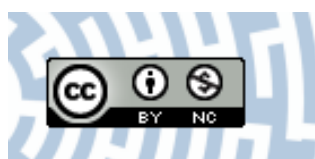You have downloaded a document from
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Poland

Chronicle of the International Scientific Conference on Theoretical and Practical Aspects of Distance Learning, University of Silesia, Poland

The 10th Annual International Scientific Conference on the Theoretical and Practical Aspects of Distance Learning, Subtitle: *E-learning and Smart Learning Environment for the Preparing of New Generation Specialists,* a two-day conference DLCC2018 (www.dlcc.us.edu.pl) organized by the Faculty of Ethnology and Sciences of Education in Cieszyn, University of Silesia in Katowice (Poland), Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th October 2018 in Wisła.

The Conference is organized under the auspices of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Poland, dr Jarosław Gowin, Chancellor of the University of Silesia in Katowice, Prof. dr hab. Andrzej Kowalczyk, Dean of the Faculty of Ethnology and Sciences of Education, Prof. dr hab. Zenon Gajdzica, Director of the Institute of Sciences of Education Dr hab. Prof. UŚ Krzysztof Śleziński.

Co-organizers: University of Ostrava (OU), (Czech Republic), Silesian University in Opava (SU), (Czech Republic), Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra (UKF), (Slovakia), University of Extremadura (UEx), (Spain), University of Twente (UT), (The Netherlands), The Lisbon Lusíada University (LU), (Portugal), Curtin University in Perth (CU), (Australia), Borys Grinchenko Kyiv University (BGKU), (Ukraine), Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russia, St. Petersburg (HSPU), (Russian Federation), Dniprodzerzhinsk State Technical University (DSTU), (Ukraine), International Association for Development of the Information Society (IADIS), a non-profit association Polish Pedagogical Society, Branch in Cieszyn Polish Scientific Society for Internet Education

The theme and priorities of the conference reflect the conceptual principles underlying the modernization of education and the reform of the education systems of European countries, as well as national development strategies for the 21st century. One of the European Union's key educational objectives is the provision of equal opportunities in terms of access to learning and knowledge, regardless of gender, financial and physical ability, and place of residence. That is why, distance learning has now been granted the status of high priority. If introduced on a wide scale, distance learning and teaching may make significant contribution towards the achievement of educational goals in the member states.

The Faculty of Ethnology and Sciences of Education at the University of Silesia, Poland, has extensive experience in the implementation of distance learning in other departments across the university. The Faculty's Distance Learning Platform operates smoothly and continues to expand. The conference is designed to bring together all agents involved in e-learning – university students, faculty staff, and educators – to explore and share experiences with e-learning and distance learning, both at home and abroad. The partners and co-organizers of the previous editions of the conference, held in the years 2009–2013, include the University of Ostrava (Czech Republic), Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica (Slovak Republic), Silesian University in Opava (Czech Republic), Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra (Slovak Republic), which are also involved in many activities in the field of e-learning and ICT, in particular in the project "E-learning as a road to communicating in the multicultural environment", supported by the International Visegrad Fund (IVF). Among our participants there were researchers and scientists from different countries.

Strengthening and widening international cooperation resulted in starting the next international scientific project IRNet *International Research Network for study and development of new tools and methods for advanced pedagogical science in the field of ICT instruments, e-learning and intercultural competences* (www.irnet. us.edu.pl)). The Project is financed by the European Commission under the 7th Framework Programme, within the Marie Curie Actions International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (2014–2017), with the participation of 10 Universities from 9 countries: University of Silesia in Katowice (US), Poland, (Coordinator), University of Twente (UT, The Netherlands), University of Extremadura (UEx, Spain), Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra (UKF, Slovakia), Lisbon Lusíada University (LU, Portugal), University of Ostrava (OU, Czech Republic), Curtin University in Perth (CU, Australia), Borys Grinchenko Kyiv University (BGKU, Ukraine), Dniprodzerzhinsk State Technical University (DSTU, Ukraine), Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russia, St. Petersburg (HSPU, Russian Federation).

Eco society, the knowledge society, the digital society are transforming into an intelligent society. It is built on "smart" work, which is done by "intelligent" government and business representatives, based on "intelligent" infrastructure and "intelligent" citizens, playing a key role in creating culture. In addition, the priority is the development of such industries as smart transport, smart health, smart energy, smart food, etc., which will eventually lead to the creation of a smart world. SMARTs will play a special role in the preparation of new-generation specialists, in which e-learning and personalized learning will have priority. In an intelligent society, technologies, previously based on information and knowledge, are transformed into technologies based on interaction, cooperation, exchange of experiences – smart technologies.

Citizens, new generation specialists, turn their activities into "intelligent" ones and implement innovative changes in management strategies. This means that society needs more creative and open-minded persons, so that human dignity, based on flexibility and originality, will be a priority. The most important issue is the training of staff with creative potential, able to work and think in the new world. (Smyrnova–Trybulska, E., 2018, Technologie informacyjno-komunikacyjne i e-learning we współczesnej edukacji [Information and communication technologies and e-learning in modern education]. Katowice: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Śląskiego).

The conference topics include the following thematic sections:

1. E-environment and Cyberspace
- SMARTer Education – Preparing a New Generation of E-learning Specialists
- E-environment of the University.
- Smart-Universities
- Smart Technology in education
- E-learning in a sustainable society
- Internet of things
2. Effective development of teachers' skills in the area of ICT and e-learning
- Computer training for prospective and in-service teachers in the area ICT and e-learning,
- Teachers' and learners' competences in distance learning and computer science.
- Distance Learning and Lifelong Learning
- Self-learning based on Internet technology
3. E-learning and Intercultural Competences Development in Different Countries:

- Legal, social, human, scientific, technical aspects of distance learning and e-learning in different countries,
- Psychological and ethical aspects of distance learning and e-learning in different countries,
- Collaborative learning in e-learning,
4. E-learning Methodology – Implementation and Evaluation:
- European and national standards of e-learning quality evaluation,
- Evaluation of synchronous and asynchronous teaching and learning, methodology and good examples,
- MOOCs – methodology of design, conducting, implementation and evaluation,
- Contemporary trends in world education – globalization, internationalization, mobility.
5. ICT Tools – Effective Use in Education:
- Selected Web 2.0 and Web 3.0 technology,
- LMS, CMS, VSCR, SSA, CSA,
- Cloud computing environment, social media,
- Multimedia resources and didactic materials, Video-tutorial design.
6. Theoretical, Methodological Aspects of Distance Learning:
- Successful examples of e-learning,
- Distance learning in the humanities and science,
- Quality of teaching, training programs and assessment,
- E- learning for the disabled.
7. E-learning in the Development of Key Competences:
- Key competences in the knowledge society,
- Use of e-learning in improving the level of students' key competences,
8. Alternative Methods, Forms and Techniques in Distance Learning:
- simulations, models in distance learning,
- networking,
- distance learning systems,
- m-learning.

Among the keynote speakers of the DLCC Conference there were the best experts and scientists in the area of e-learning, social media, multimedia in education, in particular, prof. Piet Kommers (Twente University in the Netherlands), who is a well-known researcher in social-media, information technologies, and e-learning, and the main editor and member of a few international scientific journals; prof. dr hab. Nataliia Morze from the Borys Grinczenko Kyiv University (Ukraine), Vice-Chancellor of Informatisation, Correspondence Member of the

Figure 1. Poster of the DLCC2018 Conference (www.dlcc.us.edu.pl)

Ukrainian ANP, and the author of over 300 scientific publications, numerous textbooks, and monographs; Prof. Antonio dos Reis (Graal University, Portugal), well-known expert in the field of multimedia and virtual classroom, the author of more than 500 didactic video on YouTube Channel, prof. Pedro Isaias (University of Queensland, Australia), prof. Elspeth McKay, from the RMIT, Melbourne University (Australia), Prof. Norbert Pachler (Director of the Institute of Education, London University, United Kingdom), prof. dr hab. eng. Jan Kusiak (Director of the E-learning Center at AGH University of Science and Technology in Cracow, Poland), and over 300 participants from 20 countries.

Since 2009, 9 volumes of the international scientific monograph on e-learning series have been published (http://weinoe.us.edu.pl/nauka/serie-wydawnicze/seria-e-learning/seria-e-learning), indexed in 7 databases, in particular, the 9th vol. *"Effective Development of Teachers' Skills in the Area of ICT and E-learning"* was indexed in the Thomson Reuters Conference Proceedings Citation Index (Web of Science).

Within the framework of the Conference, a lot of different activities are planned and organised in addition to plenary and thematic sessions, e.g., e-roundtable debates, workshops, a special session for teachers, a videoconference with the participation of experts, experienced researchers, as well as teachers, PhD students, and tutors.

We would like to invite participants from different countries and universities to the 10th Annual International Scientific Conference on the Theoretical and Practical Aspects of Distance Learning, Subtitle: *E-learning and Smart Learning Environment for the Preparing of New Generation Specialists.*