



Distance Learning Implementation at Preschool Teacher Training Colleges in Serbia

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Abstract

Higher education plays an important role in our society, but overall potential of vocational colleges has not been fully realized. Serbian colleges often lack the management tools and funding to match their goals, but they are constantly working on modernization and harmonization of their curricula, as well as on improvement of cooperation with labour market and strengthening their links with local communities. European Union-level actions help higher education institutions throughout Serbia in their efforts to modernise, both in terms of the courses they offer and the way they operate. The challenges facing higher education are similar across the European Union and there are clear advantages in working together. In order to improve preschool teachers' education and training and make it responsive to new demands of this type of educational provision Preschool Teacher Training Colleges in Serbia have participated in project of Distance Learning implementation. General idea of the project is to harmonize and modernize curriculums for preschool teachers so that they would gain functional knowledge and competencies, as well as to improve cooperation between Preschool Teacher Training Colleges and labour market and strengthen their links with local communities. Over the past decade vocational colleges have sought opportunities to enroll new students and provide their service to wider student population. The authors of this paper discuss how implementation of Distance Learning at preschool teacher training colleges positively broadens and deepens these efforts. Distance Learning has become one of the means of more effective teaching worldwide and innovative use of technologies has created more effective techniques to distribute learning in non-traditional ways. Implementing distance learning programs requires new technical and pedagogical skills, but its implementation makes vocational colleges responsive to new educational demands.