

Beata Akimjakova, Ivana Rochovska

Catholic University in Ružomberok, Slovak Republic

Tradition and Innovation in Education of Modern Teachers' Generation VI. – International Scientific Conference in Levoča

Society is constantly changing. Therefore, there must be significant changes in the provision of education for coming generation. It is teachers who, besides family members, have a significant impact on the personality of a child, and, can influence the kinds of knowledge, skills, experience, attitudes he or she takes from his school into real life.

The sixth conference in the cycle of international scientific conferences on *Tradition and innovation in education of modern teachers' generation* took place on November 8, 2012 in Levoča, Slovakia. The specific areas that the conference covered were the issue of history, the present times and the perspectives of: Pre-school and Elementary Pedagogy, Therapeutic Pedagogy, Social Pedagogy and other related disciplines. The Institute of Juraj Pales in Levoča – workplace of the Pedagogical Faculty of the Catholic University in Ružomberok, was the main organizer of the international scientific conference. The co-organizers of the conference were the College of Economics, Tourism and Social Sciences in Kielce, the University of Natural Sciences and Humanities in Siedlce, the University of Silesia in Katowice, the Faculty of Education of the University of Ostrava, the Jesuit University Ignatianum in Krakow, The Humanity Association "Acceptance" – the center of psychosocial prevention in Spiš, the University of Miskolc, Szent István University, the Faculty of Education in Szarvas, the Higher School of Health Education and Social Sciences in Łódź, the University of Sofia "St. Kliment Ohridski" in Sofia, the Carpathian National University of Vasyl' Stefanyk in Ivano-Frankivsk, the Academy "Kokshe" in Kazakhstan, the Maritime Academy in Szczecin, and the University of Information, Technology and

Management in Rzeszow. Among those who were invited were guests from Slovakia, Poland, the Czech Republic, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan.

The conference was for scholars and professionals from various educational fields and others concerned with the theme. Presentations were oriented on the issues of pre-school and elementary school pedagogy, therapeutic and social pedagogy focused on the themes: functional literacy, strategies of education, and continual education of teachers.

The programme of the conference traditionally begins with Holy Mass in the Chapel of St. Valentine at the Institute of Juraj Pales in Levoca. The plenary lectures dealt with the key areas within the context of the main theme of the conference and the issue of the Preschool, Elementary School, Therapeutic and Social Pedagogy. Prof. dr hab. Adam Stankowski, Poland, made a contribution on *The Education of teachers – regional aspects of qualification, EDUCATION*, doc. PaedDr. Beáta Akimjaková, PhD., the Slovak Republic, focused on *The Christian education of pupils with problematic behaviour*, doc. PaedDr. Vladimír Klein, PhD., the Slovak Republic, made a contribution on *Inclusive education in Slovakia*, prof. nadzw. dr hab Zbigniew Domżał, Poland, introduced the theme on *Perception of the child in primary school*, prof. Vasil Chrušč, Ukraine, made a contribution on *Issues pertaining to the training teachers-to-be under the conditions of modern Ukrainian higher education*, PhD. Iveta Franzenová, PhD., Slovakia, presented Reflections on current changes of the family and its consequences, dr hab Leszek Ploch, Poland, gave a presentation on *The threat of artistic activity for people with disabilities*, and finally, PhD. Mgr. Martin Kaleja, PhD., Czech Republic, focused on *Roma pupils with special educational needs in basic schools in the Czech Republic*.

The contributions were followed by discussion in the sessions, where the participants mainly discussed the area of pedagogic activity as a means of training developing the professional culture of prospective teachers, applying information technologies in comprehensive schools of mountain regions, training teachers to work with a gifted personality, the psychological preparedness of a teacher as an agent to manage educational activity and others subjects dealing with functional literacy, strategies of education, and the continual education of teachers.

Holy Mass, discussions in the plenum and sessions were followed by an attractive culture programme, which included a music performance by integrated group "Mazowjaci" from Warszawa.

The themes of the talks and contributions were varied. However, they had a common purpose in that they reflected on the present state and to propose and possibilities for innovation in Pre-school and Elementary School Pedagogy, Therapeutic and Social Pedagogy and related disciplines. The organizers intend to continue in organizing the cycle of international scientific conferences and to discuss the themes on Special Pedagogy, but above all else, they intend to focus on Pre-School and Elementary Pedagogy and related disciplines.

Contact:

PaedDr. Beata Akimjakova, PhD.

PaedDr. Ivana Rochovska, PhD.

Catholic University in Ruzomberok

Juraj Pales Institute in Levoča

Bottova 15, 054 01 Levoča, Slovakia