities” in the mentioned above specializations;
- Regulations on the educational process organization of higher education candidates in PhD degree in KNUTE;
- Regulation on the procedure of training of higher education candidates in PhD degree and Doctor of Sciences degree in the appropriate scientific specialties.

The conception of training higher education specialists in the field of commodity science includes:
- Safety and quality of goods management;
- Expert examination of the goods and services including customs purposes;
- Consumer protection at the state level;
- Supply chain management, logistics;
- Consumer product and services testing;
- Cooperation with employers, mass media, strengthening the social significance of scientific research and so on.

The role of commodity science is important for improving consumer products quality control, formation and improvement of the state policy on consumer protection as part of a social policy aimed at citizens and society social security formation.

A significant achievement is the preparation of the guidelines, which became the methodological basis for writing the final qualifying works by students in the specialty "Entrepreneurship, trade, exchange activities" in Master educational degree in KNUTE (Mazaraki, Prytulska, Osyka et.al, 2014).

Cooperation with NGOs, a permanent dialogue with employers (producers and retailers, industry associations etc.), government authorities, mass media and other
institutions and organizations is an important part of training highly qualified commodity science specialists in KNUTE.

**Cooperation in the structure of non-government organizations (NGOs)**

The KNUTE scientists initiative and with the support of civil society NGOs have been established and have been working successfully in Ukraine.

**Ukrainian Society of Commodity Science and Technology (USCST)** registered in 2006 is a non-political, non-profit All-Ukrainian public organization. Representatives of USCST have significant experience of work in advisory bodies, public and scientific councils in the executive branch of power. USCST carries out ongoing work aimed at promoting the innovations in commodity science and technologies, ensuring consumer protection and other measures to improve standards of life.

The purpose of **All-Ukrainian Consumers’ Federation "PULSE"**, established in 2008, is consolidation of the efforts of consumer associations from different regions of Ukraine for effective legal protection of consumer rights, equal access of consumers to quality and safe goods and services. The main tasks of the "PULSE" are to promote systematic consumer education of children and youth, expansion of the practice of effective protection by consumers their rights and strengthening the capacity of public associations of consumers and their partnership with consumers’ organizations in the EU and the world.

Measures for the exchange of best practices, introduction of scientific developments to practice, modernizing training of specialists of all levels of education are being constantly held under **Ukrainian Culinary Union** that brought together experts from 36 organizations of restaurant and cleaning business. Cooperation with similar organizations worldwide allows to harmonize approaches and to enrich the content of the organization activity.

**Assurance of the permanent dialogue with employers**

In KNUTE there has been developed and efficiently functioning information-analytical, scientific-discussion public platform of partnership "Trade of Ukraine", aimed at ensuring the balance of Producer-Consumer-Trade interests.

Actual trend of cooperation is participation in the professional standards development. Commodity science specialists are the members of developers of the first retail standard for the profession - professional standard for the position of "Seller of non-food goods". The standards for other key positions for the trade sphere are being prepared.
The Practical Manual "Marking of Household Electrical Television and Radio Appliances: Guide to Retail Workers" is one of the successful examples of cooperation between scientists, educators and business workers. The Manual was developed by scientists of the Commodity Science and Customs department of KNUTE according to the order of a group of companies "Foxtrot. Home Appliances". The Manual was positively assessed by the European Business Association, the trade networks of Ukraine "Metro" and "Auchan" and by official importers of home appliances "Sony", "Electrolux" and others.

KNUTE representatives are the members of the International Society of Commodity Science and Technology (IGWT), Public Councils of executive authority, the Commission Codex Alimentarius. They participate in tasting sectoral commission, meeting of technical committees for standardization. The technical committee for standardization in the sphere of services in trade, tourism, restaurant and exhibition operates on KNUTE base. Considerable work on harmonization of Ukrainian and European standards is being carried out.

The Educational Advisory Center in Safety and Quality of Goods management is successfully operating in KNUTE.

Attraction to work for the examination of legislative acts, documents and product samples; patent activity; numerous appearances in the mass media is a special directions of KNUTE teachers scientific competence.

The development of the commodity science theory and actualization of commodity science categorial apparatus

The last decade has shown that commodity science goes beyond traditional objects and subject of research. The list of commodity science objects has grown considerably. It includes the following new goods: flowers; feed; packaging materials and tare; vehicles and other goods; and a large industry sector – services. Unifying the interpretation of the fundamental commodity science categories is important today.

Knowledge of commodity science is in demand in different spheres of social life. Particular specificity has commodity science competencies of specialists in customs and antimonopoly activities. The State Fiscal Service carries out the commodity science expertise to cases of customs regulations violation; identification at customs control and clearance of goods; prevent customs risks. The Antimonopoly Committee of Ukraine carries out activities to detect fraud, surrogate product, analysis of assortment etc.
Joint projects with foreign HEEs

Considerable interest of KNUTE experts is in the realization of joint following activities with foreign HEE-partners: educational programs, scientific research, monographs and other scientific publications, preparing the base for the implementation of training programs for the degree of "EuroBachelor", "EuroMaster" in commodity science; getting a double degree diploma; modernization of training of commodity science specialists for certain specialties; teachers exchange aimed at giving lectures etc. Taking part in carrying out research in the field of education which is perspective for KNUTE and the priority for the EU.

Conclusion

Apart from traditional evaluation of goods quality, commodity science specialists came to the goods quality and safety management, identification of forgery, legislative activity in modern conditions and so on. Providing highly qualified specialists is vital for sustainable growth of trade. The leading role in this process belongs to the higher educational system. Cooperation with NGOs, permanent dialogue with employers, government authorities, mass media and other institutions and organizations are the important parts of training highly qualified commodity science specialists in KNUTE.

References

3. Decree No. 266 of April 29, 2015 of Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine “About approval the list of field of knowledge and specialities, according to which candidates for achieving higher education are trained”.