



Chapter I. THEORETICAL AND PEDAGOGICAL PROBLEMS OF MODERN EDUCATION

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«ПРОЄКТ «ГІРСЬКА ШКОЛА» – ВІДПОВІДЬ НА ВИКЛИКИ ЧАСУ» (Василь ХРУЦЬ)

Анотація. У 2025 році виповниться 90 років з дня народження засновника міжнародного проєкту «Гірська школа. Стан. Проблеми. Перспективи розвитку», а також наукового фахового видання з педагогічних наук «Гірська школа Українських Карпат» Василя Хруща. Проєкт є першим і єдиним на сьогодні комплексним дослідженням впливу гірського середовища на розвиток, навчання і виховання школярів. У проєкті беруть участь учені з багатьох країн світу: США, Польщі, Словаччини, Угорщини, Швейцарії, Австрії, Румунії. Справа, започаткована професором В. Хрущем, продовжується.

Ключові слова: Василь Хрущ, проєкт «Гірська школа», наукове фахове видання, гірське середовище, розвиток особистості, колектив дослідників.

«THE «MOUNTAIN SCHOOL» PROJECT – A RESPONSE TO THE CHALLENGES OF OUR TIME» (Vasyl KHRUSHCH)

Abstract. In 2025, the 90th anniversary of the birth of the founder of the international project «Mountain School: State, Problems, Development Prospects» and the scientific professional journal in pedagogical sciences «Mountain School of the Ukrainian Carpathians», Vasyl Khrushch, will be celebrated. The project is the first and only comprehensive study of the impact of the mountain environment on the development, education, and upbringing of schoolchildren. Scientists from many countries around the world, including the USA, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Switzerland, Austria, and Romania, participate in the project. The work initiated by Professor V. Khrushch continues.

Keywords: Vasyl Khrushch, «Mountain School» project, scientific professional journal, mountain environment, personality development, research team.

In 2025, the 90th anniversary of the birth of Vasyl Khrushch, the founder of the international project «Mountain School: State, Problems, Development Prospects» and the scientific professional journal in pedagogical sciences «Mountain School of the Ukrainian Carpathians,» will be celebrated. Among dozens of socially significant projects developed by scientists from Vasyl Stefanyk Precarpathian National University, the international project «Mountain School» holds a leading position. In the context of globalization, it contributes to solving specific problems faced by local communities and helps prevent negative influences that erode the national and ethnic identity of mountain region populations.

Vasyl Khrushch was born on September 10, 1935, into a large peasant family in the Khmelnytskyi region (Kamianets-Podilskyi district, Kalynia village), where he grew up in a loving family surrounded by the picturesque nature of Podillia. During his childhood and post-war youth, he developed a deep respect for people, a love for nature, and a special reverence for all living things.



**ПРОФЕСОР ВАСИЛЬ ДЕМ'ЯНОВИЧ
ХРУЩ – ПЕДАГОГ, УЧЕНИЙ,
ОРГАНІЗАТОР ОСВІТИ**

Vasyl Khrushch studied at the Kamianets-Podilskiy Men's School and, upon graduation, entered the Khotyn Veterinary Technical School in 1954, where he obtained a veterinary qualification. He continued his education at the Ivano-Frankivsk Pedagogical Institute at the Faculty of History and Philology, graduating with honors.

After completing his studies at the pedagogical institute, he worked as a teacher of the Ukrainian language and literature at the secondary school in Dubivtsi village, Halych district, Ivano-Frankivsk region. Besides teaching, he also led a music club and directed the school choir.»

In 1965, Vasyl Khrushch was invited to work as a lecturer at the Department of Pedagogy at the Ivano-Frankivsk Pedagogical Institute. He pursued postgraduate studies and, after completing them in 1972, took up the position of Head of the Department of Pedagogy and Psychology.

This was followed by a long-term overseas assignment in the Republic of Cuba, where V. Khrushch worked for over five years as an advisor-consultant to the rector of the university in Santa Clara and later as an advisor to the rector of the university in Manzanillo.

Upon returning to Ukraine and his home pedagogical institute, he established the Faculty of Advanced Training and Retraining, which he led for nearly 20 years. He also headed the Department of Theory and Methods of Primary Education for a long time.



Vasyl Khrushch's scientific interests encompassed issues of education, training, and personality development, ethnopsychology, and the peculiarities of personal development in a mountain environment. Professor V. Khrushch published over 270 scientific works, including more than 50 in foreign scientific journals.

One of Professor Vasyl Khrushch's most significant scientific achievements is the international project «Mountain School: State, Problems, Development Prospects,» which he initiated in 2006. In 2004, in the mountainous region of Chernivtsi Oblast, in the town of Putyla, the Ukrainian National Mountain Committee was established. Among the 78 countries with Mountain Committees, Ukraine took a leading position. However, the committee's tasks did not include education, schools,



or children, nor the study of the effects of the mountain landscape and other natural factors on the upbringing and development of students.

Meanwhile, mountain schools operate under special conditions and are located in 27 districts across four Ukrainian regions: Zakarpattia, Lviv, Chernivtsi, and Ivano-Frankivsk. Approximately 600 general secondary education institutions serve about 120,000 students in these regions. In Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast alone, one-third of the schools (around 200) are in mountainous areas. In addition to the general challenges faced by the education system, these schools experience unique problems similar to those in other mountainous countries.

Recognizing these challenges, Vasyl Khrushch, along with the faculty of the Department of Theory and Methods of Primary Education, sought to fill the gap in research on the specific functioning of mountain schools in Ukraine. According to project participants, schools, alongside the social activity of governmental and non-governmental organizations, should engage in the active development of the Carpathian region, preserving its beauty and uniqueness (Khrushch V., 2006, pp. 79-80). The project's significance has been recognized at the national level, receiving a silver medal from the Ministry of Education and Science and the Presidium of the National Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine.



The accumulation of scientific material and data on the work of mountain schools and individual teachers necessitated its publication. Thus, in 2006, Professor Vasyl Khrushch founded the scientific professional journal «Mountain School of the Ukrainian Carpathians,» serving as its chief editor for many years. The journal highlights the diverse influences of natural, socio-economic, cultural, psychological, and other factors of the mountain environment on personal development (Khrushch V., 2017, p. 19). In 2007, the journal was registered by the UNESCO International Organization for Standardization and has been published in English in recent years, allowing it to be represented in the international scientific community and accessible to researchers worldwide.

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