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**STATE OF FORMATION OF MULTICULTURAL COMPETENCE
OF FUTURE SOCIAL WORKERS: RESULTS OF THE STATING
EXPERIMENT**

In the twenty-first century one of the key methodological approaches to the training of future teachers in higher education is a competency based approach. In accordance with its provisions, the benchmark and the result of the multicultural education of future social workers are the multicultural competence.

Taking into consideration the characteristics of multicultural competence, described by foreign (I. Vasyutenkova, T. Gur'yanova, E. Myloserdova, A. Fernhem, P. Frer et al.) and Ukrainian researchers (R. Ahadullin, K. Bakhanov, L. Vorotnyak, L. Galuza, L. Goncharenko, L. Peretyaha, I. Sokolova, M. Symonenko, L. Cherednychenko, N. Yaksa et al.), we treat polycultural competence of social pedagogy as an integrative quality of a future professional that is formed in the process of multicultural education in higher educational institutions and includes the system of appropriate knowledge, skills, interests, needs, motivations, values, mental properties, experience of following social norms and rules of conduct necessary for everyday life and professional activity in the modern multicultural society, and is reflected in the complex of capacities to solve problems of professional social and educational activities on the basis of positive interaction with people of different cultures.

The aim of this article is to disclose the state of formation of multicultural competence of social workers on the basis of the stating experiment conducted in higher educational institutions of Ukraine.

To check the actual level of multicultural competence of social workers a number of research activities was conducted, namely: interviews, observations, tests, questionings, creative tasks, solving of social and educational situations, the study of current and final evaluations of students on specific subjects, etc.

As a result of the stating experiment it was found that most students consider Ukraine a multicultural state in which representatives of many nationalities live who require social and educational assistance in various issues. Respondents have experience of cross-cultural interaction, the desire to know more about their own culture and ethnocultural traditions of members of alien ethnic population. However, there is a share of future social workers who have prejudices against members of certain ethnic groups, though considering themselves tolerant people. In addition, analysis of the solution of professional situations gave reasons to believe that future social workers do not have the methods of multicultural work. This demonstrates the need for special training of them to implement multicultural oriented social and educational activities.