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Formation of professional identity of social pedagogy students as future specialists in college (the case of Kaunas College)

Such evolutionary processes, as globalisation and development of technologies, europeisation and transformation change the conception of socio-economical, cultural and scientific functioning in the West Europe and in post-soviet countries in the East Europe. Those processes change the nature of activity in various fields of economics: in industry, in the field of service sector and technologies of product creation and production. The mentioned technological and evolutionary changes raise new challenges for the quality of human resources of various organisations, which function in the market, thus such context changes the attitude towards specialists preparation in higher schools.

A college, as an institution, in which preparation of specialists is oriented to professional activity, not only provides conditions for its students to obtain higher education and professional qualification, but also seeks to form and develop competence of a specialist, when a student masters the newest professional knowledge and develops his general (European) competencies. These competencies enable a young specialist to be open for scientific, cultural, and social innovations, to work in the conditions of rapid development of technologies and integrate successfully into labour market.

In such context higher schools (universities and colleges) face various problems of theoretical and practical preparation of specialists. Nowadays both aspects: development of specialists' professional qualification and formation of their human capital are important. Thus higher schools try to answer the urgent questions: *How prepare such specialists, who would be able to function successfully in labour market and plan their career? What problems students (including students of social pedagogy) face, integrating into labour market? How teachers of higher schools should form professional identity of future specialists that later they could function effectively in labour market.*

So, the **aim** of this presentation is to identify the peculiarities of professional identity formation of social pedagogues in a college.

The **goals** of the presentation are the following:

1. Present the process of students' voluntary activity organization in Kaunas College Kėdainiai Jonušas Radvila Faculty, treating students' voluntary activity as a presumption, which helps to form professional, special and general competencies of students.
2. Discuss the change of motives and factors, which influence the decision making of social pedagogues as future specialists about their career.
3. Point out the main problems of preparation to participate in labour market, which face the students of social pedagogy.

The research **object** – formation of professional identity of students of social pedagogy.

This presentation is prepared, applying such **methods of scientific research**: analysis of research literature and documents; structured interview; statistical analysis of research data.

The authors of this presentation share the holistic attitude towards formation of professional competence. That's why we do not pay great attention to the traditional research question – how to give / take the benefit of professional experience and knowledge; and formation of practical skills. We try to find the new attitude towards specialists' preparation, i.e. to find possibility to include new educational technologies (for example students' voluntary activity) into process of specialists preparation.

The presentation consists of the three parts. In the first part the authors discuss about the presumptions of organisation of students' voluntary activity in the college, as a factor, which helps to form and develop students professional competence. The motives and factors, which influence the students' choice of profession, are analysed in the second part, treating those factors as the first successful or unsuccessful step of young specialists into labour market. And the results of the research of students' preparation to participate into labour market are presented into the third part of presentation.

Key words: preparation of specialists; professional identity; competence; labour market.