

## Introduction

The latest edition of *Labor et Educatio* journal is dedicated to the issues of education and work. It should be stressed that the problems presented in this issue are accompanied by the experience of the dynamics of change and the specificity of the situation experienced by modern people since March 2020, the time when a pandemic was declared. One can notice that, since that time, the perceived unpredictability, lack of stability, isolation or restrictions on human functioning, and, on the other hand, the possibility of unlimited use of technological developments in education or work, which could be performed in various places around the world without having to leave your home etc., resulted in a kind of emotional seesaw: from apathy and anxiety to joy and fulfillment. Undoubtedly, the specific nature of changes and the emerging situations has consequences for human education and work. It can also be seen in the content of the analyses and research presented in the current issue of the journal. The scholars address issues relating to changes in both education and work, working conditions, and the efficiency of social professionals and professionals working under the sanitary requirements arising from a pandemic. They also take into account the socio-emotional well-being of actors operating in different social environments and isolated due to the restrictions introduced.

In accordance with a long tradition, the first part of the journal is dedicated to theoretical and review articles. This section of the journal is opened by an article from Małgorzata Szpunar, *On the effectiveness of the solution-focused approach and coaching in the work of social services*. She addresses an extremely important issue in terms of quality, efficiency and well-being of social workers

at their workplace, namely the effectiveness of a solution- and coaching-oriented approach. Another issue, which is extremely important from the perspective of people taking up therapeutic work with people with dementia and their support, is the article entitled *The therapeutic values of the programme "Remembering Yesterday, Caring for Today" in Dementia Care* by Agnieszka Sikora-Balicka. The problem of the elderly people's well-being is addressed in the article entitled *A multidisciplinary perspective of the existential loneliness of older people* Akvilė Virbalienė, Aurelija Šiurienė and Remigijus Bubnys. Based on scientific studies from different disciplines, the authors focus on the issue of existential loneliness of elderly people, especially felt during a pandemic.

Another important issue raised by researchers is the specificity of distance education. The main focus was placed on the specificity of distance education, the relevance and value of distance learning (Dorin Afanas, *Distance education*), the difficulties and strengths of such education in countries aspiring to join the European Union and the school understood not only as an educational institution and environment that is on-site, but now in times of a pandemic - virtual (Franciszek Szlosek, *Virtual School*).

In *Labor et Educatio* journal, it is a tradition to publish articles of an empirical nature. This section is particularly valuable for people who are interested in the results of new research on education and work. In this journal issue, there are 6 articles in this section.

Joanna Madalińska-Michalak in her article entitled *Successful school leadership in times of COVID-19 pandemic: Fostering resilience in teachers and schools in Poland*, focused on issues important for educational leaders, such as the measures aimed at adapting both teachers and the school as an institution to operate in a pandemic in different environments (on-site and virtual or hybrid). Similarly, the specificity of the functioning of employees in the organization and the subjective aspects determining the quality and effectiveness of this functioning is taken up by Małgorzata Kuśpit in the article entitled *Subjective aspects of the functioning of employees in the organization*. The issue of efficiency of work through the prism of the specificity of employee engagement is addressed by Manoaj Keppetipola and Anuradha Iddagoda in the article entitled *Nature of Employee Engagement: Rethinking its Levels*.

The next two articles corresponding to the issue of work, labor market, and employment include the results of research on supported employment (an article by Jan Sikora entitled *Educational aspects of supported employment as*

*an exemplification of actions for the policy of social cohesion based on polish experiences*) and the employment and labor market policy in the perspective of social investments (an article by Daiva Skuciene, *Lithuanian active labour market policy in 2009-2020: a social investment perspective*). In this section of the journal, research articles that bind together the issues of education and work are the texts of Hajdeu Mihaela entitled *Motivation for studying mathematics of the students in post-secondary technical vocational education – future primary school teachers in the republic of Moldova*. Abanikannda Mutahir Oluwafemi, *Impact of learning resources improvisation on biology instruction in senior secondary schools in ondo south senatorial district in Nigeria* and Abanikannda Mutahir Oluwafemi Akinola, Oluwatoyin Temiloluwa *Impact of covid-19 pandemic on students learning outcomes in Universities in Osun State, Nigeria*. The problems of the specific nature of biology teaching in Nigeria and the motivation to learn mathematic of vocational education students in Moldova, that is, future teachers, as well as the specific nature of preparations for the labor market of students from universities in Nigeria show the specificity of directional education, as well as preparation for entry into a clearly defined labor market in the context of dynamically changing social and civilizational situations.

The rich thematic, scientific and research value of the current issue of the journal is complemented by a review of a book, which falls within the specificity of professional work of teachers in Poland. I encourage you to read issue 9 of *Labor et Educatio* journal, and I wish you all scientific inspiration and intellectual adventure when reading these extremely interesting and topical texts.

Norbet G. Piķula  
*Editor-in-Chief*