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Book of Abstracts



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Table of Contents

Carmen BANȚA, <i>Ensuring the Access of Roma People to Higher Education: A Case Study at the University of Craiova</i> _____	6
Adrian BASARABA, <i>Natural Resources and Sustainable Development in Latin America</i> _____	6
Anca BĂNDOI, <i>Income Management in Romanian Public Universities</i> _____	7
Claudiu Marian BUNĂIAȘU, <i>The Development of Intercultural Curriculum from the Perspective of Education for International Solidarity</i> _____	7
Sorin CAZACU, <i>The Importance of a Research Culture in Higher Education</i> _____	8
Silviu CÂRSTINA, Daniel CÎRCIUMARU, <i>The Legislative Impact on Labour Market Insertion of Vulnerable Persons from South-West Oltenia</i> _____	8
Germina COSMA, Ligia RUSU, <i>Optimizing Students' Psycho-Motor Capacity by Using Dance-Specific Methods</i> _____	8
Mirela CRISTEA, Andreea-Gabriela DĂNCIULESCU, <i>The Education and Professional Training of Romanian Youth for an Easier Labour Market Insertion</i> _____	9
Ioana Rucsandra DASCĂLU, <i>Visual Images as an Intercultural and Transversal Tool in Education</i> _____	9
Andreea-Gabriela DĂNCIULESCU, Romeo DĂNCIULESCU, Nicea MERGEANI, <i>Adult Education and Continuous Training: A Goal of an Active Life on the Labour Market</i> _____	10
Daniela DINCĂ, <i>Project-Based Learning: a Premise of Education for Sustainable Development</i> _____	10
Andreea DINU, <i>The Project Access Microscholarship Program / English Language for Youth and its Impact on the Local Community in Dolj: A Good Practice Example</i> _____	11
Philippe DONDON, Philippe LAGIERE, Denis BRUNEAU, Daniela ROȘCA, <i>Participating in the Solar Decathlon European Challenge: Example of a Transdisciplinary and Collaborative Sustainable Development Project</i> _____	11
Philippe DONDON, Daniel DIMESCU, Mariana Florentina ILIE, Daniela ROȘCA, <i>Education for Sustainable Development through Erasmus Student Exchange: Example of a Technical Project between the Craiova and Bordeaux Universities</i> _____	12
Raluca DRĂCEA, <i>Higher Education Funding in Romania. An Applied Analysis</i> _____	12
Oana-Adriana DUȚĂ, <i>Cultural Stereotypes Corrupting Indexical Meaning: How to Fight Prejudice through Education</i> _____	13
Karl EIRIKSSON, <i>Promoting equality through internationalisation in higher education</i> _____	13
Nicoleta Mihaela FLOREA, Cristina NISTOR, <i>Taxation of Personal Income and its Impact on Actual Individual Consumption in EU Member States</i> _____	14

<p> <i>Julia Cristina FRÎNCULESCU, Arguments in Favour of Cooperation in Medical Terminology Research</i> </p>	<p>14</p>
<p> <i>Laura GASTALDI, Roberta MARSILI, The Montessori Method with Children and Adults in Global Education: Tradition for Innovation</i> </p>	<p>15</p>
<p> <i>Laurent GAUTIER, Simplifying (Specialized) Languages to Improve Solidary Development: A New Field of Research for Linguistics</i> </p>	<p>15</p>
<p> <i>Oana-Victoria HĂLĂLAI (HANCHEȘ), The Importance of Implementing Ethnographical and Folkloric Values of Traditional Villages in Education</i> </p>	<p>16</p>
<p> <i>Severian Vlăduț IACOB, Financial Education for a Sustainable Future</i> </p>	<p>16</p>
<p> <i>Kári JOENSEN, Blended Learning and Student Engagement: Students' Perception</i> </p>	<p>17</p>
<p> <i>Jón Freyr JÓHANNSSON, Modern Perspectives on Education for Sustainable and Solidary Development and Bifröst University: ESSD from the vantage point of teachers and students - Are they ready?</i> </p>	<p>17</p>
<p> <i>Daniela KOHN, Memorable Grammar Design in Foreign Language Learning. Comparing Romanian and German Textbooks</i> </p>	<p>18</p>
<p> <i>Emil LAZĂR, The Design, Construction and Development of an Educational Curriculum from the Perspective of Sustainable Development</i> </p>	<p>18</p>
<p> <i>Adriana LĂZĂRESCU, Lifelong Learning: Developing Experienced Students' Speaking Skills</i> </p>	<p>19</p>
<p> <i>Daniel LEOTESCU, Georgiana-Silvia LEOTESCU, Useful Teaching Tools for Successful History Learning</i> </p>	<p>19</p>
<p> <i>Julia LUNGU, Perspectives on Education for Sustainable Development and the Role of NGOs</i> </p>	<p>20</p>
<p> <i>Gabriela Anca MIC, Internationalization of Gastronomic Terminology – A Step Forward Intercultural Communication</i> </p>	<p>20</p>
<p> <i>Larisa MISTREAN, Possibilities to Ensure and Maintain the Stability of the Banking System in Moldova</i> </p>	<p>21</p>
<p> <i>Ovidiu-Martian MODORCEA, History and Civic Culture: Complementarity in the System of Social Sciences</i> </p>	<p>21</p>
<p> <i>Narcis Eduard MITU, Citizenship Education for the Proper Management of Public Financial Resources</i> </p>	<p>22</p>
<p> <i>Olivier MORIN, From Capitalization to Characterization of ESSD-related Skills</i> </p>	<p>22</p>
<p> <i>Gabriela MOTOI, Overqualification and Skills Mismatch in the Romanian Labour Market</i> </p>	<p>23</p>

Marie-Françoise OLIVIER, Thierry DELAVET, <i>Learning Together in the Local Territory? Learning Territory and Education for Sustainable and Solidary Development: A Guidance Device for Teachers</i> _____	23
Daniela OSIAC, <i>The Importance of Cultural Anthropology in Peace Education</i> _____	24
Anca PĂUNESCU, Mihaela CHIRIȚESCU, <i>Romanian as a Foreign Language: Challenges, Realities, Teaching Approaches. A Case Study – the Romanian Language Preparatory Year, between Modernity and Tradition</i> _____	24
Livia POGAN, <i>Personal Resources – a Key Factor in Balancing the Work-Family Relationship</i> _____	25
Cecilia Mihaela POPESCU, <i>Intercomprehension – A Means of Intercultural Communication</i> _____	25
Alexandra PORUMBESCU, <i>The European Union’s Education Policies. Towards a Common Strategic Framework for Europe 2020</i> _____	25
Anamaria Magdalena PREDA, <i>The Use of Electronic Resources in Romanian Language Classes</i> _____	26
Porzia QUAGLIARELLA, <i>Education in the Context of Interculturality and Globality</i> _____	26
Ion RESCEANU, <i>The Bible: a source for Sustainable Religious Education in the Current Social and Cultural Context</i> _____	26
Alina RESCEANU, <i>An Interdisciplinary Approach to Teaching Writing or How to Improve Students’ 21st Century Skills</i> _____	27
Darko RISTOVSKI, <i>The Effectiveness of Authentic Audiovisual Materials in Teaching and Learning French at the University Level</i> _____	27
Ligia RUSU, Germina COSMA, <i>The Mentoring Process in Educational Development</i> _____	28
Cristian Valeriu STANCIU, <i>Correlations Between Financial Resources for Education and the Outcomes of the Educational Process in Iceland and Romania</i> _____	28
Alina Maria STOICA (MODORCEA), <i>Cultivating the Justice Spirit of Pupils through Representative Lectures</i> _____	29
Cristiana-Nicola TEODORESCU, <i>Pedagogical Challenges of the AUF International Master’s Programme Didactique des langues</i> _____	29
Anca TĂNASIE, <i>Sustainable Development: An Insight on Funding and Quality Assurance in Higher Education</i> _____	30
Monica TILEA, <i>On the Reception of a Viral YouTube Environmental Video Signed By Prince Ea</i> _____	30
Cristina-Petrina TRINCUI-DRĂGUȘIN, <i>Public Internal Audit and Its Role in Assessing the Risk Management Process in Universities</i> _____	31

Abstracts

Ensuring the Access of Roma People to Higher Education: A Case Study at the University of Craiova

Carmen BANȚA, University of Craiova, Romania

In order to ensure the integration of the Roma people in society, the Romanian education system provides special places for students of the Roma ethnic group, available at the Romanian universities. At the University of Craiova, there are Roma students enlisted in different study programmes. In this article, we start from a statistical analysis of the Roma students registered during 2014-2016 at this higher education institution, and discuss the options of these students. The aim is to correlate their options with their cultural profile. Therefore, our study will assess the importance of the Roma ethnical identity in choosing an academic study domain and a subsequent career in the Romanian society.

Key words: Roma people, integration, higher education

Natural Resources and Sustainable Development in Latin America

Adrian BASARABA, West University of Timișoara, Romania

In the recent years, the states of Latin America have been trying to abandon as many neoliberal policies as possible after a long period dominated by privatizations, the minimized role of the state and restrictions in the social domain, which proved hard to overcome when trying to find new solutions. Thus, irrespective of their political differences, these states have adopted a new trajectory towards sustainable development, centred on the exploitation and export of natural resources and reduction of imports and industrialization. The authorities promote this strategy as the only way to a viable development at present, in which the state plays the most important part by imposing, for example, increased taxes and redistribution of the profit by means of social programmes targeted at the most under-privileged category of the population.

In this paper, we analyse the role of the neoliberal policies implemented by the governments of these countries in promoting exploitation. Moreover, we discuss some attacks addressed to this development model, based on economy, as well as some aspects pertaining to the theory of dependence. Based on these attacks, we point to the main issues and controversies regarding the problem of exploiting the natural resources which is presented and explained from different perspectives, starting with the local governments and authorities to mass media and public opinion. In many such cases, due to misunderstandings between the parties, the social conflicts escalate and become violent, and sometimes end with human casualties and dramatic consequences for the sustainable development.

Key words: natural resources, sustainable development, Latin America

Income Management in Romanian Public Universities

Anca BĂNDOI, University of Craiova, Romania

Income management has conquered the decision making area in the last 15-20 years due to the capacity to easily adapt in many fields of activity, as it no longer uses a strict classification of consumers (pupils, retired persons, population in the rural/urban environment, etc.), but it leaves it up to demand to decant these categories depending on other criteria than age or territory. Purchasing power is the common denominator of all criteria. Sustainable development at an institutional level in higher education largely depends on income management, which is the driving force that makes everything possible. The Romanian higher education environment, characterized by particularities conferred by the interaction between an unstable legal system and an economic system that provides no uncertainty, is entitled to look for self-funding solutions, also by resorting to flexible strategies such as income management. Essentially, it refers to flexible taxation for places beyond the number of public funded places, responding to a much too dynamic educational demand, which depends on more or less economic factors. It has to provide an accurate and successful alignment with the requirements of the labour market, in accordance with the Bologna Strategy (3-2-3). In our opinion, the income management strategy may be a solution to optimize revenues and maintain the balance of universities as organizational entities that consume resources.

Key words: income management, price discrimination, university education, optimization strategies

The Development of Intercultural Curriculum from the Perspective of Education for International Solidarity

Claudiu Marian BUNĂIAȘU, University of Craiova, Romania

A comprehensive analysis of intercultural curriculum is based on the alignment between several categories of epistemological and educational foundations, on multi-referentiality and on the extension of the educational and social areas of evidence for intercultural competence. In scientific literature, intercultural curriculum is particularly analysed in connection with the general goals of intercultural education, with a focus on national educational models and strategies for the development of intercultural competence.

Even though the field of interculturalism is consistently represented within European and international social and educational policies, strategies and programmes, a curricular framework regarding the promotion of specific values in the curriculum and the development of intercultural competence desirable for international solidarity have not been established yet. Starting from this fact, we consider that the theoretical framework of intercultural curriculum should be developed from the perspective of education for international solidarity, so as to be operationalized in educational strategies that facilitate the development of specific intercultural competence.

The key elements of the article, that legitimize our approach at an axiological, cognitive and methodological level, are as follows: the relation between intercultural education and education for international solidarity; curricular dimensions of an educational framework on education for international solidarity; redefining intercultural competence from the perspective of education for international solidarity; defining content units and curricular strategy categories for the development of such intercultural competence.

Key words: intercultural curriculum, intercultural competence, education for international solidarity

The Importance of a Research Culture in Higher Education

Sorin CAZACU, University of Craiova, Romania

Universities all around the world are mainly categorized and valued by their research cultures and the way in which they contribute to institutional prestige. What academic research aims at is generating new knowledge that will contribute to economic advancement and implicitly a better quality of life. But building a university research culture is an ongoing process that demands for a concerted strategy, strong international connections, access to resources and a generous timeframe.

One of the main motivations is that higher education thrives only in a global education in the same manner in which knowledge economies thrive in globalized knowledge economies. This paper looks into how active and strong universities are forming sustainable partnerships in research, in consultancy and in knowledge transfer, as we believe they are instrumental to implement and develop a culture where research is the driving interest of all members of the academic staff.

Key words: research culture, higher education, sustainable partnership

The Legislative Impact on Labour Market Insertion of Vulnerable Persons from South-West Oltenia

Daniel CÎRCIUMARU, Silviu CÂRSTINA, University of Craiova, Romania

The new agenda for sustainable development has recently been focused on the inclusion of the poorest and the most vulnerable groups into the development process. Many POSDRU projects with European funding have tackled the issue of the vulnerable groups among the main objectives. It has also been the major topic of research for numerous sociologists from our country and abroad. We witness many discriminating situations when people from different ethnic groups or disabled people try to seek employment and inclusion on the labour market.

Reducing the number of discrimination phenomena of people from vulnerable groups has always been and still is a complex problem to which a solution is unlikely to be found in the nearfuture. The reasons are due mainly to the cultural level, to the employer's judgement, to the attitude of work colleagues and of the society, in general.

Our paper focuses on these aspects and is based on the analysis of 100 commercial companies in the south-west Oltenia. We monitored the employers' attitude towards the vulnerable groups, but also the way in which legislation motivated them to hire such vulnerable people. The basic instrument used in our research was the questionnaire, which contained multiple-choice questions, mixed-type questions and open questions.

Key words: vulnerable group, discrimination, labour market analysis, labour force

Optimizing Students' Psycho-Motor Capacity by Using Dance-Specific Methods

Germina COSMA, Ligia RUSU, University of Craiova, Romania

The development of transversal and multilateral skills in today's students is a major focus of integrative and sustainable education. Physical Education is a subject that fosters the multilateral development of students' personality, as dance-specific methods are structured into ways to prevent, relax or train major functions, playing a significant part both in prophylactics, and at a therapeutic level. Thus, the purpose of our research is to identify the best strategies resulting in an efficient solution of physical education tasks by diversifying the existing means and introducing dancing within lessons.

A group of 30 students (aged 7-10 \pm 1.5 years) took part for 3 months, during 2 sessions a week, in a work programme that mainly included dance-specific methods. The subjects were tested before and after taking part in the work programme, and the tests dealt with the evolution of coordination, flexibility and force in the lower limbs and the abdomen. The statistical analysis was performed with the SPSS v.21 software.

The results validated the research programme, and the data indicated major progress in all trials, with a difference $p < 0.05$ between initial and final averages. According to the results, this subject may be included in the school curriculum or as an optional subject, and the students' enthusiasm for dancing may become a pleasant educational activity, thus meeting the goals of physical education.

Key words: dancing, psycho-motor capacity, students

The Education and Professional Training of Romanian Youth for an Easier Labour Market Insertion

Mirela CRISTEA, Andreea-Gabriela DĂNCIULESCU, University of Craiova, Romania

Youth insertion on the labour market is a genuine challenge for countries where unemployment is much higher for the youth than adults, which is why education and professional training of the young people should consider the current and future requirements of the labour market. Matching education to the prevailing requirements of the labour market, with a view to reducing youth unemployment rate, implies the need to develop partnerships between companies and educational institutions, to counsel and guide students, to focus on the applicability of knowledge in traineeship programmes.

The article underlines the significance of the education and professional training of young people (pupils and students) for an active life on the labour market, of reducing both school leaving rates (triggered by the lack of confidence in the educational system), and economic and social drawbacks. To this purpose, we present the current situation of unemployed youth and the identification of their needs on the labour market, with a focus on professional training programmes adapted to the employers' demands.

Key words: youth, professional training, labour market

Visual Images as an Intercultural and Transversal Tool in Education

Ioana Rucsandra DASCĂLU, University of Craiova, Romania

The hereby presentation is conceived as a cultural approach to ESSD: visual images are considered a significant example of transversal competences in humanistic studies. Their impact is both informational and formative, educating the feelings, the emotions and the habits of the audience and strengthening the fictional content and convention of the literary masterpieces. Situated between "a falsified reality" and "an emanation of the object", we would define visual image as a dialogic statement and as a dialogue through time, as long as its effect was compared to the "delayed rays of a star". We propose the use of several examples in teaching literature or civilization: Greek and Roman myths, the transnational *Physiologus*, Jacques de Voragine, etc.

Key words: visual image, cultural approach to ESSD, information and formation

Adult Education and Continuous Training: A Goal of an Active Life on the Labour Market

Andreea-Gabriela DĂNCIULESCU, Romeo DĂNCIULESCU, Nica MERGEANI,
University of Craiova, Romania

An active life on the labour market implies, besides the availability of workplaces, a continuous education and training of adults. Irrespective of their age, everyone needs new knowledge, which may be obtained either through autonomous documentation, or by taking part in professional training courses. Technological and informational development condition lifelong learning, which is why focus has been lately placed on adult education and continuous training. Many Adult Professional Training Centres have been set up, some of which attract their target groups by implementing EU-funded projects, resulting in the free-of-charge participation of adults in various courses of specialisation, improvement, (re)qualification.

The article highlights the importance of adult education and continuous training based on the related economic and social advantages. Our contribution analyses some aspects of adult education and continuous training that facilitate active adult participation on the labour market. The conclusion is that an active professional life implies the establishment of relations between employers, employees, trainers and relevant target groups.

Key words: adult continuous training, labour market, active life

Project-Based Learning: a Premise of Education for Sustainable Development

Daniela DINCĂ, University of Craiova, Romania

Sustainable development is a key concept aimed at improving life quality, while education for sustainable development (ESD) is a subject whose presence in curricula for foreign languages and literatures is a priority and a constant focus for the development of intercultural communication competence. The latter is an essential component of youth training in the spirit of a healthier lifestyle, in harmony with social values such as equality or cultural diversity.

The article aims at presenting the objectives, phases and results of an intercultural communication project between Romanian and Turkish students, titled *Culinary Terms of Turkish Origin in Romanian Vocabulary*. The impact of the project on the training of students in two universities (the University of Craiova and Galatasaray University) was major from several points of view: development of writing skills in French, development of critical spirit and interest in the knowledge of a different culture (Turkish and Romanian), etc. Therefore, Turkish students became acquainted with a new culture, which had undergone a considerable influence from their native culture for two centuries, while Romanian students came into contact with a culture whose influence on Romanian language is obvious, but whose awareness helped them make new friends, improve their French language skills and enrich their cultural horizon.

Key words: project-based learning, intercultural communication, cultural diversity

The Project Access Microscholarship Program / English Language for Youth and its Impact on the Local Community in Dolj: A Good Practice Example

Andreea DINU, PhD student, University of Craiova, Romania

Our contribution presents the project *Access Microscholarship Program / English Language for Youth* of the United States' Embassy in Bucharest, undertaken in partnership with the Dominou Association of Craiova and Casa Corpului Didactic Dolj, as of 2013.

In our opinion, the project had a major impact on the community, since the target group included young people with a disadvantaged background (20 people aged 16-18 during 2013-2015 and 21 people aged 14-16 as of 2015). For two academic years, the youth were provided with 360 hours of training including topics from American culture and civilization, internet access, community service, personal development, all fully taught in English. The programme was free of charge, and the participants' travel and meal expenses were covered. 18 of the 20 young people who completed courses in 2015 passes the baccalaureate examination from the first sitting, and they are all currently enrolled in higher education. They are now active members of students' organisations and some take part in other volunteering activities as well.

During the summer schools organized within the project, the young people interacted with Peace Corps volunteers, representatives of the Embassy of the United States and various stakeholders. Moreover, the Embassy sponsored the participation of one pupil in an exchange of experience at the University of Washington.

Key words: the Embassy of the United States, American culture and civilization, disadvantaged backgrounds

Participating in the Solar Decathlon European Challenge: Example of a Transdisciplinary and Collaborative Sustainable Development Project

Philippe DONDON, Bordeaux INP, ENSEIRB-MATMECA, France

Philippe LAGIERE, NOBATEK, France

Denis BRUNEAU, ENSAM, France

Daniela ROȘCA, University of Craiova, Romania

Within the framework of sustainable development, the University of Bordeaux participated twice in the Solar Decathlon challenge. The aim of this university challenge is to build a true house with high technical performances. Competition between several universities leads to a ranking based on several solid criteria. The paper describes the general organisation of the project, the technical and financial aspects, highlighting education impacts and the necessary collaboration between private companies, and several schools and departments of Bordeaux University. Finally, we present a small scale house derived from the true scale model built, which is now used in the ENSEIRB-MATMECA school for didactical lessons for the students of the electronics department.

Key words: energy saving, infrared measurement, education, sustainable development

Education for Sustainable Development through Erasmus Student Exchange: Example of a Technical Project between the Craiova and Bordeaux Universities

Philippe DONDON, Bordeaux INP, ENSEIRB-MATMECA, France

Daniel DIMESCU, Mariana Florentina ILIE, Daniela ROȘCA, University of Craiova, Romania

The Erasmus agreement between the Faculty of Electrical Engineering of Craiova (Romania) and the ENSEIRB MATMECA Electronics School of Bordeaux (France) was started in 2013, at first with professor exchanges. Transdisciplinary lectures on electronic and sustainable development were given and student meetings were organized. In 2016, two students from Craiova came to Bordeaux for a first collaborative project. The aim of this work was to design electronics circuits and systems for a small scale ecological house model, within the framework of sustainable development. Several aspects such as power saving, thermal insulation, weather data processing were investigated.

This paper explains the general context of the student exchange, giving details about the technical design and the obtained results.

Key words: Erasmus exchange, education for sustainable development, energy saving and management

Higher Education Funding in Romania. An Applied Analysis

Raluca DRĂCEA, University of Craiova, Romania

Education plays a major part in the sustainable creation of human capital, contributing to economic growth and production enhancement in a similar manner to tangible capital. Economists have investigated the role of education in economic growth, both at a micro and macroeconomic level, and results are seldom combined. Labour productivity (and sustainable economic growth implicitly) may be positively influenced through allocations for education, as better educated employees are more productive and capable to occupy specific positions, quickly adapting to technological changes.

Thus, in the current social and economic context, universities have a key role in meeting the requirements of both direct beneficiaries (students) and the labour market. In this context, the paper aims at investigating the impact of the funding of higher education in Romania upon economic growth. The paper tries to answer the question: can investments in higher education help economic growth in Romania? If yes, how important are these investment allocations? Data provided by the National Institute for Statistics, UNESCO and Eurostat have been used for the analysis.

Key words: expenditure for education, higher education funding, economic growth, statistical analysis

Cultural Stereotypes Corrupting Indexical Meaning: How to Fight Prejudice through Education

Oana-Adriana DUȚĂ, University of Craiova, Romania

Concepts such as cultural awareness and international solidarity have emerged in the latest years as a much needed focus of education: not only are they fostered and developed through specifically oriented training programmes, but they are increasingly integrated in general subjects, by means of relevant teaching materials, aids and methods. One of the obstacles that have to be overcome by education for sustainable and solidary development refers to stereotypes that are deeply rooted in the students' mentality.

Our contribution details the results of a research undertaken with a group of 21-year-old students of the University of Craiova, during a Spanish language class, based on a short film produced in 2013 within a project on educational development in Spain and Latin America. The analysis of the students' answers to an open-ended questionnaire helps us observe that some cultural stereotypes are so firmly implanted in the students' mentality that they manage to corrupt and invert the meaning of the numerous indexical signs present in the video. Thus, even though semiotic theory defines indexical meaning as easily detectable based on the principle of contiguity, our study shows that, in this case, the interpretation is significantly altered by the students' pre-existing stereotypes and prejudices. In our opinion, this highlights that prejudices should be actively fought through education, in order to avoid an erroneous representation of the world we live in and learn to live together in solidarity and cooperation.

Key words: cultural stereotypes, international solidarity, indexical meaning

Promoting equality through internationalisation in higher education

Karl EIRIKSSON, Bifröst University, Iceland

The topic of this presentation could be regarded as a summative statement of my work at the International Relations Department of Bifröst University. Having been working in internationalisation for such a long time allowed me to meet and collaborate with many people (both students and academic staff) from all over the world and see how they communicate, interact or develop educational programmes together.

Our goal is to promote international education as a form of creating equal opportunities and a more harmonious future for our next generation in the context of the social and economic challenges of globalization. However, we are confronted with the following dilemma: How will encouraging international education contribute to a more equal world? The answer to this question is based on an analysis of the ethical, social and cultural values that are promoted amongst the academia today, as well as on everything that is related to education and sustainability.

Key words: international education, globalization, lifelong learning

Taxation of Personal Income and its Impact on Actual Individual Consumption in EU Member States

Nicoleta Mihaela FLOREA, Cristina Nistor, University of Craiova, Romania

The issue of personal income is highly relevant for lifelong learning at an individual level. Persons who have managed to meet their everyday requirements from a financial point of view are more likely to invest both money and time in lifelong learning. On the other hand, persons who cannot make ends meet must be supported from publicly or privately funded programmes, in order to be able to participate in lifelong learning.

The taxation of personal income has become an important and carefully monitored topic for both tax bodies and researchers, since the revenues of the different social classes have become significantly differentiated. Income tax for natural persons was considered to be most equitable in the 1970s, but, given the slower economic growth and the influence of liberal economists, it has been proven that such tax has negative effects on savings and investments, leading to tax evasion and distortions in the decisions of commercial entities. Income tax for natural persons is a result of taxation of revenues from any source, stipulated by the law as taxable, with some exceptions (aids, transfers, revenues of diplomatic staff, scholarships, allocations, indemnities, etc.). A correctly established personal tax should target a wide taxable base, various deductions, in order to reduce the tax of taxpayers with low income and to ensure the genuine progressiveness of taxation quotas. Significant differences can be seen in the taxation of natural persons and in the contribution of such taxes to the formation of budgetary revenues across EU member states. The second part of the paper includes an econometric analysis of the impact of such taxes on the Gross Domestic Product per capita, but especially upon actual individual consumption, through the linear regression method.

Key words: personal income, progressive taxation, individual consumption

Arguments in Favour of Cooperation in Medical Terminology Research

Iulia Cristina FRÎNCULESCU, University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Timișoara, Romania

This article argues in favour of joint engagement of linguists, translators, practising doctors and scientists in the study of medical terminology. To do that, the paper tackles the pressing subject of the English influence on the Romanian medical language, with focus on negative transfer.

For more than two centuries, Romanian medical language developed under various linguistic influences, mostly Greco-Latin and French, and was thoroughly surveyed and cultivated. But since the latter half of the 20th century, it has become more and more heterogeneous and unsupervised, in its constant effort to keep up with English, the nowadays international language of medicine.

Surprisingly enough, the greater the need for collaborative work on this terminology of paramount importance to contemporary society, the fewer the studies on the matter. By providing some samples of linguistic ambiguities and errors occurred in Romanian, due to the contact with English, this article tries to draw attention on the necessity for concerted action towards terminological adjustment. Academic dialogue on medical language has been long waited for.

This study encourages multidisciplinary terminological teams to start surveying medical lexicon, in order to correct and prevent any deviations to the norm, and eventually build up a coherent, clear and standardized terminology.

Key words: multidisciplinary cooperation, medical language, cross-linguistic influence and interference

The Montessori Method with Children and Adults in Global Education: Tradition for Innovation

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About 10 years ago Lingua Più started the application of Montessori principles in language classes, developing two different Methodologies, unique in the world: MMA and MMC.

In our speech, we will show how the Montessori Philosophy was adapted for teaching foreign languages with children and adults. We will also explain how effective this methodology is and its practical application.

Although it was developed by Maria Montessori to teach disadvantaged children, the Method is now applied mainly in private schools for a limited number of students. We wish to spread it to a wider audience making it available for everyone.

This sound way of learning is effective because it follows the natural abilities of each learner, fostering a sustainable education, accessible to everyone.

Key words: teaching innovation, new methods, effective learning

Simplifying (Specialized) Languages to Improve Solidary Development: A New Field of Research for Linguistics

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One of the major concerns of modern societies is to solve the difficulties faced by visually or hearing impaired people (for example, by means of developing audio descriptions and subtitles) when it comes to facilitate their access to information. This vulnerable group still has difficulties in understanding a written message as accurately as an oral one. We have witnessed the emergence of movements such as *plain English* in the Anglo-Saxon world or *einfache/leichte Sprache* in Germany

In this global context, our paper deals with the possible repercussions of these movements on specialised communication and on the competences it implies. Domains like law or administration are often regarded as opaque at the level of communication by most of the people confronted with them, due to the difficult terminology, the style regarded as jargon, the density of very important information etc. We discuss in this paper the attempts to overcome these problems, on the one hand by questioning their linguistic status and, on the other hand, by emphasising the need for further research, in order to systematise and reinforce their theoretical background and to create the teaching content for technical editors, for lawyer-linguists and for the specialists in language sciences – all contributing to sustainable and solidary education in Europe.

The aforementioned theoretical and methodological considerations will be demonstrated starting with the particular case of the ‘administrative and legal style’ in German: starting from the descriptive characteristics relevant for the deployment of ‘simplified’ texts, to the premises adopted in order to ensure an accurate production.

Key words: specialized languages, solidary development, communication

The Importance of Implementing Ethnographical and Folkloric Values of Traditional Villages in Education

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Living in modern ages, when technologies, especially access to the internet, have caught our attention, everything related to the past seems somehow obsolete for the new generation of the 2000s. Nicolae Iorga used to say: “A nation that does not know its history is like a child who does not know its parents”. Thus, we consider that one of the main gateways to literary history is the village, the traditional village presented in many hypostases in Romanian literature.

Ioan Slavici is one of the Romanian writers who had a fundamental contribution to the implementation of “popular realism” in Romanian literature. He struggled to get the readers and the critics of his times acquainted with the spirit of their nation, by presenting people’s life in the country. Stating from the realities belonging to specific historical periods and geographical areas, the writer managed to depict genuine human typologies, with a thorough attention to detail. The ethnographical and folkloric value of the Romanian village is visible in his entire literary creation, by conveying unaltered information on the traditional Transylvanian village to the reader. Thus, the reader was able to describe a Transylvanian village in detail, with all its elements: everyday life, occupations, crafts, traditions, customs, human relations, popular art and outfits, etc. In our opinion, it is essential for pupils to be directed towards such a literature, as we try to preserve as accurately as possible the spiritual and cultural values that represented the Romanian people.

Key words: folklore, ethnography, tradition

Financial Education for a Sustainable Future

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Behind every aspect of the human activities, there are financial flows which have become more and more complex. The communication technology allows the performance of transactions and the use of financial instruments which seemed impossible years before. The trend is uprising, more rapid and accessible to the individuals at the global level, as well as to those from Romania. However, many of these users do not know what interest is or how to calculate it, what financial turnover is, what the value of a security is, etc. Therefore, financial education is much more useful in our daily life, proving its necessity if initiated at an early age.

Key words: financial education, financial training, financial instruments

Blended Learning and Student Engagement: Students' Perception

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This study examines how student engagement correlates with preference towards learning methods. It also considers a self-reported measure of student activity and participation, to see how this relates to (dis)engagement. The determinants of student engagement within different learning formats are reviewed. For instance, are distance learning students more reliant on study groups and group assignments since they miss out on the interaction with peers that takes place in the classroom? Student engagement is an important indicator of efficacy of education and should be a factor of the highest priority for universities that aim to make an impact on their society. It is important to react to high dropout rates in education in order to minimize inefficiencies and waste of resources. The problem is multifaceted and studies show that while administrators of programs are trying to intervene, students tend to situate the lack of engagement within themselves.

The data is drawn from electronic surveys on students' attitudes, administered within three different faculties on both bachelor and masters level. The university primarily employs methods of blended learning and the survey further categorizes students based on their status as either campus based or distance learning students. Online courses and online programs are becoming more and more widely used. Therefore, it is important to highlight the different challenges that these two populations of students are facing.

Key words: higher education, student engagement, blended learning

Modern Perspectives on Education for Sustainable and Solidary Development and Bifröst University: ESSD from the vantage point of teachers and students - Are they ready?

Jón Freyr JÓHANNSSON, Bifröst University, Iceland

Bifröst University is known for its emphasis on combining theory and practice, through case studies, group work and applying theory to real-life situations.

Most students at Bifröst University are enrolled in distance learning programmes, so that innovation is needed to meet the emphasis on group work and how to combine theory and practice. The average age of students at Bifröst is considerably higher than in most universities in Iceland, about 31 years. Most of the students have "real life" skills, many of them having been on the job market for some time. These factors of age and experience have an impact on the level of participation, engagement and attitude of the students in their education.

The paper draws upon interviews with students and teachers on their "readiness" for new emphasis in teaching and learning. The underlying focus is on "are they ready or not – and why and how does that matter" when focusing on ESSD

The approach taken in the interviews is from the teachers' vantage point: Do they assume some prior knowledge of the students related to the concept of ESSD and based on that do or don't they take a specific teaching approach? From the students' vantage point, do they think they are familiar with the concept of (E)SSD, and do they think they are ready for the discussion?

Key words: readiness for ESSD, students' participation, teachers' assumptions

Memorable Grammar Design in Foreign Language Learning. Comparing Romanian and German Textbooks

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The visual and content design of grammatical information present in foreign language manuals has always been extremely diverse and subject to continuous transformation. This permanent functional instrumentalisation of grammatical information is directly related to a restructuring process of linguistic material, mostly undertaken as a response to the assimilation of emerging ideas, positions and trends in the fields of linguistics, didactics, methodology, graphical design, etc. Beyond these tactical movements, the substantial/major aim of restructuring the linguistic material of a manual is to enhance the efficiency in teaching/learning a subject or another. This may happen by integrating mnemonic techniques/formulae in the manuals, which will help assimilate morphological phenomena. The task is highly difficult for authors of manuals of both Romanian as a foreign language and German as a foreign language, despite the somewhat longer tradition of the latter. The situation described in the study shows that restructuring grammatical information implies significant resources of creativity, of critical autonomy compared to a sometimes authoritative tradition. Results are frequently surprising. At the same time, the investigation on the transdisciplinary cooperation proposed by the elaboration of a manual (at the crossroads between linguistics, graphical design and methodology) reveals that the development of a learning tool implies transversal skills of the authors' team, likely to underpin a subsequent valuable and useful pedagogical effort/commitment.

Key words: mnemonics, grammar table, foreign languages, textbook development, transversal skills

The Design, Construction and Development of an Educational Curriculum from the Perspective of Sustainable Development

Emil LAZĂR, University of Craiova, Romania

A curriculum is an educational project that contributes to the development of intrinsic and external factors. Society has a substantial contribution to the designing, development, performance and implementation of a curriculum, both as the decision maker and the designer, and as a beneficiary and evaluator.

Flagging content, detecting components, objectives, contents and their interrelations, and implementing goals are divisions/ benchmarks in the design, construction and development of a curriculum: the curriculum “states the intentions of training, including: a) defining the target population, the goals, objectives, contents, the description of the evaluation system, planning the activities, the expected results on changes in attitudes and behaviour of individuals in the training process; b) it opposes the concept of curriculum – describing a list of contents generally used in traditional pedagogy” (Raynal, F., Rieunier, A., *Pédagogie: Dictionnaire des concepts clés*, Paris, ESF, 1997). Curriculum design is a coordinated assembly of anticipations in developing a training program. This anticipation refers – explicitly or implicitly – to a “planned focus on learning”.

To design teaching activities means to link and integrate the operations of defining the objectives, content, learning strategies, assessment exams and their relations (Vlăsceanu, L., *Curs de pedagogie*, Bucharest, TUB, 1986).

Key words: curriculum, curriculum design, learning strategies

Lifelong Learning: Developing Experienced Students' Speaking Skills

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As part of lifelong learning, speaking in a foreign language in general, and in English in particular, is still regarded as one of the most difficult skills to be acquired and later on mastered in the field of business, especially if students are adults who did not have the chance of benefitting from pre-experience language learning. This study has analysed different approaches of teaching speaking during a Business English course taught to experienced students, i.e. Romanian adults who work for multinationals or global companies and need to be able to speak Business English at work on a daily basis.

As more and more business people would like to be delivered practical courses entirely based on developing their speaking skills, two distinct teaching methods were presented, a traditional and an innovative one, with the purpose of analysing their efficiency in language acquisition during one-to-one courses which are not taught in a classroom, i.e. an educational institution, but in an office. Results showed that experienced learners readily accepted and embraced the innovative method approached based on the collaborative work between Business English teachers and Romanian business people.

Our findings suggest that Romanian employees can further improve their Business English speaking skills thanks to innovative teaching methods, on the one hand, and multinationals' openness towards offering lifelong training to their employees, on the other hand.

Key words: skills for intercultural competence, speaking skills, experienced students, lifelong learning

Useful Teaching Tools for Successful History Learning

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Daniel LEOTESCU, "Carol I" National College, Craiova, Romania

The focus of this paper is to provide a number of teaching tools that can be applied in order to encourage students to become more involved in the process of learning history. One of the first steps to successful history learning is to inspire students' thinking in a creative and critical way. This task is highly more achievable now than it was before, due to the modern age of technology in which both students and teachers live. Thus, by combining the new technology with learning strategies that arouse the historical imaginations of students, history lessons could become more appealing. There are several creative techniques that encourage students to take on the role of the historian and develop their cognitive tools further such as: watching films, videos or DVDs, participating in field trips, creating a mind map, an events graph or a tableau. It is crucial to understand that imagination is not something peripheral to the core of education. On the contrary, imagination should be the main instrument on which teachers build lessons and shape their own way of teaching.

Key words: education approaches, teaching tools, imaginative approach, critical thinking, history

Perspectives on Education for Sustainable Development and the Role of NGOs

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Humanity stands at a crucial moment in its history. People are confronted with inequalities between and within nations, poverty, hunger, health problems, bad management of resources and a continuing deterioration of ecosystems. But people want and need improved living standards, a better protected environment and a safe and prosperous future for all. This is possible only in a global partnership for sustainable development.

Education is critical for promoting sustainable development and improving people's capacity to address development issues. It is also critical for achieving awareness, values, attitudes, skills and behaviours consistent with sustainable development (Agenda 21, 1992, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/Agenda21.pdf>). Governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) repeatedly point to education as a key policy instrument for bringing about a transition to sustainable development.

This article outlines the role of NGOs in education for sustainable development and states that NGOs are powerful stakeholders in sustainable development educational policies and programmes that focus on awareness raising and capacity building as tools for social change. This paper also includes examples of good practices that highlight innovative ways in which Pro Assisto Association from Câmpia Turzii encouraged different activities related to education for sustainable development and social responsibility at local level, activities addressed especially to children and young people.

Key words: learning, social responsibility, sustainable development

Internationalization of Gastronomic Terminology – A Step Forward Intercultural Communication

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Gastronomy has been increasingly recognized in the latest years as a representative element of culture and interculturality, with food being a genuine crossroads between various cultures. While the changes generated by globalization induce a constant redefining of cultural policies, food has emerged as a great tool for communication with other people.

In this context, intercultural dialogue is undoubtedly underpinned by interlingual communication. Intercultural exchanges have become more intense, which has resulted in the cross-border transfer of a wide range of concepts and ideas, along with the terms needed to name them. The emergence and development of Japanese, Chinese, Thai, Italian, French, etc. restaurants all over the world brought along terminologies specific to certain culinary areas, which has resulted in the creation of an international terminological stock. Words like *pizza*, *sushi*, *mille-feuille*, *croissant*, *crêpes*, *foie gras*, *cappuccino*, *milkshake*, *cheesecake*, etc. are used all over the world by people, irrespective of their native languages and original cultural background.

Our research will focus on four culinary blogs written in Romanian, English, French and Spanish, that will allow us to identify the internationalization of gastronomic terminology. Irrespectively of how the concerned terms have entered a language (as xenisms, peregrinisms or as loan words), it is clear that their presence across the cultures helps enhance intercultural awareness and openness, also functioning as a valuable tool for intercultural mediation.

Key words: intercultural communication, gastronomic terminology, global openness

Possibilities to Ensure and Maintain the Stability of the Banking System in Moldova

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A stable and safe banking system is an essential premise for the quality of the outcomes of the business environment. At the same time, banking stability guarantees financial stability and continuous sustainable economic growth. As such, it clearly determines and conditions the perspectives for sustainable development and international solidarity, as these goals cannot be achieved in the absence of a sound financial system. The banking system is the starting point in the economy of a country, creating connections between all fields of economy and determining the quality of the economic, social and political sphere within a country.

In the latest years, we have all witnessed a banking crisis that affected the economy of Moldova. The banking sector, as a traditional pillar of economic stability, has become its weakest link and has outlined the major issues faced by banking industry.

The 2015 liquidation of three banks – Banca de Economii S.A., BC “Banca Sociala” S.A. and B.C. Unibank S.A. – on the banking market eroded confidence in the banking system and imposed costs on economy as a whole. Shareholders will not get dividends, deposit holders will lose all or some of their savings, debtors, who may depend on banks for funding, may face difficulties in finding alternate sources. Moreover, taxpayers have to bear direct costs as a consequence of the solutions to crises in the public sector.

The central bank is a source of banking instability. The National Bank of Moldova does not have enough leverage to promptly intervene in preventing possible failures. In order to improve the role of the supervisory authority, normative documents must be permanently updated, and the existing legal basis must be completed by including provisions regarding country, transfer, market and operational risks, that will compel banking institutions to hold suitable procedures for the management of such risks. Likewise, monitoring should be reinforced by reducing the human factor and implementing IT.

Capital is the starting point with a view to establishing a flawless banking system, since it helps protect banks by providing the required solvency and liquidity.

Key words: financial stability, corporate governance, vulnerability of the banking system, supervisory authority

History and Civic Culture: Complementarity in the System of Social Sciences

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Today’s society has actively developed methods and techniques for increasing material comfort starting from new discoveries in technology, science and technique. In this article, we show that social sciences, especially history and civic culture, cannot be missing from the range of elements that help develop young people who attend an educational programme, both from a psychological and social, and a cultural point of view.

If modern science and technology have reached a level where they may decently meet the daily requirements of people, one can still note that the moral profile of the new citizen has become frozen, with a dissolution of authority, a confusion of civic values and a reduction in the moral and legal values a society is founded upon. In this context, history, through its recourse to past, and civic culture, through the actuality of its topics, may lay the bases or may help create an active, present and informed citizen of today’s society.

Key words: teaching approach, complementarity, history, civic culture

Citizenship Education for the Proper Management of Public Financial Resources

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The transition to the transparent and result-focused budgeting of public financial resources is closely connected to essential changes that have to take place in the budgetary process, as well as in every citizen's social and financial education. Participative budgeting is an open and transparent process through which community members are directly involved in making decisions on the priorities for spending public money. The citizens' involvement in public decision making is a fundamental democratic process that ought to be learned. Even if it takes a long time, citizen involvement reinforces the democratic system, since the essence of democracy is public participation. The active citizenship principle, envisaging the citizens' assumption of an active role in defining and approaching community issues, also implies a lengthy process of learning the rules that generate proper management of public financial resources. This may be done by involving community members in the entire decision making process, also in the definition of issues that have to be solved. Active participation is a way of making decisions, as every citizen can come up with suggestions. Therefore, the hereby article analyses the phases of the participative budgeting process, tools and forms for citizenship consultation, as well as the methods through which the thorough management of public financial resources may be correctly acquired by participants in the community.

Key words: budgetary transparency, participative budgeting, public budget

From Capitalization to Characterization of ESSD-related Skills

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This paper presents some outcomes of the REDDSO project (Regions for Education for Sustainable Development and Solidarity – European project no. DCI-NSAED/2012/287834), which focused on the capitalization of practices for education for sustainable and solidary development (ESSD) in four European regions. Therefore, we outline the approach adopted in the current research project ACTECIM (Acteurs du Territoire pour une Citoyenneté Mondiale – European project No 2015-1-FR01-KA201-015405), aimed at characterising ESSD-related skills.

At an international level, the analysis of the REDDSO project identified four competence areas. ESSD promotes competencies of engagement, which require the development of critical and intercultural competence, as well as an ability to understand complexity. A key factor reported by the stakeholders of the REDDSO project is the “mirror” effect: leading the students to question the solutions adopted elsewhere encourages them to think about the norms and choices of their own social group.

The ACTECIM project is an inter-regional collaborative work between teachers, researchers, students and local education authorities, where we currently focus on the identification of abilities required by educators to train pupils on ESSD related skills. Our approach refers to the Experiential Learning Model. We examine the way it can be used to make the shift from general indicators to specific descriptors for each domains of ESSD related skills.

Key words: sustainable development, competences, cross-regional approaches, solidarity

Overqualification and Skills Mismatch in the Romanian Labour Market

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This article focuses on the subject of skills mismatch and overqualification of Romanian youth during economic recession. The main hypothesis of the study is that skills mismatch in the labour market may contribute to rising unemployment and stagnation or even decline in productivity and economic competitiveness. This inadequacy of skills, which has become a subject of analysis and research for many economists and sociologists, may occur in various forms: from the lack or scarcity of skills to situations where the qualifications, knowledge and skills of a person are higher than the requirements for a job. During the periods of economic development, the mismatch is primarily due to the scarcity of skills, meaning that there are not enough people who possess a certain type of skills to meet the demand. On the other hand, in times of economic crisis, it is more likely that people who have higher qualifications will hold jobs at a lower level. Even if this could benefit employers, these benefits are only for short term, because employees have feelings of dissatisfaction at work and labour productivity may decrease.

Key words: skills mismatch, labour market, graduates, economic recession

Learning Together in the Local Territory? Learning Territory and Education for Sustainable and Solidary Development: A Guidance Device for Teachers

Marie-Françoise OLIVIER, Thierry DELAVET, Académie de Grenoble, France

Many authors agree that social issues, including education for sustainable and solidary development, require a global and complex approach and they place high importance on the local level and on the initiatives of stakeholders. This approach invites us to analyse the territory, the local environment, as well as envisage it as a learning place.

Thus, the concept of « territoire apprenant » ('learning territory'), seen as an organizational paradigm, assigns an active role to teachers, partners, families, etc. and helps renew teaching practices by designing collective learning approaches, such as the project-based approach.

Starting from this, at the Académie de Grenoble, we have pursued the establishment of "learning territories", one of which is placed within the strong pillar of sustainable and solidary development.

In the beginning, by intertwining theoretical reflections and practical experiences, we shall deal with the construction of the learning territory. Then, we shall present the guidance/training device that may help teachers, local partners, construct new learning situations with the tools they have at their disposal. The device is focused on the main impact at the participants' level and especially on changes in the teachers' positioning.

Key words: creativity in cooperation, project-based approach, guidance-based training

The Importance of Cultural Anthropology in Peace Education

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The key to successful world peace is based on understanding: understanding of who we are and who the others are: how we/they act, feel, live, what kind of beliefs guide us through life, what are and how are our expectations made. We cannot speak about peace education without breaking the barriers of cultural differences. This is why it is important to see how the anthropological research of cultures can offer us the tools to build the necessary bridges between cultures and societies.

This study offers a perspective on how we can teach peace by learning from cultural differences because most of the time a conflict arises from fear, fear of the unknown, fear of not understanding, which leads to intolerance.

Key words: peace education, cultural anthropology, tolerance

Romanian as a Foreign Language: Challenges, Realities, Teaching Approaches. A Case Study – the Romanian Language Preparatory Year, between Modernity and Tradition

Anca PĂUNESCU, Mihaela CHIRIȚESCU, University of Craiova, Romania

In a world dominated by cultural and linguistic diversity, the study of Romanian as a foreign language in the preparatory year is a challenge at the beginning of each academic year.

With every generation, we aim at contradicting the stereotype “Romanian – a language inaccessible to foreign people” or “Romanian– a uninteresting language”. It is time to overcome these limited and limiting perceptions and focus on how those who are interested can be concretely helped to learn Romanian well enough for their specific needs.

Teaching from the perspective of interculturality is a response to cultural pluralism, i.e. a range of elements defining a certain area in order to establish a moderating environment for constructing a new civilization. This dimension is cultivated within the preparatory year, where we best see that all cultures are equal in their humanistic approaches, that is, they are not different, but complementary. This is why, in our classes, we try to strike a balance between national values and the cultural differences of humanity, equipping foreign students with a national-universal cultural horizon.

The purpose of intercultural education is to cultivate receptivity to diversity, enhance permissiveness towards otherness, and develop intercultural competence. It is neither possible, nor recommended to abandon the values of one’s original culture, one’s own knowledge tools in exploring culture from otherness; since individuals will never be able to give up the cultural schemes they have acquired during their lives.

Key words: interculturality, diversity, Romanian as a foreign language

Personal Resources – a Key Factor in Balancing the Work-Family Relationship

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Although the daily activity of adults has permanently been divided between bread-winning tasks and family, the alert social changes of the recent decades (migration, the growing number of working mothers and single parent families, for example) determined researchers to address the work-family relationship. Its imbalance, conceptualized under the term “work-family conflict”, has many undesirable consequences for the individual, the organization, the community and the family.

Therefore, numerous studies have been undertaken aiming to improve this imbalance, and several factors were noticed that can influence this relationship: legislation, organizational politics, working hours, type of job or social support. Besides these, the individual’s personal resources have an important contribution. Therefore, in this paper we aim to focus our attention on how these resources can influence work-family relationship. We will analyse personal features regarding the adaptability, ability and willingness to learn new skills or desire of self-improvement and time-management skills, for example.

Key words: work-family relationship, personal resources, aptitudes, abilities

Intercomprehension – A Means of Intercultural Communication

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The hereby contribution proposes an approach of intercomprehension from the perspective of plurilingual communication and intercultural communication.

Intercomprehension, a concept denoting the speakers’ ability of understanding those who write or speak a language from the same family as their own, in a given context, is basically a critical strategy in acquiring the plurilingual communication competence.

At the same time, intercomprehension, as a form of linguistic mediation, also becomes a fundamental method of intercultural communication and mediation, connecting the speaker to the social, cultural and mentality space of the other. Therefore, our approach aims at defining and describing intercomprehension, as well as illustrating these aspects with a range of examples in the practice of teaching and acquiring modern Romance languages.

Key words: intercomprehension, plurilingualism, intercultural communication

The European Union’s Education Policies. Towards a Common Strategic Framework for Europe 2020

Alexandra PORUMBESCU, University of Craiova, Romania

Even though each national government of the European Union’s member states is responsible for managing its education system, the European Commission has designed a common policy enabled to support the nations in addressing common challenges. Such is the case of Education and Training 2020 (ET 2020), the framework for cooperation in education and training. The aim of this paper is to analyse and discuss the main issues addressed in this document and to examine the methods and institutions engaged in this process.

Key words: education, policy, European Union

The Use of Electronic Resources in Romanian Language Classes

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In recent years, electronic resources have become more and more frequently used in classes of both foreign and native languages. This responds to a need of today's society, of better equipping its citizens for employment in a global and continuously changing market. This paper presents a good practice example of the deployment of a lexicographic electronic resource in classes of Romanian linguistics. *Dicționar invers al limbii române* (Bucharest, Niculescu, 2007) is an original work available in electronic format, provided with a search engine and filtering capabilities, whose use has been actively sought with students of the University of Craiova in Romanian language classes. Such an initiative fosters not only professional, linguistics-related competence, but also the transferable skills of the students (i.e. IT skills), helping them become better prepared for lifelong learning. Moreover, it is our belief that this good practice example outlines the development of teachers' skills such as flexibility and adaptability to the requirements of a global environment.

Key words: transferable skills, global environment, lifelong learning

Education in the Context of Interculturality and Globality

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One of the most important challenges of today's world is the phenomenon of migration and, especially, the mobility of people in search of a workplace or of a better life. Nowadays, we witness a new social and economic reality in the world. This context created another type of education, which implies an adjustment, an adaptation to the new reality. Therefore, in this paper, we focus on the new aspects of education, highlighting the elements that define our unity, but, above all, the elements that define our diversity. More specifically, these elements are changed into the essential foundation for a sustainable and solidary education. There are three main topics dealt with in this paper: international cooperation, fluid society and immigration, and the psychological course towards "the other, the different one".

Key words: international cooperation, interculturality, globality

The Bible: a source for Sustainable Religious Education in the Current Social and Cultural Context

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The Bible has always been and will continue to be the most important source for our Christian moral and religious education. Throughout the time, the Bible has also constituted a source for our common values, for our identity in the European civilisation and cultural context. Unfortunately, under the pressure of an increasingly dominating secularisation of the European cultural space, the religious education is turning more and more into a pure theoretic, desacralized, impersonal and rigid instrument, which alienates the human beings from the spiritual dimension of their life. Therefore, this paper examines the role of the Bible in education for sustainable development and solidarity, starting from the idea that religion can make a significant contribution to the attainment of sustainable development by entrenching religious wisdom and values into education.

Key words: the Bible, sustainable development, moral values, religious wisdom

An Interdisciplinary Approach to Teaching Writing or How to Improve Students' 21st Century Skills

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In this paper, we start from the theories of the intellectual development of university students and present a proposal for how interdisciplinary writing might improve students' critical awareness, language proficiency and integrative skills, should such an approach be included in their three-year undergraduate curriculum. More specifically, we emphasize the need for a sequenced set of writing experiences so that to provide a steady progress and to improve students' 21st century skills.

In our approach, we rely on the opinion that written knowledge represents more than a transparent reflection of thought. Traditionally, writing was viewed as a set of generalizable, mechanical skills which can be taught separately from content and as a mere adjunct to a curriculum (for example, at our faculty, writing is a one-semester optional course, taught from a literary perspective). Instead, the act of writing should be considered an activity that constructs or constitutes thought. Modern approaches to writing are focused on "writing across the curriculum" (WAC) or "writing in the disciplines" which has gained increasing acceptance in higher education and which stresses the importance of writing in all disciplinary contexts. In the context of education for sustainable and solidary development, students should be encouraged to perceive writing as a trans- and interdisciplinary process rather than just a product. At the end of this paper, we offer a series of interdisciplinary strategies and sample writing assignments that could offer students opportunities for expressive, academic or non-academic forms of writing.

Key words: interdisciplinary writing, integrative skills, critical thinking

The Effectiveness of Authentic Audiovisual Materials in Teaching and Learning French at the University Level

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Authentic audio visual materials are some of the most important tools a teacher can and must use in class in order to make his/her teaching go smoothly and be effective in transmitting the necessary knowledge to all students. In this article, we will discuss the effect of using authentic audio and visual materials in teaching French language at the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, as a number of studies point out that the use of authentic materials is considered a useful means to motivate learners, arouse their interest and expose them to the real language they will face in the real world. The use of authentic materials in French as foreign language classes is not new, because teachers started using them in the 1970s as a result of the spread of the Communicative Language Teaching Approach. This article aims at analysing the effectiveness of audio visual aids in the teaching learning process at the university level.

Key words: authentic/non-authentic materials, effectiveness, audio aids, visual aids

The Mentoring Process in Educational Development

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Diversity counselling (DC) and Mentoring (MT) are concepts having emerged within the field of human rights development under Martin Luther King in America around the middle of last century. Loden and Rosener (*Workforce America!: managing employee diversity as a vital resource*, Business One Irwin, Business & Economics, 1991) have classified diversity in terms of more than 20 aspects and with regard to four main contexts or levels of classification: i) personality and character, ii) inherent dimensions like age, gender etc. iii) external dimensions like family status, area of living, income etc., and iv) organizational dimensions like work place organization and process necessities etc.

MT is a complex process involving not just guidance and suggestion, but also the development of autonomous skills, judgments, personal and professional mastership, expertise, trust and the development of self-confidence over the time. MT can be established for a number of reasons (Johnson et al., *Exploring Corporate Strategy*, Financial Times Prentice Hall: Harlow 2008; Edelkraut et al, *Der Mentor Rolle, Erwartungen*, Realitt. Pabst Science Publishers, 2011). MT has traditionally been informal and self-selected. The nature of MT is “friendly”, “collegially”. MT also has to operate within professional and ethical frameworks. It should remain voluntary and subject to mutual agreement. MT is not just about solving problems. However, problems often underlie a decision to seek mentoring.

Key words: mentoring, diversity, development

Correlations Between Financial Resources for Education and the Outcomes of the Educational Process in Iceland and Romania

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Education is a fundamental factor in the economic and social development of a nation. This process facilitates the acquisition of knowledge, aptitudes, moral values and habits. Given the global challenges in the latest years, education for sustainable development is a major component of this process, aiming at developing the required skills and knowledge in order to guarantee a healthy and environment-friendly lifestyle, in accordance with national and global rules, social and cultural values. The efficient development of the educational process (including the sustainable development component) would not be possible without an allocation of financial resources (both public, state funding, and funding sources).

Our research aims at analyzing and comparing the most recent correlations between the financial resources allocated by countries to support the education process and its quantitative and qualitative results (including the sustainable development education component), based on statistical data collected for two countries (Iceland and Romania).

Key words: education for sustainable development, financial resources, outcomes of the educational process

Cultivating the Justice Spirit of Pupils through Representative Lectures

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If classical literature provides an extremely wide perspective on human feelings and experiences, detective fiction tries to join it in a much more concrete way, using its own techniques, such as reasoning, logical deduction, intuition, games and charades. These are very close to the new trends in children’s psychological evolution, focusing on practical spirit and the performance of very real, exact actions, that require truthful answers.

Since today’s society is absorbed in the evolution of the media, an educator’s task to orient pupils towards lecture becomes more and more difficult. This is especially true when dealing with classical, time-consuming lecture, implying a large amount of pre-acquired cultural information. In this context, for instance, E. A. Poe’s detective novels may stimulate a pupil’s interest for lecture and a shift of attention towards an elaborate, rational and deep literature, which brings along philosophical or justice-related concepts such as *fair-unfair*, *justice-injustice*.

Key words: justice, critical situations, detective fiction

Pedagogical Challenges of the AUF International Master’s Programme Didactique des langues

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Three years ago, BECO – AUF (Bureau Europe Centrale et Orientale – Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie) proposed the organisation of an international master’s programme *Didactique du français et des langues*, pursuant to an analysis of French language being taught in 17 departments of Central and Eastern Europe. The findings outlined major legislative, institutional and academic differences between the university systems in BECO-affiliated countries.

These findings resulted in the need to train a new generation of French language teachers and AUF proposed an ambitious project: a master’s programme jointly organized by four universities Université Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris 3, Université de Genève, the University of Craiova, the Politehnica University of Bucharest), with students from Central and Eastern Europe.

Our research question deals with how one can work with a heterogeneous, highly diverse audience, with different cultural and academic backgrounds. What teaching methods to choose in order to work with a highly motivated, but extremely diverse audience, which is frequently unequal in terms of initial training?

We propose a presentation and an analysis of the methods used with students in the AUF master’s programme, in order to facilitate group cohesion, intercommunication, intercultural opening and the acquisition of new innovative methods for teaching French language.

Key words: foreign language teaching, interculturality, teaching strategies, transversal skills

Sustainable Development: An Insight on Funding and Quality Assurance in Higher Education

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Sustainable development has become a major research topic as of the 70s, when European and world leaders officially recognized the importance of other economic and social factors, beyond mere economic growth. Transition ensued from the concept of economic growth to sustainable development, i.e. from figures describing economic growth to a range of indicators moving beyond financial accumulations and describing social welfare as a whole. Education and social solidarity are two critical aspects for sustainable development.

This paper aims at analyzing the contribution of the higher education system to sustainable and solidary development from a double perspective: funding and relations with national quality assurance mechanisms. The research methodology is based on the compared analysis of two highly diverse systems: Romania and Iceland. We shall mainly focus on funding strategies, sources and shares compared to other major fields, assessment and quality assurance mechanisms, assessment criteria and their relation to funding. Funding and quality assurance in higher education are thought to have a direct impact on sustainability, since they provide the society with workforce likely to generate growth and development.

Key words: sustainable development, funding, quality assurance

On the Reception of a Viral YouTube Environmental Video Signed By Prince Ea

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It is well known that, nowadays, YouTube contributes to redefining traditional education and that its resources may be used as valuable educational tools. But it is also certitude that YouTube videos can play an important role in informal education, without being integrated in formal education contexts. It is the case of the video *Dear Future Generations: Sorry* posted on YouTube by Richard Williams, an American artist who took the pseudonym Prince Ea. When dealing with matters like sustainable development, one can wonder how this video became viral, gathering more than 4 million views since April 2015. In order to answer this question, we will analyse the comments (around 16,000) posted on this YouTube page. The objective of this intermedial research is to identify the elements that mostly impressed the viewers and to summarize their reactions to this environmental video message. We will thus perform a reception analysis that will allow us to outline the uses and gratifications of a message that had an impressive impact on a considerably numerous audience, though it dealt with a serious and important educational topic. And last but not least, we will conclude that, in education, *how* something is taught is equally important as *what* it is taught and, moreover, formal education should keep an open dialogue with informal education in order to successfully reach its objectives.

Key words: informal education, sustainable development, viral video, YouTube

Public Internal Audit and Its Role in Assessing the Risk Management Process in Universities
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At present, internal audit stands out as a premise and evidence of financial and accounting management at the level of public universities. In the structure of any modern institution of higher education, internal audit has become an essential function, having the responsibility to provide insurance regarding the university functioning as a whole. Moreover, internal audit is a functional way which allows the university management to receive, from an alternate source, guarantees according to which the processes within the institution of academic education are conducted, so that the probabilities of the existence of frauds, errors, inefficient and anti-economic practices are minimized. In this context, in order to highlight the role of public audit in assessing and measuring the universities' performance, within the present paper, we will address specific issues and debates regarding internal audit as an important factor in assessing the risk management process.

Higher education quality and performance represent key aspects in directing this type of education towards sustainability. Quality and proper education financing support this process that provides society with individuals who contribute to economic growth, development and sustainability.

Key words: universities, internal public audit, risk management, sustainability

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