E-PORTFOLIO AS ONE OF MEANS FOR INCREASING
THE EFFECTIVENESS OF A UNIVERSITY

Н.И. Шумская
Белорусский национальный технический университет

Our life is being digitalized more and more and it is natural to use all information technologies achievements for optimizing it. The implementation of modern technologies in universities helps to promote better communication between students and university stuff, to provide facilities for study, to support students in their everyday life.

High education is permanently transforming and there are several reasons for that. First of all the high speed of the modern life makes it impossible once to gain some information in an educational institution and then to use it for the whole life. A lot of old professions are disappearing and a lot of new ones are appearing every year. This fact has changed the educational system dramatically. Now universities try to give basic knowledge that can be used in a lot of spheres and for rather long time. Secondly, the complication of technological processes, the spread of high technologies keep students looking for the possibility to gain practical competences that can be used for completing particular works. New trends in education and self-education try to meet these needs but they demand organizational solutions. A new type of e-portfolio can be helpful.

Nowadays e-portfolio for study is widely used in a lot of universities all over the world. Usually it is connected to the university site and is used mostly for organization of education. Professors and tutors give tasks to their students and check some works, the dean's office sends messages about different events, student communities inform about their activities. Also, there is e-portfolio for work and it is a detailed resume that nowadays is used by specialists in different fields. There it is possible to present various achievements and to describe skills. Usually these two types of portfolios are separate.

The working combination of the above-mentioned e-portfolios will be able to solve the following tasks:

− to improve the communication between the university authorities, student communities and the students;

− to widen links of professors and tutors and students that will enrich the educational process;

− to support the further dialog with alumni.

The first point aims at making better the students' life. Accessible schedules, well-timed information about different events, entertainments enhance the life in the university.

The second point is about the main goal of the university performance, it is about the process of teaching and learning. E-portfolio may open the opportunities for, first, distant learning, then it can enrich teamwork at different projects, it can improve writing skills while analytical commenting and blogging.

The third point can bring profits to both sides: alumni and university. The university can trace the path of its alumni and offer educational courses to improve the former students' skills or to retrain if it is necessary. The information about successful alumni will obviously boost the profitability of the university. The alumni gain the support from their alma mater, possibility to choose educational courses with known professors and tutors and in known environment.

Information technologies are penetrating in all spheres of our life. The implementation of combined e-portfolio in universities will allow to optimize inter-university communication, to improve the educational process, to provide profitable relations with alumni.