

Quality of Teacher Education in International Studies

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DOI: 10.26907/esd.18.3.01

EDN: IRXSTC

This special issue of the Education and Self-Development journal presents articles based on the presentations of Russian and international colleagues at the 9th International Forum on Teacher Education (IFTE) held May 24–26 at Kazan Federal University.

One of the main missions of KFU is to unite the efforts of Russian and foreign scholars in the study of topical issues of teacher training. Unfortunately, for a number of reasons, the Russian system of teacher education was only fragmentarily represented in the international scientific and pedagogical community. Meanwhile, the historical past, traditions, features of political and socio-economic development have formed a rather interesting educational system in Russia. Therefore, the main philosophy of our scientific activity, an important element of which is the IFTE, has been and remains cooperation with scientists from around the world, studying the best educational practices, objectively covering the history and current state of teacher training in Russia, comparing them with global trends and processes taking place now or taking place at a particular historical stage.

The teachers' professional and pedagogical activity is significantly changing today. The question that becomes extremely important is: "How exactly should the teacher's professional and pedagogical activity change in order to provide a new quality of education meeting the "challenges of the time?". Human capital in the modern world is becoming a main resource for the development of any country, a factor ensuring its stability and progress. These issues are explored in the works of researchers who participated in the International Forums on Teacher Education held annually in Kazan Federal University since 2015 (<http://ifte.kpfu.ru/en/home-page/>).

Traditionally the Forum program includes pre-conference and post-conference events, three main conferences, keynote lectures, symposia and paper sessions, as well as different roundtables and workshops. Currently the International Forum on Teacher Education is one of the biggest platforms for discussing various educational trends and reforms in the field of teacher education. Over the years Forum has grown to be one of the most influential conferences in the field of education in Eastern Europe and post-Soviet countries. Thousands of papers on different educational themes have been presented at the Forum since 2015. Researchers shared their views and research results on the issues of modernization and development of the content of teacher education, including the requirements of a competency-based approach. They discussed questions related to values and priorities within the field of modern teacher education. Key issues of teachers' professional development and other essential topics related to teacher education were also touched upon at the symposiums and roundtables. Thus, the International Forum on Teacher Education became the educational research partnership platform.

The International Forum on Teacher Education is a unique conference space, the hallmark of which is the ability to develop and transform. In recent years, it has acquired the characteristics of a hybrid academic space, opened its doors to talented young people who are fond of scientific research, contributed to the development of interaction between Russian and international scientists, as well as practicing teachers. Today, IFTE is the hallmark of Kazan Federal University, which is rapidly developing in terms of teacher training, one of the brightest, most anticipated events in the field of Russian and international teacher education.

The ninth International Forum on Teacher Education was no exception. According to the results of three days of the Forum, 785 reports were presented and 133 scientific sessions were held. Participants from 15 countries, 116 cities and 167 universities from all over the world gathered in KFU to discuss the topic: “Quality of teacher education in the context of modern challenges”. The conference for 9 years has grown from 100 people to 800 people in the face-to-face format, and 12,000–16,000 people are online participants.

The experience of Kazan Federal University in organizing the International Forum on Teacher Education was presented at the ISATT conference in July 2023 at the University of Bari (Italy) and published in the anniversary monograph ‘Teaching and Teacher Education in International Contexts’ (Valeeva et al. 2023). In this special issue we have also included an analytical article on the results of the 9th International Forum on Teacher Education on the transformation of the field of research and innovation in teacher education, prepared by Alexander Bermous, Roza Valeeva, and Tatiana Baklashova.

The special issue of the journal includes articles by our distinguished keynote speakers Prof. Manpreet Kaur from Partap College of Education (India), Prof. Andreja Istenic from University of Primorska (Slovenia), Maria Alzira Pimenta from University of Sorocaba (Brazil), Loredana Perla from University of Bari Aldo Moro, Laura Agrata from University of Bergamo and Viviana Vinci from University of Foggia (Italy). In addition, the special issue publishes articles by partners from different Russian universities who are working on joint projects within the framework of the International Community of Researchers in Teacher Education (ICREP) (<https://te.kpfu.ru/>) and who annually present the results of their research at the Forum.

Fruitful cooperation continues!

References

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