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CATALOGUE OF NEEDS WISHES AND DESIRES

PROJECT: EDUCATION SYSTEM CHANGE WITH EU-Accession (EdAccession)

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Project acronym:	EdAccession
Project number:	101139414 — EdAccession — ERASMUS-EDU-2023-VIRT-EXCH
Call:	ERASMUS-EDU-2023-VIRT-EXCH
Topic:	ERASMUS-EDU-2023-VIRT-EXCH
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INTRODUCTION

Since the beginning of the Russian war against Ukraine, our collaborative efforts with Ukrainian universities have significantly focused on supporting digital teaching resources. With Ukraine's impending EU accession, these universities are keen to strengthen cooperation with EU institutions to access European research networks and participate in joint projects. Moldova, also an EU accession candidate, finds itself in a similar situation, amplifying the need for comprehensive preparation for EU membership within the higher education system.

In light of these developments, we have undertaken the creation of the Catalogue of Needs, Wishes, and Desires for Education System Change with EU-Accession (EdAccession). This catalogue is a pivotal component designed to organize effective collaboration within the project, achieve optimal results, and, most importantly, meet the needs and expectations of students from Ukraine and Moldova. The primary goal of the EdAccession catalogue is to provide a structured framework that encapsulates the aspirations and concerns of Ukrainian and Moldovan students regarding their countries' integration into the EU education framework. Through extensive surveys and focus groups, we have gathered a wealth of information on what students expect from EU accession. This includes their educational needs, career aspirations, desired support systems, and concerns about potential challenges.

The catalogue serves as a cornerstone for organizing collaborative efforts between Ukrainian, Moldovan, and EU universities. By clearly outlining the needs and wishes of students, the project can ensure that all stakeholders are working towards common goals and addressing the most pressing issues. The insights gained from the catalogue are instrumental in shaping actionable plans. These plans aim to bridge the gap between current educational provisions and the enhanced opportunities expected from EU integration.

The Catalogue of Needs, Wishes, and Desires for the Education System Change with EU-Accession (EdAccession) represents a comprehensive collection of responses and insights from students in Ukraine and Moldova. Total number of respondents1529. The catalogue focuses on a variety of themes related to their expectations and concerns about EU membership and its impact on their higher education experience.

The topics presented to students for the survey in the Catalogue of Needs, Wishes, and Desires for Education System Change with EU-Accession (EdAccession) include:

- Students expectations with EdAccession project;
- EU Education opportunities
- Students mobility
- EU Employment opportunities
- Challenges from EU of Accession
- Migration/Emigration

SURVEY RESULTS

Students were asked to complete a survey that contained both open and closed questions. The survey of students continued during March-July 2024. 1529 students from UNIVERSITATEA TEHNICA A MOLDOVEI and DNIPRO UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY took part in the survey. The students who accepted to study in the survey were at the bachelor's and master's levels of study without restrictions regarding the year of study and specialty.

Figure 1 shows the distribution of the total number of students among the universities represented.

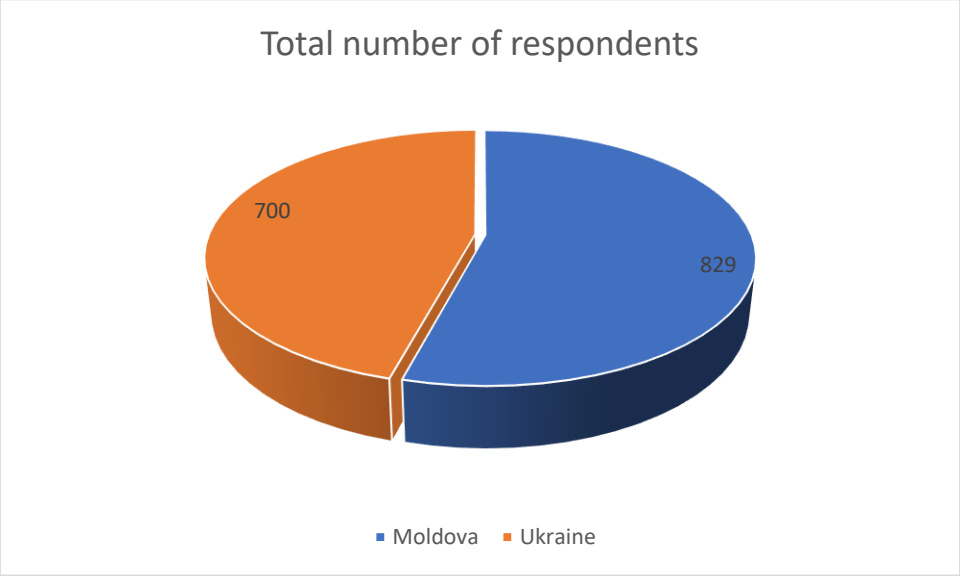


Figure 1. The total number of respondents in terms of distribution among universities

The first question in the survey was about students' expectations from the project.

What are you interested in in relation to EdAccession?
Exchange with EU students
Exchange with EU teachers
Exchange with teachers experienced in EU mobility
Exchange with students experienced in EU mobility

The students' answers were distributed as follows:

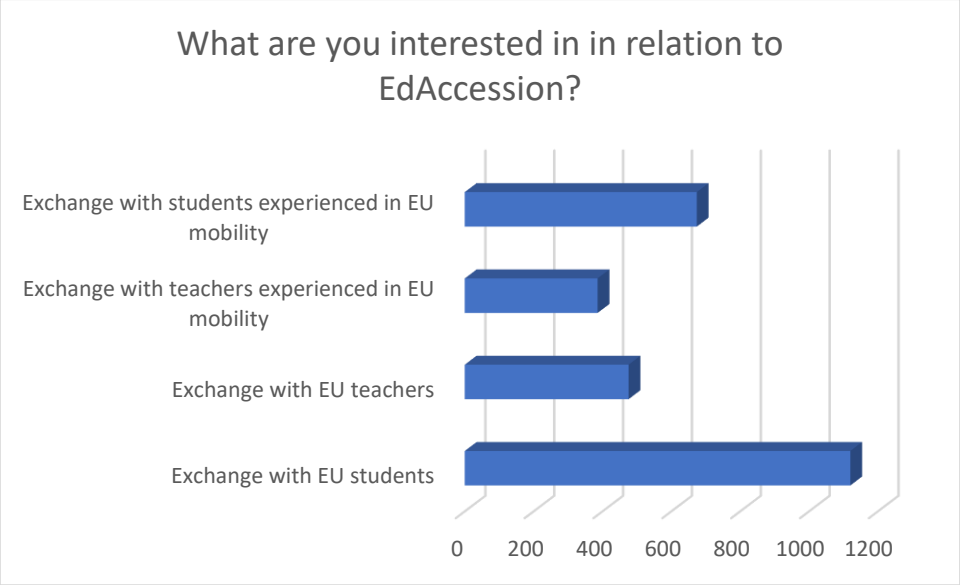


Figure 2. Students interests in relation to EdAccession

As we can see from the figure, students were most interested in Exchange with EU students and especially in EU mobility program.

Separately, according to this point of the survey, students highlighted their interest as "other" in:

- Learning more about social programmes
- Internships in European's company's
- Go study in other EU country for internship and learning

The second question concerned EU Education opportunities:

EU Education opportunities
Main benefits of pursuing higher education in the EU for non-EU students
Popular study destinations within the EU
Non-EU qualifications and academic backgrounds
Scholarship or financial aid opportunities
Language support programs
Differences between the higher education systems

The distribution of students' answers is presented in Figure 3.

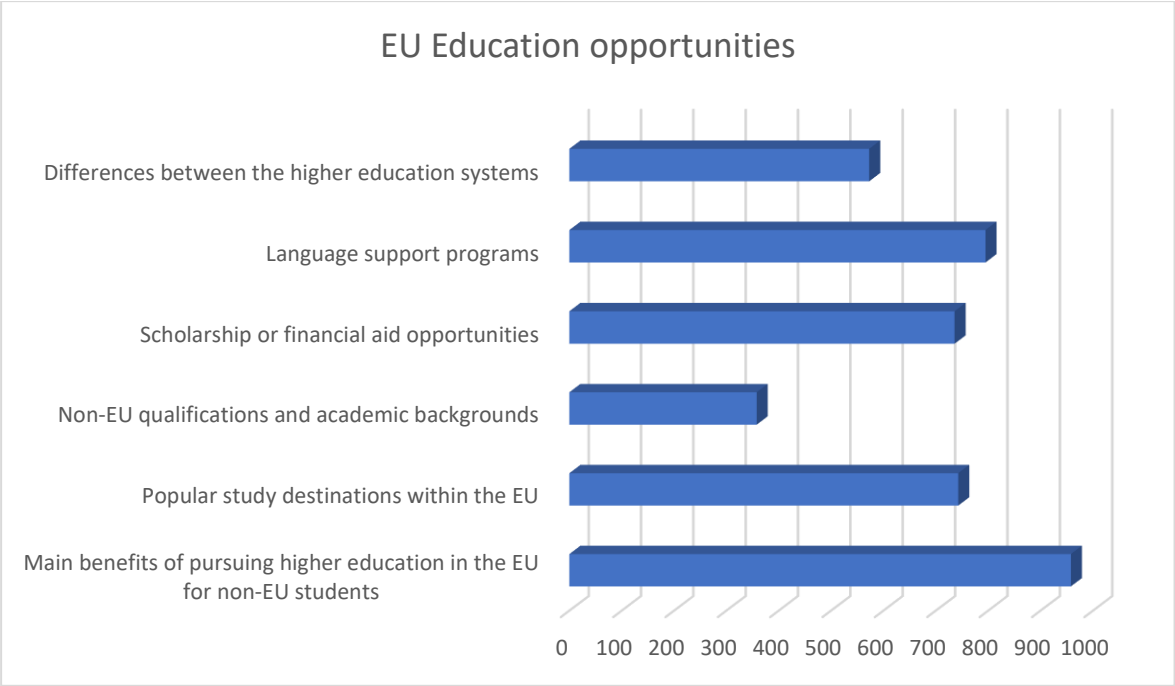


Figure 3. Students interests in relation to EU Educational opportunities

Figure 3 presents the distribution of students' interests in EU educational opportunities. This figure details various aspects of EU education that students find appealing, including the primary benefits of pursuing higher education in the EU for non-EU students, popular study destinations within the EU, the compatibility of non-EU qualifications with EU standards, available scholarships or financial aid opportunities, language support programs, and the differences between the higher education systems. Additionally, students expressed interest in other topics such as the international acclaim of Moldovan universities and opportunities to engage with native speakers through fresh encounters.

The next, third question that students answered during the survey was about Students mobility:

Sudents mobility
Main programs or initiatives
Scholarships or grants
Eligibility criteria
Credit transfer
Language requirements

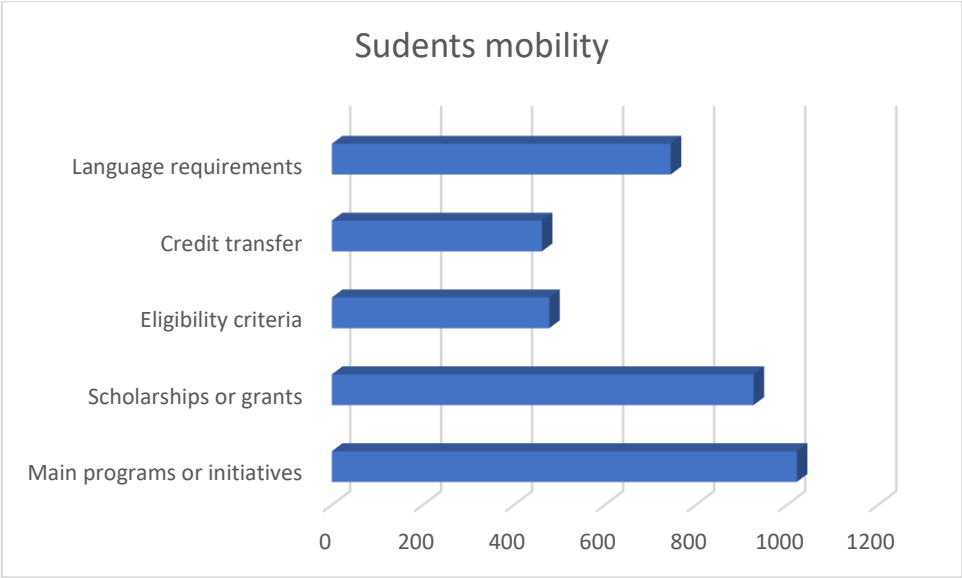


Figure 4. Students interests in relation to Students mobility

Figure 4 highlights students' interests in student mobility within the EU, focusing on key aspects such as understanding the primary programs or initiatives available, the availability of scholarships or grants for financial support, eligibility criteria for participation, the processes for transferring academic credits between institutions, and the language requirements needed for studying abroad. This figure underscores the practical considerations students have regarding mobility opportunities, emphasizing the need for detailed information and support in these areas.

Answering the following fourth question, students were asked to express their interest in EU Employment opportunities:

EU Employment opportunities
Current trends in employment opportunities
Specific industries or sectors seeking international talent
Typical requirements or qualifications
EU labor laws and regulations
Programs or initiatives

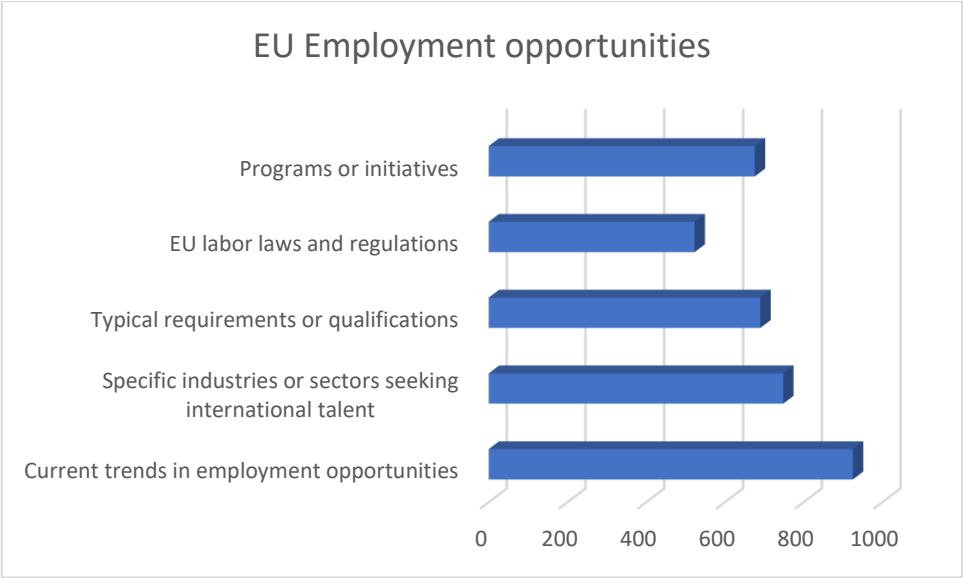


Figure 5. Students interests in relation to EU Employment opportunities

Figure 5 illustrates the interests of students in relation to EU employment opportunities. It outlines their focus on various aspects such as current trends in employment, specific industries or sectors seeking international talent, typical requirements or qualifications needed, EU labor laws and regulations, and available programs or initiatives. The figure indicates that students are particularly keen on understanding the job market dynamics in the EU, the qualifications required for different sectors, and the legal framework governing employment. This interest underscores the importance of providing detailed information and support to help students navigate the complexities of finding employment in the EU post-graduation.

The fifth question in the survey aimed to find out about students' interest in Challenges from the EU of Accession:

Challenges from EU of Accession
Political challenges
Economic disparities
Social or cultural challenges
Corruption, governance, and the rule of law
Talent exodus or brain drain
Immigration patterns
Tax policies
Language skills

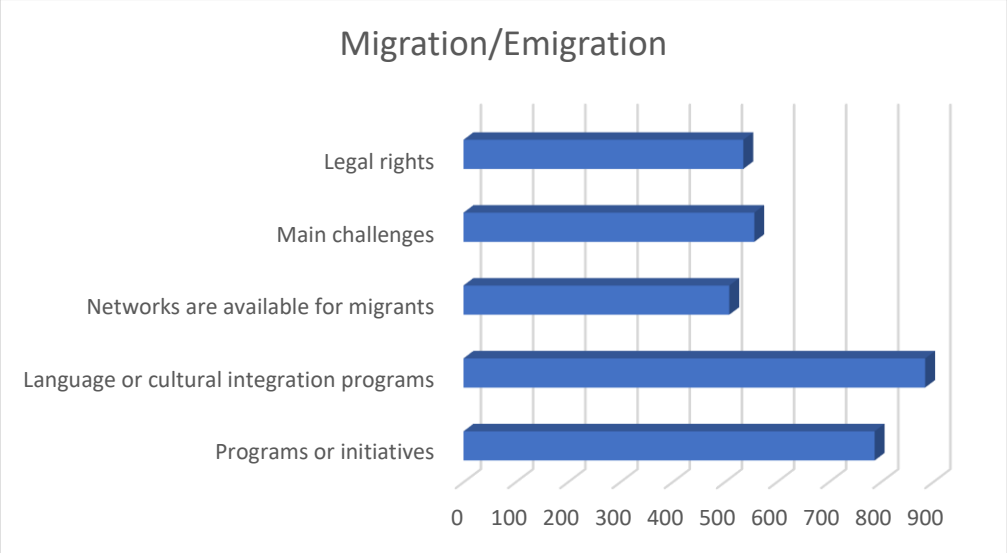


Figure 6. Students interests in relation to Challenges from the EU of Accession

Figure 6 illustrates the range of challenges that students perceive in relation to EU accession. These challenges encompass political issues, economic disparities, social and cultural difficulties, corruption, governance and the rule of law, brain drain, immigration patterns, tax policies, and language skills. The figure highlights the diverse and complex concerns that students have regarding the accession process, emphasizing the multifaceted nature of their apprehensions. This visual representation underscores the importance of addressing these challenges comprehensively to facilitate smoother integration and better support for students navigating the EU accession landscape.Table 1 presents the entire set of questionnaire questions and the number of students who expressed interest in each of the questions.

Table 1. Distribution of students' votes on all questionnaire questions

What are you interested in in relation to EdAccession?	The number of students who showed interest
Exchange with EU students	1120
Exchange with EU teachers	476
Exchange with teachers experienced in EU mobility	386
Exchange with students experienced in EU mobility	674
EU Education opportunities	
Main benefits of pursuing higher education in the EU for non-EU students	958
Popular study destinations within the EU	743
Non-EU qualifications and academic backgrounds	358
Scholarship or financial aid opportunities	736
Language support programs	795

Differences between the higher education systems	573
Sudents mobility	
Main programs or initiatives	1022
Scholarships or grants	927
Eligibility criteria	478
Credit transfer	462
Language requirements	745
EU Employment opportunities	
Current trends in employment opportunities	925
Specific industries or sectors seeking international talent	748
Typical requirements or qualifications	690
EU labor laws and regulations	523
Programs or initiatives	676
Challenges from EU of Accession	
Political challenges	516
Economic disparities	703
Social or cultural challenges	716
Corruption, governance, and the rule of law	483
Talent exodus or brain drain	458
Immigration patterns	405
Tax policies	389
Language skills	721
Migration/Emigration	
Programs or initiatives	788
Language or cultural integration programs	885
Networks are available for migrants	509
Main challenges	557
Legal rights	536

Visually, the gradation of students' interest in all questions of the questionnaire is presented in Figure 7

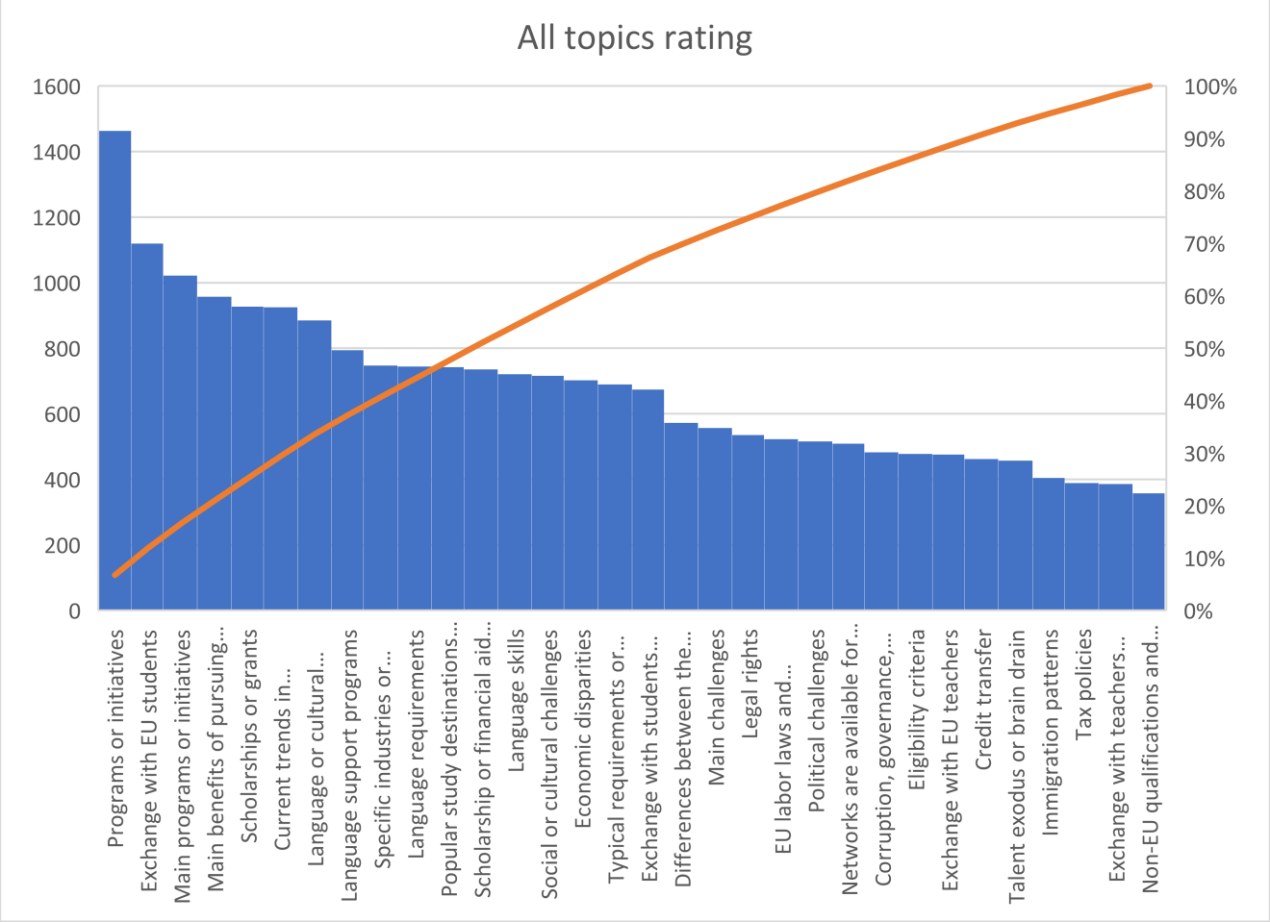


Figure 7. Students interests in relation to Challenges from the EU of Accession

Figure 7 presents a visual representation of the various challenges students perceive regarding the EU accession process. It highlights their concerns in areas such as political challenges, economic disparities, social or cultural challenges, corruption governance, the rule of law, talent exodus or brain drain, immigration patterns, tax policies, and language skills. The figure serves to illustrate the diverse and significant apprehensions that students have about integrating into the EU framework, emphasizing the need for comprehensive strategies to address these issues and facilitate smoother transitions for students into the EU educational and professional environments.

CATALOGUE OF NEEDS WISHES AND DESIRES

According to the conducted research on determining the interest of students of Ukraine and Moldova, which are related to the integration of the higher education system of these countries into the European educational space, the Catalog of needs, wishes and desires was formed. Table 2 presents the Catalog, where priority topics are presented in the order of priority interest of students. This catalog will be the basis for determining the topics of the workshops, which are planned to be held in the work packages of the project.

Таблиця 2. Catalogue of needs wishes and desires

N	Priority topics
1	Interests in in relation to EdAccession. [Exchange with EU students]
2	Sudents mobility [Main programs or initiatives]
3	EU Education opportunities [Main benefits of pursuing higher education in the EU for non-EU students]
4	Sudents mobility [Scholarships or grants]
5	EU Employment opportunities [Current trends in employment opportunities]
6	Migration/Emigration [Language or cultural integration programs]
7	EU Education opportunities [Language support programs]
8	Migration/Emigration [Programs or initiatives]
9	EU Employment opportunities [Specific industries or sectors seeking international talent]
10	Sudents mobility [Language requirements]
11	EU Education opportunities [Popular study destinations within the EU]
12	EU Education opportunities [Scholarship or financial aid opportunities]
13	Challenges from EU of Accession [Language skills]
14	Challenges from EU of Accession [Social or cultural challenges]
15	Challenges from EU of Accession [Economic disparities]
16	EU Employment opportunities [Typical requirements or qualifications]
17	EU Employment opportunities [Programs or initiatives]
18	What are you interested in in relation to EdAccession? [Exchange with students experienced in EU mobility]
19	EU Education opportunities [Differences between the higher education systems]
20	Migration/Emigration [Main challenges]
21	Migration/Emigration [Legal rights]
22	EU Employment opportunities [EU labor laws and regulations]
23	Challenges from EU of Accession [Political challenges]
24	Migration/Emigration [Networks are available for migrants]
25	Challenges from EU of Accession [Corruption, governance, and the rule of law]
26	Sudents mobility [Eligibility criteria]
27	What are you interested in in relation to EdAccession? [Exchange with EU teachers]
28	Sudents mobility [Credit transfer]
29	Challenges from EU of Accession [Talent exodus or brain drain]
30	Challenges from EU of Accession [Immigration patterns]
31	Challenges from EU of Accession [Tax policies]
32	Interests in in relation to EdAccession. [Exchange with teachers experienced in EU mobility]
33	EU Education opportunities [Non-EU qualifications and academic backgrounds]

CONCLUSIONS

The creation of the Catalogue of Needs, Wishes, and Desires for Education System Change with EU-Accession (EdAccession) marks a significant milestone in understanding and addressing the aspirations and concerns of Ukrainian and Moldovan students regarding their countries' integration into the EU educational framework. By systematically gathering and analyzing the students' perspectives across a comprehensive range of topics, this initiative not

only highlights the multifaceted nature of educational and professional expectations but also sets the foundation for actionable strategies and collaborations.

The catalogue reveals a strong desire among students for enhanced exchange programs, financial support, and robust language assistance to facilitate smoother integration into the EU academic environment. It underscores the importance of aligning non-EU qualifications with European standards, streamlining credit transfer processes, and providing clear information on employment trends and legal frameworks within the EU. Additionally, the survey illuminates the social, cultural, and economic challenges that students anticipate, emphasizing the need for targeted support systems and governance reforms to foster transparency and rule of law.

Moving forward, the insights gained from this catalogue will be instrumental in shaping policies and initiatives that cater to the identified needs and aspirations of the students. By fostering effective collaboration between Ukrainian, Moldovan, and EU educational institutions, the EdAccession project aims to create a conducive environment for academic excellence, professional growth, and socio-cultural integration. This effort not only prepares students for the opportunities and challenges of EU membership but also contributes to the broader goal of strengthening the higher education systems in the accession countries, ultimately paving the way for a more integrated and prosperous European educational landscape.

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