

Students' Research Conference in Riga

14th International Students' Research Conference and 6th International Week of Professors at the Faculty of Education, Psychology and Arts took place in Riga from 11 till 15 May, 2015. This international week was attended by 22 lecturers from 11 countries – the United States of America, Austria, Check Republic, Lithuania, Estonia, the United Kingdom, Norway, Bulgaria, Turkey, Romania and Latvia representing 11 universities. Guest speakers presented their research and project initiatives.



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The Head of the Teacher Education Department, associate professor Dr.paed. **Indra Odiņa**, addressing the audience, said that it is not so important what you say as how you say. “Teachers work involves live performances in front of the audiences, and the conference is one of the ways to improve speaking skills. It was the reason to create an idea to give students the opportunity to develop their skills by organizing a conference, to improve knowledge of foreign languages and to speak a foreign language at an international conference,” says Indra Odina.

She adds that, each time it’s been a new challenge to manage during ten years an international student research conference.

Honorary Fellow of the University of Latvia from Austria and Norway

Dean of the Faculty of Education, Psychology and Arts, professor Andris Grīnfelds at the conference particularly welcomed Honorary Fellows: **Pia-Maria Rabensteiner** from the V.Frankl Pedagogical University College on the contribution of the students and lecturers in the international exchange programmes, as well as significant promotion of the international recognition of the University of Latvia in Austria and other countries, and associate professor

Asbjørn Kolberg from the Nord-Trøndelag University College on the similar contribution in Norway and all over the world.

Answering to the question what are the main areas of the research and what is essential for the pedagogy of the 21st century, P.M. Rabensteiner emphasizes that these are the possibilities to change. The society is multicultural, but each country has its own identity. Although we speak our own language in Europe, we need to understand and perceive each other, as well as to accept differences. A. Kolbergs also believes that it is very important to know the languages.

Answering to the question which characteristics are



LU Honorary Fellow from Norway professor Asbjørn Kolberg acknowledges that it is very important to find a balance between social skills and technologies, to know the languages and to be many-sided.

required for the teachers, P.M. Rabensteiner points out that she can speak

more about a teacher as the personality. She believes that the most important is to have social skills and competencies, one needs to know how to communicate and respect each other. “The teacher’s job is full of challenges and you have to be able to cooperate with parents because they also once attended school and everyone has his/hers own experience, therefore, the family affects a lot”, tells the professor.

A. Kolbergs indicates that for the teacher it is important to find a balance between social skills and technologies, and such subjects like Music, Art and Sports are important as well.



LU Honorary Fellow from Austria Ms Pia-Maria Rabensteiner emphasizes that importance of social skills, the ability to respect each other and do something with your hands are very important for both students and teachers.

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