

METHODICAL DAYS 2013

Preschool Teachers' Training College organized the International interdisciplinary scientific conference METHODICAL DAYS, with the central topic "COMPETENCES OF PRESCHOOL TEACHERS IN KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY" in Kikinda, on May 25th, 2013.

The thematic fields of the conference were:

1. Pedagogical and methodological competences of preschool teachers – the new paradigms
2. Interpersonal competences of preschool teachers (competences for leading and organizational competences of teachers, communication competences, teamwork competences, etc.)
3. Preschool teachers' competences for working with children in nurseries, hospitals and social welfare institutions
4. Preschool teachers' competences for preserving culture and tradition
5. Competences of people working in education in general (in relation to the changes in the educational paradigm, the digitalization and informatization of the society, globalization, sustainable growth, inclusion, expansion of distance learning, questions of media literacy, the appearance of new psychological insights such as emotional, spiritual or social intelligence, etc.)

The Preschool Teachers' Training College in Kikinda, as the host of the Conference, organized Methodical Days 2013 in cooperation with one Serbian and five foreign partners, all from the academic, scientific and expert circles: The Faculty of Management in Sremski Karlovci, University "Union - Nikola Tesla" in Belgrade from Serbia, Anton Chekhov Taganrog State Pedagogical Institute from Russia, Faculty of Letters, History and Theology, Department of Applied Modern Languages and Literatures and the Faculty of Sociology and Psychology, Department of Educational Sciences, both from West University of Timișoara, Romania, Music Department of Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) Faculty of Philosophy from Budapest, Hungary and Psalmus Humanus Association for Arts Education from Budapest, Hungary.

The opening ceremony started with the address of the College Principal, Tamara Grujić, Ph.D. The audience was also addressed by Jožef Kabok, Ph.D., Assistant to Provincial Secretary for Science and Technological Development and Mr Miloš Latinović, Deputy Major of the Municipality of Kikinda. The opening addresses were followed by the performance of the students of the Department of Preschool Teachers for Traditional Dance who, under the guidance of their ethnomusicology teacher Gordana Roganović, presented a collage of Serbian town dances in the way it was done during the 19th and in the early 20th century.

The plenary session was opened by Vesna Srdić, Ph.D., professor, who gave the introductory speech, and after that Mihai Predescu, Ph.D., from the Faculty of Sociology and Psychology, Department of Educational Sciences, from West University of Timișoara, Romania gave a lecture centering on the topic *Revisiting the Competence Profile of Preschool Teachers*. Dragana Pavlović Breneselović, Ph.D. from the Faculty of Philosophy, University in Belgrade (Serbia)

gave a lecture centering on the topic *From mastering knowledge and skills to being competent: two approaches to preschool teachers' competences*; Ljiljana Pešikan Ljuštanović, Ph.D. from the Faculty of Philosophy, University in Novi Sad (Serbia) spoke about *Participation of oral lyric poetry in the genesis of Serbian poetry for children*, and Živka Krnjaja, Ph.D. from the Faculty of Philosophy, University in Novi Sad (Serbia) gave a lecture about *Development of preschool teachers' competences through professional development*.

Within the Conference, there was also an exhibition of artwork of children from the kindergarten "Miki" from Kikinda, and the exhibition was opened by Miroslava Kojić, MA, professor at the Preschool Teachers' Training College in Kikinda.

Because of the significant number of guests and participants, presentations were given in five different sections. The closing ceremony was held by Vesna Srdić, Ph.D., professor, who stated the general notions and trends analyzed at the Conference and pointed out the possible directions for the future and new topics which could be included in the Conference in the years to come.

60 participants visited the Conference and presented their scientific papers, and more than 20 of them came from abroad, from Romania, Hungary, Croatia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. 76 scientific papers were submitted this year, written by authors from Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Croatia, Montenegro, Romania, Hungary, Russia, and Portugal, and all these papers will be published in the *Proceedings Book*.

The working languages of the Conference were Serbian and English.

Preschool Teachers' Training College also tried to continue developing the international and scientific aspect of the Conference and maintain the professional character of the Conference and welcomed around 50 preschool teachers who participated as active listeners. Furthermore, more than ten papers written by preschool teachers were given a separate section in which the participants debated on good examples from educational practice.

The Conference was financially supported by the Provincial Secretariat for Science and Technological Development of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina.