University Selection System, Problems and Solutions

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The aim of the study was to examine the current practice of admission to universities in the Republic of Belarus, in particular the organization of competitive selection by groups of specialties, identifying the strengths and weaknesses of this approach and developing recommendations for its improvement. In accordance with paragraph 30 of Chapter 5 of the Admission Rules, by decision of the admissions committee (when using an automated enrollment system), an applicant may be given the opportunity to participate in a competitive selection for any number of specialties within the selected group (enrollment is carried out for a specialty) in the order of priority determined by him in the application when submitting documents.

The organization of competitive selection by groups of specialties has a number of advantages for both applicants and universities. Many Belarusian universities use the selection system with a general competition by groups of specialties. This opportunity is widely used not only in our country, but also in the countries of the former Soviet Union. On the other hand, the possibility of organizing a competitive selection by groups of specialties provides greater variability in the formation of an application, which may be difficult for applicants and ultimately be the cause of dissatisfaction with the results of the competitive selection.

A possible solution to this problem may be the optimization of the set of specialties formed by the applicant and their ranking in the application. Initial data: a group of economic specialties of the educational institution "Polesie State University"; a set of specialties formed by the applicant; overall score of the applicant; passing scores for specialties (from 2020 to 2024). To determine the optimal set of specialties with their ranks, the Kemeny-Snell method was used to rank alternatives.

As a result, a recommendation was received for the current year of submission of documents, in the form of an ordered set of specialties, taking into account the statistics of previous years, which will improve the validity of decisions made by applicants when choosing specialties and, consequently, the level of their satisfaction with the results of the competitive selection