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THE INCLUSIVE EDUCATION IN ROMANIA IN EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

Habilitation thesis

The habilitation thesis entitled *The inclusive education in Romania in european and international context* describes the scientific and professional achievements that I have gained in the period after obtaining the title of Doctor of Psychology (2005) and also the development and evolution plan of my career. This thesis contains firstly documents of my teaching activity and then my research investigating the process of inclusive education in the Romanian education system in European and international context, but beyond that, it has an interdisciplinary character, hiring subdomains and disciplines such as: education theory, training theory and methodology, curriculum theory, assessment theory and practice, special psychopedagogy, inclusive education, educational psychology, comparative pedagogy. This work is based on original results achieved in scientific and educational activities. Thesis has the following parts:

1. Scientific and Professional Achievements, with subdivisions:

1. The professional training, in which are mentioned the diploma degree in Pedagogy and Philology (“Babeş-Bolyai” University of Cluj-Napoca, Faculty of History and Philosophy, specialization Pedagogy – Romanian language and literature, 1997), the Postgraduate Diploma (“Babeş-Bolyai” University of Cluj-Napoca, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, specialization “Integrated Education”, 1998; Tempus scholarship at the University of Bologna, Italy), the degree of Doctor of Psychology (“Babeş-Bolyai” University of Cluj-Napoca, 2005; governmental scholarship at the University of Bologna, Italy).

2. Academic activity, which is probed at five levels: a). academic degrees and positions performed (at the moment, university professor in the Department of Private

Law and Educational Sciences, Faculty of Law, “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu and vicedean at the Faculty of Law); b). disciplines taught in university education; c). publication of teaching materials (lectures, teaching practices tutorial); d). organizer of scientific events (Conferința Internațională de Educație Nonformală - International Nonformal Education Conference); e). Inter-universities experience (national and international).

3. Scientific activity, detailed on the following aspects:

3.1. Participation in national and international scientific meetings

Until now, I was a member of the scientific committee of 6 international conferences held abroad, member of the scientific committee of 9 international conferences held in Romania, member of the scientific committee of several national conferences. I participated as a moderator, workshop coordinator in 11 international conference held in Romania. I also participated in numerous scientific congresses, conferences, sessions and symposia both national and international ones.

3.2. Participation in national and international research projects

Until present time, I participated as a leader but also as a member of 6 national and international research projects. Within these projects, I was leader of two research projects: (CNCSIS Project: IDEI Program, an Exploratory Research Project, Adaptarea curriculară - instrument fundamental în educația incluzivă, CNCSIS code ID_471, financing contract no. 882/19/01/2009; The research-operative project: Rolul parteneriatului în educația incluzivă, at the Pedagogical Research and Analysis Center - CCAP, from the Department of Private Law and Educational Sciences, the Faculty of Law of “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu) and member of the team of 4 research projects (CNCSIS Project, type AT - „Cultură politică și comportament electoral în România în anii democrației parlamentare 1866-1937”, code 25, no. 67GR / 2006; CEEEX Project. Module III - PROCED „Promovarea cercetării științifice privind calitatea vieții la nivelul comunității locale și implicații asupra educației” – 2006-2008, no. 158/2006; Research Project, PNCD II, PROMOESD „Program de educație timpurie psihomotrică la copiii de 3-6/7 ani în scopul adaptării eficiente la mediul școlar” no. 91064/18.09.2007; Leonardo da Vinci Project - „*Play and Learning for Inclusion*”, nr. LLP-Ldv/PAR/2009/RO/010.

3.3. Published papers. Until now, I have published as unic author, 5 scientific papers, of which a paper was published this year in Italian by an international publishing house, 3 papers as co-author, book chapters in 9 collective volumes and I coordinated 6 collective volumes. I have also published over 100 scientific works, published in magazines or books abroad and in Romania.

Relevant scientific contributions in the field of inclusive education are the subject of a special section and cover the following topics: A. Integration and inclusion of pupils with SEN in mainstream schools (theoretical contribution to conceptual boundaries of inclusive education, practical contribution, scientific research on the integration of pupils SEN in mainstream schools; implementation of specific strategies and tools of inclusive education and their dissemination in academic and education environments). B. Feuerstein method - Mediated Learning and Instrumental Enrichment Program (contribution to the dissemination of theoretical and formative Feuerstein method and also scientific research that used Instrumental Enrichment Program instruments, developed by Professor Reuven Feuerstein). C. Educational Partnership (contribution to the highlight of the role that educational partnership has within the instructive-formative education, through theoretical approach and relevant research, conducted in schools and academic environments).

3.4. Professional recognition, aiming at: a). affiliation with scientific and professional associations (member of 7 international scientific and professional associations and societies and member of 5 national scientific and professional associations); b). coordination of the Centre for Psychopedagogical Research and Analysis, Faculty of Law, Department of Private Law and Educational Sciences within “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu (within the Centre for Psychopedagogical Research and Analysis, theoretical and practical research are conducted, which contribute to the enhancement of the quality of the education process and of the formal and non-formal learning activities); c). keynote speaker / invited lecturer status and visiting professor at prestigious universities abroad: University of Sassari, Italy; University of Leon, Spain; University of Bergamo, Italy; Newman University of Birmingham, UK; College of Humanities and Economics in Sieradz, Poland; Federal University of Rio de Janeiro,

Brazil; University “La Laguna”, Tenerife, Spain; University of the Balearic Islands, Palma de Mallorca, Spain.

4. Development of scientific and professional career plan. Directions of research / teaching / practical applications. This plan was developed for short and medium term, for the next 2-3 years and considers three areas of future career development:

a). teaching; b). initiation of a research project (Modern strategies of training of students with high learning potential. Through this action-research process we will try to validate the hypothesis that the design and implementation of programs to exploit the high learning potential of pupils from middle school and high school through the use of modern training strategies (interactive methods, the development of critical and creative thinking, adapted and reorganized curriculum), contributes to significant performance gain in their education and training); c). publication of books as sole author and also as coordinator (publication of a research volume in education sciences; coordination of a collective internationally published volume – Inclusive Education, which includes the presentation of the essential characteristics of as many as possible European countries but also worldwide, on the development and implementation inclusive education. Every contribution of authors will include the following structure: Elements of development of inclusive education process; Legal documents which stipulate inclusive education, Presentation of inclusive education system; Tools and strategies for inclusive education used; examples of good practice, projects, case study).