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| INSTITUTI PEDAGOGJIK I KOSOVËSPEDAGOSKI INSTITUT KOSOVAKOSOVO PEDAGOGICAL INSTITUTE |

**SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE**

**September 20th 2024**

**“National and international evaluations in pre-university education in Kosovo: experiences and perspectives for the future”**

The Curriculum Framework of pre-university education in Kosovo defines two types of assessment: internal and external assessment. The internal assessment is done at the school/class level, by the school teachers, according to the guidelines provide in the curriculum documents as well as the procedures and criteria defined by by-laws of the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI). The external assessment is a standardized state assessment. It aims to measure the level of achievement of learning outcomes and mastery of competencies by students at the end of the three levels of pre-university education. Kosovo also participates in several international external assessments to measure the level of knowledge and skills of students in certain fields and subjects.

This year, the Kosovo Pedagogical Institute (KPI) organizes the annual scientific conference with a focus on national and international evaluations in pre-university education in Kosovo, experiences and their perspective for the future. In this conference, national assessments refer to external standardized state assessments such as the achievement test (at the end of grade IX) and the state matura exam (at the end of grade XII). International assessments refer to the PISA, TIMSS and PIRLS tests in which Kosovo currently participates.

This conference will bring together academics, researchers, pedagogues, teachers and school leaders, policy makers and international and national experts in the field of education to share their knowledge and experiences. Through presentations, discussion panels and interactive sessions, the conference will provide opportunities for the exchange of experiences, identification of effective forms of cooperation between different actors to develop educational policies that rely on reliable data and research. This way, the KPI conference provides opportunities for a deep and fruitful dialogue on the ways in which the results in national and international evaluations can be improved and can be used for reforming and improving the pre-university education system in Kosovo.

**Aim of the conference**

The aim of the scientific conference on "National and international evaluations in pre-university education in Kosovo: experiences and perspectives for the future" is to analyze and discuss experiences, the current situation and challenges of pre-university education in Kosovo, with a special emphasis on standardized state assessments and international assessments in which Kosovo participates. This conference will serve as a reference and opportunity for researchers, educators, teachers and school leaders, education professionals and policy makers interested in sharing ideas, strategies and best practices in the field of education in general and assessment in particular.

**MAIN TOPIC OF THE CONFERENCE: “National and international evaluations in pre-university education in Kosovo: experiences and perspectives for the future”**

**Specific topics to be addressed at the conference**:

* **Topic 1. The current system of national evaluations:** Analysis of current methods and practices of national assessments – standardized external state assessments such as the achievement test (at the end of grade IX) and the state matura exam (at the end of grade XII) – in pre-university education in Kosovo. Experiences, challenges and opportunities for improvement.
* **Topic 2. Kosovo in international evaluations:** Kosovo's participation in international assessments (PISA, TIMSS, PIRLS) including experiences related to the preparation and administration of assessments, analysis and presentation of the results as well as policies and strategies of using the results to improve the education system. Experiences, challenges and opportunities for improvement.
* **Topic 3. Comparison of national evaluations with experiences from other countries:** Presentations and discussion on international practices and standards of national assessments in pre-university education in different countries. What can Kosovo learn from these experiences?
* **Topic 4. Approaches and strategies for effective utilization of the results of national and international assessments:** Studies, presentations and discussion on practical approaches and strategies for the effective use of the results of national and international assessments for reforming and improving the pre-university education system.
* **Topic 5. Prospects for the future of national and international evaluations in Kosovo:** Discussion on new trends and innovations in education, with a focus on national and international evaluations, as well as the ways they can be applied in the context of Kosovo to prepare students for the challenges of the 21st century.

These topics are comprehensive and hopefully motivating for academics, researchers, pedagogues, teachers and school leaders, policy makers and experts interested in presenting their latest research in these areas. We expect that the presenters and participants will help us achieve the purpose of the conference by encouraging collaboration and dialogue among participants.

**GUIDING QUESTIONS** – which can be addressed by researchers and presenters in their papers and presentations:

**Topic 1. The current system of national evaluations:**

* What are the experiences from the standardized state assessments (grades IX and XII) that are currently organized in pre-university education in Kosovo?
* How do these assessments affect performance improvement, learning outcomes and student motivation?
* What are the main challenges faced by the education system in Kosovo in relation to standardized state assessments and how can they be addressed?

**Topic 2. Kosovo in international evaluations:**

* How has Kosovo responded to the requirements and standards for participation and organization of international evaluations?
* What are the main lessons learned from Kosovo's participation in international assessments - PISA, TIMSS and PIRLS?
* How can the results from these evaluations be used to influence the improvement of educational policies and practices in Kosovo?

**Topic 3. Comparison of national evaluations with experiences from other countries:**

* What are some of the most successful assessment practices in education that are implemented in other countries (EU and beyond)?
* How can these practices and experiences be adapted to the context of Kosovo?
* What are the challenges and opportunities arising from the implementation of foreign assessment practices and experiences in the education system of Kosovo?

**Topic 4. Approaches and strategies for effective utilization of the results of national and international assessments:**

* What are the most effective strategies to improve the quality of pre-university education using the results from national and international evaluations?
* What are the requirements for raising the professional capacities of teachers and leaders to run and manage the evaluation system - national and international?
* How can assessment be used to increase responsibility and accountability in education at the school, municipality and central level?
* What are the recommendations from research in the Kosovar and international context for the improvement of educational policies based on the results from national and international evaluations?
* How can these policies be implemented to ensure a positive and sustainable impact on the education system in Kosovo?

**Topic 5. Prospects for the future of national and international evaluations in Kosovo:**

* What are the main trends and innovations in the field of education that affect national and international evaluations in the future?
* How can Kosovo prepare to improve the education system based on trends and innovations in the field of assessment in pre-university education?

**CONFERENCE PROGRAM (WORKING VERSION)**

To ensure a good combination of presentations, interactive discussions and networking opportunities, as well as to enable participants to get the most out of the conference in one day, the following working version has been planned:

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| Time |  |  |
| 8:00 - 9:00 | Registration | Participants register and receive the conference material |
| 9:00 - 9:30 | Opening session | Opening speeches by key figures in the field of education: MESTI, KPI, FE |
| 9:30 – 10:15 | Keynote speech | Presentation of the main topic of the conference – related to national and international evaluations.Moderated discussion. |
| 10:15 – 10:30 | Pauzë për kafe |  |
| 10:30 – 12:00 | Parallel sessions, panel discussions and presentations | Parallel sessions addressing specific topics, led by experts and academics. The sessions include several short presentations (from 15-20 minutes) and a period for questions and answers.Discussion panels on the topic of national assessments. |
| 12:00 – 13:00 | Dreka |  |
| 13:00 – 14:30 | Parallel sessions, panel discussions and presentations | Parallel sessions addressing specific topics, led by experts and academics. The sessions include several short presentations (from 15-20 minutes) and a period for questions and answers.Discussion panels on the topic of international assessments. |
| 14:30 – 15:15 | Keynote speech | Presentation of the main topic of the conference – related to national and international evaluations.Moderated discussion. |
| 15:15 – 15:45 | Joint discussion | Plenary session presenting key points and data gathered from previous sessions.Open and final discussions on the topics covered. |
| 15:45 – 16:00 | Conference closure | Closing remarks from IPK summarizing the conference's achievements and next steps.Closing the conference and thanking the participants. |

**NOTE: The program will be adapted to allow for the presentation of papers and discussions about the conference themes.**

**PRESENTATION FORMAT:**

You can prepare and send your presentation in one of the following formats:

* **Parallel session presentation –** short 15-20 minute presentations of scientific research papers.
* **Panel discussion** – related to one of the sub-topics of the conference with professionals in the field.
* **Poster presentation** – presentation of different studies, case studies and experiences from different professionals.

**WHEREAS,**

* **Presentation in plenary session** – there will be keynote speeches by invited presenters (local and international). These presenters will be identified by KPI and in cooperation with partner institutions.

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

* **Abstract submission: until April 1, 2024.**
* *The abstract contains up to 250 words.*
* **Response to the abstract submission: until April 15, 2024.**
* **Submission of the complete paper: until June 1, 2024.**
* *Submission of the complete paper: until June 1, 2024.*
* **Submission of the revised/completed paper: by July 1, 2024.**
* **Preparation of papers for publication: until July 12, 2024.**
* **Conference date: September 20, 2024.**
* **Venue: Prishtina**

**Abstracts/papers are sent by email to the conference address**: konferenca.ipk@gmail.com

For any information related to the conference, you will be notified through the website of the Pedagogical Institute of Kosovo <https://ipkmasht.rks-gov.net>

We welcome you!

 **CRITERIA AND STYLE OF WRITING CONFERENCE PAPERS**

**Abstract:**

* They should contain 200 to 250 words.
* Font style: Times New Roman 12, while the title Times New Roman 14.
* Title of the paper: The title of the paper should represent the content of the paper. It should contain no more than 12 words.
* **Specific topic of the conference:** (one of the five topics of the conference is marked).
* **Data for the author:** Name, surname of the author, name of the institution where the author works, as well as e-mail address.
* The abstract should contain a brief introduction to the topic, purpose, main method used, findings or implications and main expected conclusions.
* The abstract must have up to five (5) keywords. APA writing style, 7th edition.

**The abstract should be sent via electronic mail/e-mail:** konferenca.ipk@gmail.com

Only after an evaluation, their acceptance or rejection will be made. After positive evaluation of abstracts and approval by the Scientific Council of the Conference, authors are invited to send the full paper for presentation at the conference and publication in the Conference Proceedings Book.

**Publication of papers**

The full proceedings from the conference will be published in the Conference Proceedings Book. The papers, which will be considered for publication, must meet the following criteria:

* Papers must respect APA style (structure, references, writing style).
* Name, surname of the author, name of the institution where the author works.
* Font style Times New Roman 12, while the title Times New Roman 14.
* Name and surname of **at least two reviewers of the paper.**
* The paper must have an abstract according to the criteria given above.
* Papers for publication should contain: introduction to the topic and purpose, literature review, methodology used, findings and their analysis, discussion and implications, conclusions and recommendations.
* The paper should contain 2500 to 2700 words.

**The paper for publication should be sent via electronic mail/e-mail:** konferenca.ipk@gmail.com

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