

INTRODUCTION

The monograph *“Effective Development of Teachers’ Skills in the Area of ICT and E-learning”* includes articles based on the best papers prepared and presented by authors from nine European countries and from more than twenty universities during the scientific conference entitled *“Theoretical and Practical Aspects of Distance Learning”*, subtitled: *“Effective Development of Teachers’ Skills in the Area of ICT and E-learning”*, which was held on 16-17 October 2017, organized by the Faculty of Ethnology and Sciences of Education in Cieszyn, University of Silesia in Katowice, Poland.

The speakers from the Silesian University (Czech Republic), University of Extremadura (Spain), Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra (Slovakia), Curtin University in Perth (Australia), Lisbon University (Portugal), Borys Grinchenko Kyiv University (Ukraine), Gdańsk Technical University (Poland), Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russia, St. Petersburg (Russian Federation), Dniprodzerzhinsk State Technical University (Ukraine), Jagiellonian University (Poland), Warsaw University (Poland), Silesian University in Opava (Czech Republic), University of Silesia in Katowice (Poland), University of Defence in Brno (Czech Republic), Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin (Poland), Lublin University of Technology (Poland), Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz (Poland), Jan Ámos Komenský University Prague (Czech Republic), Cracow Pedagogical University (Poland), Lisbon Open University (Portugal), RMIT University, Melbourne (Australia), Centre for Innovation, Higher School of Economics in Katowice (Poland), University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Warsaw (Poland), Poznań University of Medical Sciences (Poland), Abant İzzet Baysal University, Bolu (Turkey), Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, (Poland), University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Warsaw (Poland), Ternopil University (Ukraine) and other educational institutions delivered lectures providing insights into interesting studies, presented their recent research results and discussed about their further scientific work.

The authors include well-known scholars, young researchers, highly trained academic lecturers with long experience in the field of e-learning, PhD students, distance course developers, authors of multimedia teaching materials, designers of websites and educational sites.

I am convinced that the monograph will be an interesting and valuable publication, describing the theoretical, methodological and practical issues in the field of the use of e-learning for societal needs, offering proposals of solutions to certain important problems and showing the road to further work in this field, allowing for exchange of experiences of scholars from various universities from many European countries and other countries of the world.

This book includes a sequence of responses to numerous questions that have not been answered yet. The papers of the authors included in the monograph are an attempt at

providing such answers. The aspects and problems discussed in the materials include the following:

1. Effective Development of Teachers' Skills in the Area of ICT and E-learning

- Computer training for prospective and practicing teachers in area ICT and e-learning,
- Teachers' and learners' competences in distance learning and computer science.
- Distance Learning and Lifelong Learning
- Self-learning based on Internet technology

2. E-learning and Intercultural Competences Development in Different Countries:

- Legal, social, human, scientific, technical aspects of distance learning and e-learning in different countries,
- Psychological and ethical aspects of distance learning and e-learning in different countries,
- Collaborative learning in e-learning,

3. E-learning Methodology – Implementation and Evaluation:

- European and national standards of E-learning quality evaluation,
- Evaluation of synchronous and asynchronous teaching and learning, methodology and good examples,
- MOOCs – methodology of design, conducting, implementation and evaluation,
- Contemporary trends in world education – globalization, internationalization, mobility.

4. ICT Tools – Effective Use of Education:

- Selected Web 2.0 and Web 3.0 technology,
- LMS, CMS, VSCR, SSA, CSA,
- Cloud computing environment, Social media,
- Multimedia resources and didactic materials, Video-tutorial design.

5. Theoretical, Methodological Aspects of Distance Learning:

- Successful examples of e-learning,
- Distance learning in humanities and science,

- Quality of teaching, training programs and assessment,
- E-learning for the disabled.

6. E-learning in the Development of Key Competences:

- Key competences in the knowledge society,
- Use of e-learning in improving the level of students' key competences,

7. Alternative Methods, Forms and Techniques in Distance Learning:

- Simulations, models in distance learning,
- Networking,
- Distance learning systems,
- M-learning.

8. E-environment and Cyberspace

- E-environment of the University
- Smart Technology in Education
- Internet of Things

Publishing this monograph is a good example of expanding and strengthening international cooperation. I am very grateful for valuable remarks and suggestions which contributed to the quality of the publication. Here I especially want to thank Andrzej Szczurek and Ryszard Kalamarz for their assistance in editing this publication. Also, I would like to say 'thank you' to the authors for the preparation and permission to publish their articles. I wish all readers a pleasant read. Thank you.

Eugenia Smyrnova-Trybulska