The Summer School of Young Pedagogues as a Community of Learners – A Report on the Jubilee Meeting

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The Summer School of Young Pedagogues [LSMP – Letnia Szkoła Młodych Pedagogów] is a sort of academic relationship between the representatives of diverse sub-disciplines of pedagogy which, on the one hand, provides the opportunity to confront the knowledge of education in a broad sense and on the other hand it brings assistance to the junior researchers of the science by stimulating and supporting their academic workshop. This gives the young teachers a chance to develop their factual and methodological competences as well as self-presentation skills and to present their academic achievements. Meetings with outstanding professors is a significant academic experience for the novices in the field of teaching. A great part of the LSMP is dedicated to the fundamental issues of educating and training. A lot of attention is also paid to the basic issues of pedagogy as a scientific discipline, methods of its performance and to maintaining an adequate relation between theory and practice.

Therefore, the Summer School of Young Pedagogues is a perfect ground for social integration of scholars who represent diverse pedagogic sub-disciplines and, at the same time, it provides a cross-generational integration.

The classes in the Summer School of Young Pedagogues are designed to arouse all participants' interest, give them tools to debate and present the research results of both the pedagogy authorities and young researchers. Also, there is time for conversation and consultations.

The originator as well as the first academic tutor at the Summer School of Young Pedagogues was Professor Wincenty Okoń. Professor Maria Dudzikowa, the then

chairwoman of the Committee of Pedagogical Sciences of the National Academy of Sciences (KNP PAN)¹ has been performing this function since 1994. The organizer and the participant of the majority of the Summer Schools, Professor Tadeusz Lewowicki (the chairman of the Committee of Pedagogical Sciences of National Academy of Sciences in 1993–2007), was also engaged in creating the concept and its organization. Currently, the task was taken over by Professor Bogusław Śliwerski – the chairman of the Committee of Pedagogical Sciences of the National Academy of Sciences.

The idea of the Summer School of Young Pedagogues would undoubtedly not be possible to complete without the engagement and huge work of many people. Annual meetings are organized by the Committee of Pedagogical Sciences of the National Academy of Sciences with the participation of the Dean of Faculty of Pedagogy in one of the Polish universities – a different university hosts the Summer School of Young Pedagogues each year.

Each of the Summer Schools is different, original, dedicated to specific, important pedagogic issues and gathers further generations of Young Pedagogues as well as outstanding professors. Each time the event is organized in a different place in Poland, in beautiful spots, usually associated with our history, surrounded by nature, which is conducive to a special atmosphere.

An important achievement of the LSMP is the academic publication *Zeszyty Naukowe Forum Młodych Pedagogów* [*Academic Papers of Young Pedagogues*] in which the participants may present their speeches. Reports on each year's Schools are successively published in *Rocznik Pedagogiczny* [*Pedagogical Annual Book*] published by the Committee of Pedagogical Sciences of the National Academy of Sciences.

Between 12 and 16 September 2016, the participants of the Summer School of Young Pedagogues met for the thirtieth time. The Faculty of Pedagogy and Psychology of the University of Silesia in Katowice had the honour to organize the jubilee meeting. The Dean, Professor Stanisław Juszczak, along with the organization team performed the function of the host. The leading topic of this year's School was *Pułapki badań nad edukacją* [*Catches in research on education*]. The inauguration of the Summer School took place in Katowice – the capital city

¹ The Committee of Pedagogical Sciences of National Academy of Sciences [Komitet Nauk Pedagogicznych Państwowej Akademii Nauk – KNP PAN] is a self-governed representation of pedagogical sciences which is designed to integrate scholars in Poland and which is a part of the National Academy of Sciences structure. The Committee was appointed in 1953. The Committee of Pedagogical Sciences of National Academy of Sciences comprises professors of pedagogy selected by appropriate academic environments and members of the Academy.

of Upper Silesia. Professor Tadeusz Sławek, the President of the University of Silesia in 1996–2002, filled in the assembled people on the thoughts on pedagogy during his inauguration lecture, in which he spoke about the academic research and upbringing by referring to Shakespeare's dramas. The following days of the sessions took place in Wisła – a beautiful town in the Beskidy Mountains, southern Poland. The series of professors' lectures for the participants of the 30th Summer School of Young Pedagogues was initiated by a lecture on methodology of research in social and human sciences by Professor Jacek Piekarski from the University of Łódź, whereas Professor Jarosław Gara from the Maria Grzegorzewska University, Professor Urbaniak-Zajac and Professor Bogusław Śliwerski from the University of Łódź, Professor Maria Czerepaniak-Wlaczak from the University of Szczecin, Professor Zenon Gajdzica from the University of Silesia in Katowice, Professor Wiesława Limont and Professor Krzysztof Rubacha from the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń spoke about the methodological catches in social research. The lectures raised a lively discussion on the disproportion of paradigms in human and social sciences. Professor Katarzyna Krasoń from the University of Silesia brought the participants into the world of art with an lecture entitled *Art and cognition – romantic utopia, charlatanism or necessity?*

It should be emphasized that the Summer School of Young Pedagogues does not aim exclusively at increasing the knowledge or exchanging scientific experience, but it constitutes a unique platform for getting to know new people and making new acquaintances. It is a specific social phenomenon which has taken place for as many as several dozen years and each Summer School is a meaningful undertaking in academic life, an original product, a concept developed throughout the year by Professor Maria Dudzikowa. Each meeting being a part of the LSMP ends with success and constitutes yet another successful academic, social and organizational experience.