

EDITORIAL

The fourth volume of the quarterly scientific journal *Education – Technical Education – Information Technology 2017* consists of five subject chapters and a chapter with two reviews of recent and interesting academic publications.

The first chapter, entitled *The Problems of Educational Policy*, starts out with a research paper on the assessment of the current state of realization of the Polish educational system reform. It also tries to address the question: *Have the authors of the reform created the conditions required to enable the implementation of new structural and program solutions?* Next chapters elaborate on the complexity of current solutions concerning the principles of grant distribution to non-state and non-community actors, the conditions and modalities by which users can obtain, use and settle grants; relations between key stakeholders of local educational policy in the scope of elimination of self-government community schools; unfavorable demographic trends and school grant financing which force municipal authorities to shut down, mostly village schools more and more frequently. The last research paper in this chapter presents the issues of music education in Tarnów schools in the times of Galicia Autonomy. The author of this paper looks into the two ‘gimnasium’ schools curricula, and discusses the impact of music education, two extramural activities, i.e. music and singing, on students during that period.

The second chapter, *The Problems of Preschool and Early School Education*, consists of a series of research papers on the role of music education; the assessment of the teachers’ level of professional development and career evaluation. One of the articles presents the research on the visual perception in the education of children (6-9 years old), its impact on the decision making and the reproduction of the observed object in the world of art. The last research paper draws on the key issues of ecological education presented in the National Strategy of Ecological Education programme.

The third chapter, entitled *The Problems of Formal and Non-Formal Education*, is composed of research papers on the use of an eye tracking application of the process analysis in reading information presented in the infographics. Next chapter presents the follow up research reports of the children perception abilities in relations to the mood and memory on the example of a painting *Family*. The last research paper in this chapter draws on the usefulness of certain physics

formula and presents an opinion analysis of the selected survey questions as assessed by students and the physics concepts most understood by them.

The fourth chapter, *The Problems of Technical and Vocational Education*, presents a series of research papers on the problems of technical and vocational education. The first research paper in this series deals with the problems of computer assisted design (coding) in 2D and 3D in upper-secondary education. The author tries to prove the validity and necessity of computer assisted design program in the curricula as well as its potential impact on the students' development. Furthermore, authors of the following research papers discuss the necessity to establish the crucial role of a career advice subject in the middle schools, so far only the meetings with high school students have been organized. The issues of the adaptation of academic education as essential conditions and requirements of a modern labour market have been presented in these research papers as well as the introduction of a wider range of specialised educational programmes in the field of technology and database analysis; the role of education for the security of the country concerning the protection of an individual citizen and his/her involvement in the improvement of the internal security in the places of their residence. Last paper in this section draws on the safety conditions of the working post that must be met and are imposed by the fire and health regulations.

The last chapter, entitled *The Problems of Informatics Education*, presents the issues of the IT education core curriculum. The first paper focuses on the technology development and technological progress which is mirrored in the new ideas evolution and the formulation of new knowledge theories. The author draws our attention to the issues of knowledge building in the context of Internet usage with its many bonds and networks. Next research papers deal with the main characteristics of information society, the key issues concerning the importance of values in raising children and youths in the digital world and a lack of computer assisted programmes in schools; criteria to be fulfilled in order to develop e-learning courses on the example of the University of Rzeszów educators. This chapter finishes with an article on the biometric identification system of people's identity on the basis of an analysis of hand geometry and the development of a workstation to perform peoples' identification.

The sixth chapter includes reviews of two academic publications presenting the results of adequate research into potential application of the ICT tools in teaching and various aspects of young learners education in language, literary, science, social and technical learning.

Finally, we encourage our readers to contribute their critical texts in response to the subjects covered in this volume.