

THE VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENT AS A FACTOR FOR INCREASING THE MOTIVATION FOR LEARNING

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Abstract. *The technological times in which we live forced a new reading of the methods and means of reaching the learners. In recent decades, the focus of educational researchers has broadened to generational theory and the needs of Generation Z. The virtual environment occupies more and more the reality in time and space. This study aims to investigate the attitudes of the students regarding the virtual environment and to what extent its presence in education is a factor for a higher engagement of the students. The interest in virtual tools in presencial classes was investigated on the basis of surveys, field observations and in-depth interviews among students from Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”. The results show that although the online resources were very well received by 100% of the students, 40% of the them preferred paper textbooks and 47% perceived the time for online exercises as a break. The research shows how the characteristics of the virtual environment influence the increase in motivation to learn and raises questions regarding the place of the virtual environment in academic learning. The research provides an answer to what extent learners are ready for technological innovations in the learning process and what is the role of online resources in increasing motivation and concentration in learning.*

Key words: Learning, virtual environment, motivation, empirical research.

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