

Conference Paths to Democracy in Education® XIV

December 2013

Velké Bílovice, Czech Republic

“University Teacher – a Position between Instruction and Research”, this was the primary topic of the XIV conference as a part of the series of international scientific events under the title Paths to Democracy in Education. Organizational team chose traditional dates and place for the conference from 4th to 6th December (so at St Nicolas Day) in favorite Seminar Hotel Akademie in Velké Bílovice.

Citizen’s Association Education – science – Research from Bratislava and Department of School Education of Faculty of Humanities UTB in Zlín were the main organizers of the conference with the participation of Institute of Pedagogy of Faculty of Pedagogy and Psychology UKW in Bydgoszcz, Institute of Education and Social Studies of Faculty of Education UP in Olomouc, Department of Education of Faculty of Education UKF in Nitra and Association of Professors of Slavonic Countries in Sofia.

Already through the invitation card, the participants of the conference were impelled to reflect an intersection of two work realms of university teacher being instructor and researcher and how does the teacher think about his/her double roles. The aim of the conference was also to initiate the reflection on the motivation preceding development of scientific and research activities of the participants in their profession. If these university teachers (and not only them) were looking for an event to reflect this theme when preparing their presentations and during debates but also with the benefit of hindsight, they found it in Velké Bílovice.

Meeting of academics from the universities in Czech and Slovak Republic, Bulgaria, Poland, China and Russia was varied by participation of the students from Faculty of Humanities UTB and Faculty of Education UHK as well as the researchers from National Institute for Certified Educational Measurements in Bratislava (NÚCEM) who are the cooperators of the Department of School Education of Faculty of Humanities in Zlín.

Plenary session on the first day of the conference was initiated by inspiring speech of doc. Ing. Anežka Lengálová, Ph.D., a dean of Faculty of Humanities UTB in Zlín. Following plenary discussions were led in the spirit of other inspiring performances of long-standing participants of the conference – prof. PhDr. Jiří Mareš, CSc, prof. PhDr. Peter Gavora, CSc. and prof. PhDr. Peter Ondrejkočič, DrSc. Their papers didn’t leave any doubt that the conference would benefit from not only scientific but also human potential. Plenary session continued with very interesting papers presented by doc. PaedDr. Adri-

ana Wiegerová, PhD. and Mgr. Jan Kalenda, Ph.D. Follow-up discussions concerned mainly the questions related to position and employment of doctoral and postdoctoral researchers in actual university educational system and then the questions concerning transformation of university environment and the learning content provided.

Next two conference days continued with discussions and workshops in sections where all participants could listen to many ideas reflecting the main theme and the key questions of the conference. Almost fifty participants presented their papers related to primary conference topic of current status, visions, possibilities and limits of academic research and their subject of interest also referred to university teacher and his/her thinking and reasoning and the role of novice university teacher. Inspiring performances offered the presentations of empirical findings realized by the participants as well as their theoretical knowledge and conceptual approach to solve the problems of university teacher in an intersection of instruction and research. The performances ranked among the most interesting were presented by prof. dr hab. Ewa Filipiak, dr Ewa Lewandowska, prof. dr hab. Božena Muchacka, doc. PhDr. Tomáš Svatoš, Ph.D., PaedDr. PhDr. Jiří Dostál, Ph.D., dr hab. Iwona Czaja-Chudyba, doc. PhDr. Milan Klement, Ph.D. Mgr. Yanyan, Li, Dr Magdalena Grochowalska, prof. PhDr. Emilia Rangelova, DrSc., doc. aedDr. Hana Horká, CSc., Mgr. Jana Kratochvílová, Ph.D., Mgr. et Mgr. Lenka Grůzová, Assoc. Prof. Elena Zheleva, doc. PhDr. Tomáš Čech, Ph.D., Mgr. Petr Soják, Ph.D., Mgr. Eva Machů, Ph.D., Mgr. Hana Navrátilová, Mgr. Monika Szimethová, PhD., Mgr. Zuzana Danišová, PhD., PhDr. Zuzana Petrová, PhD. and Mgr. Ilona Kočvarová, Ph.D. Also talented bachelor and master students Marek Linke, Bc. Petra Kovalová and Bc. Soňa Kočicová presented their empirical findings during the work in sections which was a good example of interconnection of university research and education.

Discussions resulted from the participants' presentations were completed by the poster presentations of the colleagues from Adam – social rehabilitation institution – and from NÚCEM. The members of this institution introduced their idea of improvement of quality of education at primary and secondary schools using electronic measurement of pupils according to their quality parameters.

Academics who are obliged to publish regularly, had a chance to follow the presentation of professional journals e-PEDAGOGIUM and Sociální pedagogika in the early evening. The conference was also livened up with selling exhibition of books from the publishing house Portál and short speech of their representative.

All interviews and discussions which hadn't finished before the end of plenary session and conference sections, were communicated during the conference dinner and social event in a pleasant atmosphere with the participants sitting behind the round table.

The conference "University Teacher – a Position between Instruction and Research" created conditions for the description and communication on professional situation of a university teacher. At the same time it exposed the context of current university edu-

cation from the perspective of the academics. It's evident that the solution to indicated problems must be accentuated in the next events. The series of international scientific events [®] Paths to Democracy in Education continue in 2015 as 15th jubilee conference with opportunity to discuss all these questions.

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Článek I. Smetáčkové „Genderová rovnost ve výsledcích: znevýhodňují české školy chlapce, nebo dívky?“, který byl publikován v e-Pedagogiu, č. 1, 2013, je dedikován na projekt „Kritická místa matematiky na základní škole – analýza didaktických praktik učitelů“ (Grantová agentura ČR, P407-11-1740). Projekt má řadu výstupů, například monotematické číslo časopisu Orbis Schole, č. 2, 2012, či monografii Rendl, M. – Vondrová, N. a kol. (2013). Kritická místa matematiky na základní škole očima učitelů. Praha: Pedagogická fakulta Univerzity Karlovy.

The article by I. Smetackova “Gender equality in achievements” published in E-Pedagogium, 2013, no. 1, is dedicated to project “Critical places of mathematics at the elementary and the lower secondary schools – analysis of didactic practices of teachers” (Czech Science Foundation, P407-11-1740). Within the project was prepared a monothematic volume of Orbis Schole, 2012, no. 2, and the book Rendl, M. – Vondrová, N. a kol. (2013). Critical places of primary mathematics through the eyes of teachers. Praha: Pedagogická fakulta Univerzity Karlovy.