

Sprawozdanie z Konferencji – Special Topic Meeting: *Positive Youth Development in the Context of the Global Recession: A summary*
(23-25 października 2014, Praga)

Society for Research in Child Development organized a special topic meeting focusing on positive youth development in the context of the global recession. Presented researches were based on children and young people development influenced by current economy, policy, social context. In the occasion of international conference, three huge organizations met: SRCD, HDIN, EADP.

The Society for Research in Child Development is built by approximately 5,500 members across the world. The interest in human development is supplemented by an effort to make multidisciplinary research which will be publicly available. The main aim is to be effective in applications of scientific knowledge in a real practice. The Human Development Intervention Network tries to connect researches across the globe as it is written on the heading of this organization. The main mission is to encourage relationships between researchers and workers in psychological practice, to facilitate interdisciplinary, cross-institutional collaboration and learning globally, in order to make interventions in field of human psychology more effective and evident. European Association of Developmental Psychology was represented by

its president Frosso Motti on the conference. This association is focusing on opening up scientific psychology in order to public interests and needs throughout Europe. There is promoting an exchange of related information between science which meets national and international organizations. Support and training of young European researches becomes to be very important as well.

The host country was Czech Republic. The conference program included plenary, break-out sessions, and poster symposia every day. Some eminent professors appeared such as Hirokazu Yoshikawa, Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, Lonnie Sherrod, Simon Sommer, and Anne Peterson from USA, Frosso Motti from Greece, Rainer Silbereisen, Mark Stemmler, and Manuel Voelkle from Germany, Suman Verma from India, Cigdem Kagitcibasi from Turkey. Even during lunch time, a special meeting with professors were offered for young researches to ask them for their work, carrier, and scientific interests. That kind of less formal event emerged first time on conference and received very positive feedbacks.

Few words to summarize the exchange of shared knowledge and experiences, it was the importance to prefer

long-term and longitudinal research in developmental psychology, in order to compare different cultures and nationalities, and to take into consideration the significant role of whole context. Moreover, the researches should be compared and confront with international and multicultural approach what might be more current and relevant tendency. The key to understand child development is based on an economic and social context assessment with educational needs together. Mainly, the subject of the Positive Youth Development is oriented on the education as a promise of better life (it is possible to discuss in this point of assessed issue of over-qualified society and higher rate of unemployment, however the disagreeing of higher education could guarantee higher satisfaction with life).

Economic crisis is perceived as one of risk factors coming from human environment and social context. USA and West Europe are solving the tragic impact of world economic crisis what is recognized to be the worthiest after the II World War. Generally, deteriorative life conditions caused by this crisis are reflected in lower rate of well-being and lower satisfaction with life, what is more higher rate of depression and another negative psychical symptoms

and disorders. According numerous researchers, mainly depression is connected to the impossibility of achieving common goals such as a work, hobbies, and "higher" needs. Basically, the following terms which emerged more often during the conference were: resiliency, vulnerability, risk and protective factors, cohorts, role of time, social and economic context. Positive effects of crisis were mentioned too, although, the current conditions differ in every country. How it was pointed out by "not-WEIRD" participants, most of scientist are talking about tragedy caused by the economic recession how it is loss of work, lower Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and less feeling of well-being – and another countries are solving such kind of crisis when people are dying because of lack of food, girls bear children in their thirteen, conditions do not permit to life in proper hygiene.

The conference on Positive Youth Development in the Context of the Global Recession was assessed as very successful as well as helpful in these discussed issues. Following event organized by SRCD is going to start in March 2015 in Philadelphia, USA. It is labeled as '2015 SRCD Biennial Meeting'.

Simona Musilová