

## Editorial: Presenting Czech educational research to international audience

Year 2013 has seen a number of changes in the *Pedagogická orientace* journal (PedOr). Two of them are most visible. First, as of 2013 six issues are published every year instead of four, which had been the case since 1996. The second innovation concerns the sixth issue of each volume, which is from now on to be published in English. We see this as an important step in the history of our journal for several reasons. It makes the journal accessible to many more readers and gives the authors an opportunity to present their findings to international audience. It is also essential if the journal aims to be included in established databases. Third, it provides a platform for foreign experts and members of the editorial board to publish in our journal.

The idea behind the first English issue of PedOr, which you are reading now, was to approach different research teams that work on selected topics that might be of interest to the international community and ask them for contributions.<sup>1</sup> Four original articles were then prepared for this issue. These were complemented by a brief overview of selected undertakings of Czech educational research community.

The four studies cover three distinct topics. Two studies look at pre-service teacher education but approach them from different angles. One of them (by Tomáš Svatoš) focuses on the student teacher and their professional development during pre-graduate education. The other one (by Stanislav Bendl, Hana Voňková, and Michal Zvírotsky) looks at the same period in teacher education but from the point of view of its organization. The so-called two-cycle system is discussed, its implementation in the Czech Republic and how this has been viewed both by teacher educators and student teachers themselves.

The other two studies shift our attention from teacher university preparation and take the readers to schools and classrooms. In the first one, using the method of multiple case study, Jana Poláchová Vašátková illustrates the character and importance of self-evaluation process at the school level. The other study (by Petr Najvar, Tomáš Janík, and Simona Šebestová) focuses on

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<sup>1</sup> The instructions were as follows: the new paper in English can build on previous work published in Czech but must not be identical. The English paper is to be an autonomous unit, not a translation of a paper previously published in Czech.

classroom communication, specifically in the subject English as a foreign language. It investigates the issues connected to using English or mother tongue (Czech) as a means of communication in lessons.

The studies are followed by several shorter texts that aim to introduce the different undertakings of the Czech educational science community. The first one (by Tomáš Čech & Oto Dymokurský) describes the history of the Czech Pedagogical Society, one of the two important associations in education and educational research in the Czech context and the publisher of PedOr. This is followed by an account of the last conference organized by the Society where hot issues, especially the curricular reform, were discussed. To keep the balance, the second text presents the history and current challenges of the other important association, the Czech Educational Research Association, which focuses mainly on empirical research in the field of education.

The issue closes with extended summaries of selected books published in 2012. In place of regular book reviews the editorial team opted for brief introductions of Czech monographs that could be of interest internationally. Again, this was done in order to raise awareness of Czech educational research projects abroad.

We hope that this first English issue of PedOr will be welcome by the Czech educational research community as well as of use and interest to foreign experts in the field of education. Although the preparations were not without difficulties, we hope to create a win-win situation – for Czech authors, Czech and international educational research experts, and for the journal itself.

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