

Challenges, trends, and priorities in national educational research specialists in the accounts of education sciences

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During the period 10th - 11th of October 2014, the West University of Timisoara, in collaboration with the University of Bucharest, Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, Institute of Educational Sciences in Bucharest and the Romanian Institute for Education Adult Timisoara, provided an important platform for dialog for the specialists in education sciences through the first edition of the National Conference of Educational Research, "QUALITY IN EDUCATION".



This event brought together about one hundred specialists from Educational Sciences Faculties and Teacher Training Departments, who brought together their practical expertise on educational research and jointly developed a concrete analysis of the situation of educational research in Romania

There have been constructive discussions on research strategies and plans, such as the Research and Innovation Strategy 2014-2020 (SNCDI2020) and the National Research, Development and Innovation Plan 2014-2020 (PNCDI3 / NP3), which have been developed in conjunction with the European Research Strategy 'Horizon 2020' (H2020).

Among the analysis of educational research policies, one of the major challenges emphasized was that socio-educational research requires a better focus and representation, given the challenges faced by the Romanian society. The analysis resulted after during the conference debates served as a frame to draft recommendations for improving the educational research, as well as to engage discussions among decision makers and researchers in educational sciences.

Potential educational research themes were drafted, in accordance with the specific objectives and priorities set out in SNCDI2020, in correlation with trends in the European education space, (EERA's Agenda for Horizon 2020): Sustainable communities; Education Innovation; School curriculum and national values of Europe; Skills and challenges of educational professionals; Digital Literacy; Health education and quality of life; Learning in all contexts of work and lifelong learning etc. A more detailed formulation of the themes and research directions can be found in Memorandum on educational research in Romania, discussed during the conference.

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Also, it was considered that actual steps of opening up calls for research projects focused on priorities within the educational system were needed, dealt with by interdisciplinary research specialists, with the addition of social sciences. Establishment of an advisory task force structure within the National Council of Scientific Research, with a view to generate policies and strategies for educational research. Improvement of infrastructure of educational research both by measures of allocation of funds, as well as by supporting, by PN3, competent centers and institutes of advanced studies to discuss educational issues, so as to attract expert researchers.

This short summary of the conference is meant to emphasize how this new new manifestation of scientific educational research, conducted under the auspices of high-quality specialists who are qualified to think critically, analyze, argue, act proactively innovate, eventually contributing substantially to the diagnosis and replication of educational research, so that it can generate proposals for the specialization and innovation of educational research, up to European standards.

Because we cannot talk of quality assurance in education research "in itself", but according to the values promoted in society, the myriad of contextual factors, incorporated into educational policies and consistent strategies, relevant and well-articulated, annual replication of this important scientific event will certainly provide a more valid barometer for the status quo of educational research in our country.

The series of the National Conferences on Educational Research opened at Timisoara in 2014 continued also in 2015 under the tile *Learning Communities in the 21st century. Challenges for Higher Education*, organized by the Alexandra Ioan Cuza University and hosted in Ia i, June 19-20 2015.

More details on the educational research conferences can be found on the official conference websites www.cered.ro (CERED 2015) and www.cered.uvt.ro (CERED 2014).

This series of events will be organized in the future under the aegis of the National Association for Research in Education, which will aim to be accepted as a member of EERA ([European Educational Research Association](http://www.eera.eu)), since the first event, the discussion topics have been consonant with the topics of association, and the position taken by EERA for H2020 is also invoked in outlining the communication resulting from the national conference.