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Report on the Fourth International Scientific Conference “Universalism of Human Work. Challenges for Education”

On 06–07 June 2022, the Fourth International Scientific Conference “Universalism of Human Work” was held in Krakow, Poland, organised by the Institute of Social Affairs and Public Health in cooperation with the Institute of Special School Education and Teacher Training at the Faculty of Education and Psychology of the Pedagogical University in Krakow. Launched in 2014, the conference series has been held regularly every two years, i.e. in 2016 and 2018. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the next fourth conference was only held after four years.

The conference was organised under the auspices of: Marshal of the Małopolska Voivodeship – Witold Kozłowski, Małopolska Voivode – Łukasz Kmita, Mayor of the City of Kraków – Jacek Majchrowski, Director of the National School of Judiciary and Public Prosecution – Dariusz Pawłyszczce, Rector of the Pedagogical University of Krakow – prof. zw. dr hab. Piotr Bork, the Polish Society for Social Policy and the Polish Educational Research Association.

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The media patronage for the event was provided by: Radio RMF, TVP 3 Kraków and the Kraków.pl website. The conference was co-financed by the strategic programme „Excellence Initiative – Research University”.

The Organising Committee was chaired by dr hab. Norbert G. Piкуła, Pedagogical University of Krakow, and the Vice-Chairperson was dr hab. Joanna M. Łukasik, Pedagogical University of Krakow. Dr Katarzyna Białożyty-Wielonek, dr Agnieszka Tajak-Bobek, dr Józefa Matejek, dr Katarzyna Gucwa-Porębska, dr Andrzej Kobiałka and Dominika Juda were appointed as members of the Organising Committee.

The Scientific Committee consisted of a group of people with outstanding contributions to the development of science and education. The Scientific Committee was chaired by prof. zw. dr hab. Stefan M. Kwiatkowski of the Maria Grzegorzewska University in Warsaw, who holds an honorary doctorate from the Commission of National Education Pedagogical University in Krakow and an honorary doctorate from the National Pedagogical Drahomanov University in Kiev. During the conference, prof. zw. dr hab. Stefan M. Kwiatkowski was awarded the medal of the National Academy of Educational Sciences of Ukraine “Volodymyr Monomakh” for his contribution to the development of scientific cooperation between pedagogues from Ukraine and Poland². The function of the deputy was held by prof. zw. dr hab. Agnieszka Cybal-Michalska, representing the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. The members of the Scientific Committee were (in alphabetical order): prof. zw. dr hab. Ryszard Bera, prof. zw. dr hab. Ryszard Gerlach, prof. zw. dr hab. Joanna Madalińska-Michalak, prof. zw. dr hab. Jerzy Nikitorowicz, prof. zw. dr hab. Marian W. Nowak, prof. zw. dr hab. Mirosław J. Szymański, prof. dr hab. Mirosław Grewiński, dr hab. Mirosław Kowalski, University of Zielona Góra, dr hab. Joanna M. Łukasik, Pedagogical University of Krakow, dr hab. Józef Młyński, Pedagogical University of Krakow, dr hab. Inetta Nowosad, University of Zielona Góra, dr hab. Franciszek Szlosek, professor at the Maria Grzegorzewska University, dr hab. Ireneusz M. Światała, Pedagogical University of Krakow, dr hab. Norbert G. Piкуła, Pedagogical University of Krakow, dr hab. Beata Ziębińska, Pedagogical University of Krakow, who represented 10 Polish academic centres. In addition, the members of the Scientific Committee included scientists from 8 other countries and 9 academic centres from abroad, namely (in alphabetical order): Prof. Remigijus Bubnys (Vilnius University, Lithuania), Prof. Manfred Cassens

² Volodymyr Monomakh Medal for prof. dr hab. Stefan M. Kwiatkowski <http://www.aps.edu.pl/aktualnosci/medal-wolodimira-monomacha-dla-profesora-stefana-m-kwiatkowskiego/>

(FOM Hochschule, Germany), Prof. Folco Cimagalli (LUMSA, University in Rome, Italy), Prof. Valentin Constantinov and Prof. Eduard Coropceanu (Universitea de Stat din Tiraspol in Chisinau, Moldova), Prof. Andreas Hejj (University of Pécs, Hungary), Prof. Lydia Lehoczka (Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovakia), Prof. Larysa Lukianowa and Prof. Nellya Nychkalo (National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Ukraine), Prof. Dr. Andrea Óhidy (Pedagogical University of Freiburg, Germany) and Prof. Jiří Prokop (Charles University in Prague, the Czech Republic).

The partners of the conference were the School of Aspirants of the State Fire Service in Kraków, the Voivodeship Military Staff in Kraków and the Poviát Family Support Centre in Tarnów.

The overarching theme taken up during the subsequent meetings is coherent. Previously, it oscillated around the circumstances of human work, career development and work as a determinant of human existence. The last meeting was devoted to the universalism of human work presented in the context of the challenges facing education at a time of dynamic social transformations. The speakers aimed at trying to answer the question: "To what extent does contemporary education prepare for the current labour market?", and they focused in their speeches on the human being in relation to education, the labour market and existence.

The first day of the conference included two plenary sessions and presentations in sections. They were preceded by the ceremonial opening of the conference, during which commemorative speeches were delivered by: prof. dr hab. Włodzimierz Bernacki, Secretary of State, Government Plenipotentiary for Monitoring the Implementation of Higher Education and Science Reform, Ministry of Education and Science³, prof. dr hab. Piotr Borek, Rector of the Pedagogical University in Krakow, prof. dr hab. Agnieszka Cybal-Michalska, Chairperson of the Pedagogical Sciences Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Dean of the Faculty of Educational Studies at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, prof. dr hab. dr h.c. multi Stefan M. Kwiatkowski, Vice-Chairperson of the Pedagogical Sciences Committee, Chairperson of the Section of Work Pedagogy at the Pedagogical Sciences Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences, prof. dr hab. Nellya Nyczkało, Academician-Secretary

³ Fourth International Scientific Conference "Universalism of Human Work. Challenges for Education" attended by Deputy Minister Włodzimierz Bernacki <https://www.gov.pl/web/edukacja-i-nauka/iv-miedzynarodowa-konferencja-naukowa-universalizm-pracy-ludzkiej-wyzwania-dla-edukacji-z-udzialem-wiceministra-wlodzimierza-bernackiego>

of the Department of Professional Education and Education of Adults at the National Academy of Educational Sciences of Ukraine, prof. dr hab. Piotr Kostyło, President of the Polish Educational Research Association, and prof. dr hab. Mirosław Grewiński, President of the Polish Society for Social Policy.

The first plenary session was moderated by prof. dr hab. Piotr Kostyło and prof. dr hab. Ryszard Bera. The conference participants had the opportunity to listen to a paper on the career as „ownership of the profession” or „professional role” from a structural and functional perspective, delivered by prof. dr hab. Agnieszka Cybal-Michalska. In turn, prof. dr hab. dr h.c. multi Stefan M. Kwiatkowski discussed the factors influencing the quality of employment and work. Ukrainian education and pedagogy under the conditions of Russian aggression, its challenges and conclusions for the future were presented by prof. dr hab. Nellya Nyczkało. Dr hab. Czesław Kłak, professor at the Pedagogical University of Krakow, the prosecutor of the Regional Prosecutor’s Office in Rzeszów, and the Deputy Director of the National School of Judiciary and Public Prosecution in Krakow, discussed the ethical considerations of the prosecution service.

The second plenary session was chaired by prof. dr hab. dr h.c. multi Stefan M. Kwiatkowski and prof. dr hab. Ryszard Gerlach. In this part of the meeting, the audience could focus on careers in their various facets. Judicial education in relation to career development was the subject of a speech delivered by dr hab. Katarzyna Kaczmarczyk-Kłak, professor at the Pedagogical University of Krakow, judge of the Court of Appeal in Rzeszów. The pros and cons of becoming a prosecutor were presented by dr Piotr Kosmaty, Prosecutor of the Regional Prosecution Office in Krakow. Promotion and career levels in government administration were presented by dr Przemysław Ligenza, President of the Management Board of the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management, together with his deputy Sławomir Mazurek. A career in the uniformed services on the example of the State Fire Service was presented by bryg. mgr inż. Marek Chwała, Commander of the School of Aspirants of the State Fire Service in Kraków. A career in the teaching profession was discussed by dr hab. Franciszek Szlosek, professor at the Maria Grzegorzewska University, President of the Poland-Ukraine Scientific Society, foreign member of the National Academy of Educational Sciences of Ukraine. The last speech was delivered by dr hab. dr h.c. Bartłomiej Zdaniuk, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the Republic of Moldova and academic teacher at the University of Warsaw, and dealt with the importance of education in the work of a diplomat.

Following the plenary sessions, seven thematic sections were held in parallel. The first section entitled „Different dimensions of human work”, in which I was the speaker and discussed the role of the vocational subject teacher in preparing the student for the modern labour market, was chaired by dr hab. Adam Solak, professor at the Maria Grzegorzewska University, and dr hab. Fabian Adruszkiewicz, University of Opole. The second section entitled „School and teacher in the face of social change” was chaired by prof. dr hab. Larysa Lukianowa and dr hab. Franciszek Szlosek, professor at the Maria Grzegorzewska University. The third section entitled „Tasks of social policy in the face of the labour market and employment challenges” was chaired by dr hab. Beata Ziębińska, Pedagogical University of Krakow, and dr hab. Józef Młyński, Pedagogical University of Krakow. The fourth section entitled „Education and the labour market in view of the needs of various subjects” was supervised by Olena Kovalenko and prof. dr hab. Mirosław Grewiński. The fifth section entitled “Work environment” was chaired by Ireneusz M. Świtała, Pedagogical University of Krakow, and dr hab. Piotr Nowakowski, University of Rzeszów. The sixth section entitled “Research on the teaching profession. Reflexivity – development – challenges” was chaired by prof. dr hab. Remigius Bubnys and dr hab. Joanna M. Łukasik, Pedagogical University of Krakow. The seventh section entitled “New educational and professional challenges in a changing world” was chaired by prof. dr hab. Valentin Constantinow and dr Dorin Afans.

The meeting was concluded with a summary of the analyses presented in the sections. It was delivered by the Dean of the Faculty of Education and Psychology of the Pedagogical University in Krakow, dr hab. Ireneusz M. Świtała, Pedagogical University of Krakow, and dr hab. Joanna M. Łukasik, Pedagogical University of Krakow. The final day of the sessions was devoted to study visits.

The conference was an important opportunity for researchers to exchange views. It also became an inspiration to undertake new analyses. It would be worthwhile for the organisers to continue this series of successful scientific meetings, all the more so because the complex and dynamic reality of human labour encourages multifaceted reflection.

The conference presentations will be published (after obtaining printing qualifications) in scientific journals.