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Introduction

Wprowadzenie

Almost thirty years have passed since the publication of the report of Jacques Delors' International Commission on Education entitled *Learning: The Treasure Within* (*Edukacja...*, 1998) but the formulations presented therein are still valid. The Commission identified four main aspects of education in the 21st century: learning to know, learning to do, learning to live together and learning to be. According to the authors of the report, educational activities at the end of the last century focused mainly on the first of those aspects, with less emphasis on the second, and with almost no interest in the last two aspects. Further reflection on 21st-century competencies has deepened this observation by defining the key attributes of modern man, such as: critical thinking, creativity, communication and cooperation (4C) as competencies which facilitate one's well-being.

In this issue of *Elementary Education in Theory and Practice* we will analyse the role of two basic children's developmental contexts: family and educational institutions, in shaping inter- and intrapersonal competencies.

The articles collected in this volume focus, on the one hand, on the role and characteristics of the family environment for the formation of both broadly understood social competencies and specific skills or processes, such as resilience. The reflection undertaken by the authors refers to both properly functioning family systems, as well as cases in which they do not perform their basic functions. The second area of reflection is connected with the institutional environment, and in particular with the role

played by a reflective teacher in the development of children with different needs. Both motives will be combined in a space of practical solutions, guidance and inspirations that parents and teachers can use to help children face the challenges of the 21st century.

We invite you to read this issue and find some inspirations for effective educational influences.

References

Edukacja – jest w niej ukryty skarb. Raport dla UNESCO Międzynarodowej Komisji do spraw Edukacji dla XXI wieku pod przewodnictwem Jacques’a Delorsa [Learning: The treasure within. UNESCO report of the International Commission on Education for the 21st Century under the supervision of Jacques Delors]. (1998). Stowarzyszenie Oświatowców Polskich – Wydawnictwa UNESCO.