Title: Editorial

Author: Eugenia Smyrnova-Trybulska, Anna Studenska

Citation style: Smyrnova-Trybulska Eugenia, Studenska Anna. (2021). Editorial. "International Journal of Research in E-learning " (2021), Vol. 7, iss. 1, s. 1-3. DOI: 10.31261/IJREL.2021.7.1.01

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Editorial

The IJREL Editorial Board is pleased to release the seventh number of the Journal. The present volume contains ten articles gathered in four chapters. Chapter I is entitled Research on Distance, Online and Blended Learning in COVID-19 time.

The texts focus on solutions introduced in online learning used in the conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the issue, the reader will also find articles devoted to the methodology of teacher preparation to use ICT tools in the classroom and students use of learning strategies during remote knowledge and skills acquisition.

Preparation of teachers to use new technologies in online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic is the topic of the article by Ukrainian researchers – **Oksana Strutynska and Mariia Umryk**. The authors gathered data on the technologies used in higher education in their country. They referred their results to distance, online, and blended learning solutions. The data indicate that the teachers are aware of the possibilities to use numerous tools in online learning and want to increase their skills in this area. However, they see the need to gain more competence in using various tools. The results also show the necessity to improve work management and to decrease teachers' workload. The survey indicated the need for psychological support for teachers and motivational incentives.

Cloud computing and its use in education is the theme of the article by Portuguese Authors **Nuno Silva and Isabel Alvarez**. The text presents technical, pedagogical, as well as ethical and social aspects of using a Cloud to create, store, and retrieve knowledge. Data analysis was conducted in the context of the Luisiada University, which has its locations in Portugal and former Portuguese colonies in Africa. The results revealed difficulties with working with Cloud which stem from differences in culture, legal solutions, and students' competences. The authors to drew valuable conclusions on the importance of these difficulties with generating and sharing knowledge worldwide.

The usage of learning strategies by students participating in distance learning is the topic of the article by **Lucie Zormanová**. The article is a state-of-the-art re-

view of literature findings. On the basis of existing literature, the author extracted information on which learning strategies are preferred by the students learning online, which factors influence the use of strategies enhancing knowledge acquisition in online learning, and what kind of research methods has been used to explore the topic of learning strategies use among online learners.

Ukrainian researchers: **Nadia Balyk, Inna Grod, Yaroslav Vasylenko, Galyna Shmyger, and Vasyl Oleksiuk** devote their article to augmented reality and its role in training future teachers of computer science. The authors present the project in which students created an augmented technology application on the Unity Platform. The text contains valuable methodological insights from the project and the data presented support the effectiveness of using augmented reality in the classroom.

Chapter II "Innovative Methods and Technology in Education" includes three articles. **Svitlana Skvortsova and Tetiana Britskan** – in their article "Organization of Mathematical Distance Learning in Primary Schools" – provide data on the use of online services for creating virtual classrooms and interactive exercises, as well as organizing and conducting distance lessons in Ukrainian elementary education during the first months of the COVID-19 pandemic. The data obtained provide evidence that knowledge of various services and applications should be supported by encouragement to use them extensively, which is especially important in the case of Google Classroom and tools for creating interactive videos. The authors of the article provide valuable recommendations and solutions concerning services which are designed to conduct online learning.

Juan Arias Masa, Rafael Martín Espada, and Juan Arias Abelaira present the article "Teaching in the subject 'Systems Interconnection' of Extremadura University". The authors describe the contents of the "System Interconnection" course, basic competences to be acquired by students, teaching methodology, including expository classes, practical tasks, autonomous and virtual learning, as well as course evaluation results. The authors present evidence for gradual increase in students marks as the course is perfected and especially as summative evaluation was introduced in 2017.

The review of the data concerning the usage of new technologies in the Czech Republic is contained in the article titled: "Czech Population Sociability Online in the European Context" by **Hanne-Lore Bobáková and Martina Chylková**. The text shows the usage of various online learning tools in the Chech Republic and other European countries. The authors focused on online learning participation and Internet usage skills.

Chapter III "Theoretical, Methodological and Practical Aspects of ICT and E-Learning In Education. E-Learning In Development Of Key Competences And Skills In Education" contains two papers.

In the article "Measuring Student Involvement When Taking Tests in E-learning Courses", **Krzysztof Dziedzic** from Poland presents the study on the effectiveness of using the Quizzer e-learning platform. The text presents the platform which provides data on the correctness of answers, number of attempts, hint usage, and time of users' reactions. The data provided illustrate the utility of the platform and show the most effective modes to its usage in online education.

In the article "Visual Literacy as a Dimension of the Young generation's Cultural Capital – Comparative Research" by **Małgorzata Wieczorek-Tomaszewska,** the results presented focus on opinions on visual communication and visual literacy of Polish and Italian students. The results of the extensive study, which uses both qualitative and quantitative approach, showed, among others, that traditional visual artwork is present in the lives of young generation and young people are able to recognize authors of various paintings, as well as characters and symbols which they contain. Evidence is given for the great importance attached to visual forms of communication by the young generation, especially in shaping attitudes and providing information. The data presented in the text show that the young generation is well prepared for taking advantage of modern technologies in which presentation of information in the visual form is prevalent.

Chapter IV "Reports" includes one article. "A Report from the 12th Annual International Scientific Conference 'Theoretical and Practical Aspects of Distance learning' DLCC2020 (www.dlcc.us.edu.pl) entitled 'Innovative Educational Technologies, Tools and Methods for E-learning', held online at the Uiversity of Silesia, Poland, October 12th and 13th, 2020 DLCC2020", prepared by **Eugenia Smyrnova-Trybulska,** describes proceedings from 12th Annual International Scientific Conference 'Theoretical and Practical Aspects of Distance learning': ogranisers, programme, lectures and presentation, keynote speakers, events, some conclusions, and photoreportage.

We hope that studies and solutions included in the present IJREL volume will be inspiring and encourage reflection on how to manage the increasing demand for online education.

Eugenia Smyrnova-Trybulska
https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1227-014X
Anna Studenska
https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6699-9510