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A report on the research of Teacher Education in Central and Eastern Europe

In 2012 the Jesuit University of Ignatianum in Cracow, under of the guidance of Prof. dr hab. Jolanta Karbowniczek, joined the international research project ***Teacher Education in Central and Eastern Europe***, of which the main partner was the University of Debrecen in Hungary. The partners of that project were also the *University in Opole*, the *University of Matej Bela*, the *Catholic University in Ruzomberok* in Slovakia, *University of Hradec Kralove* and *Palacky University in Olomouc* in the Czech Republic. There were also some participants from Bulgaria and Romania. The project was funded by a Wyszehrad Grant. There were many members from our university: dr Anna Królikowska, dr Beata Topij-Stepińska, dr Marzena Chrost, dr Anna Błasiak, mgr Monika Grodecka, dr Barbara Surma, dr Ewa Dybowska, dr Marta Prucnal, dr Katarzyna Szewczuk, dr Krystyna Zabawa, dr Irena Pulak, dr Aneta Kamińska and mgr Elżbieta Miterka. Dr Aneta Kamińska was the language coordinator of the project. The head of the project, from the University of Debrecen, was Prof. dr hab. Gabriella Pusztai, and the main coordinator was dr Agnes Engler.

The aim of the research was both theoretical and empirical. The researchers wanted to compare many aspects connected to teachers' education and work in different countries, and to use the data in their practice in the future. They worked together to analyse and produce some final conclusions on this subject. Both qualitative and quantitative research methods were used. Many participants used qualitative research methods. They examined the policy documents and some other data of research that had been already undertaken. Some of the members used quantitative methods as diagnostic methods, especially questionnaires to

the students of Jesuit University Ignatianum in Cracow. The studies were divided into eight thematic areas:

1. Aspects of educational policy relating to teacher education.
2. Aspects of educational policy relating to a teacher's *Continuing Professional Development*.
3. Self-selection and recruitment of teacher education students/teaching profession.
4. Teacher education students living on campus – nurturing talents, leisure activities, networks and professional pro-socialization.
5. The future professional plans of teacher education students – professional and private.
6. The social construction of the image of the teacher in wider society and its effects on *Teacher Education* students and teachers.
7. Curricula, extracurricular activities and values in teacher education.
8. Preparation of teachers for special education.

The project began in September 2012. Firstly, the researchers had time to collect the data of their thematic areas and then they prepared short papers that were translated into English and were discussed with their international partners at the International Conference in Debrecen, at the Centre of the Hungarian Academy of Science that was organized by the University of Debrecen in June 2013. The participants of the conferences from the Jesuit University were Prof. dr hab. Jolanta Karbowiczek, dr Anna Królikowska, dr Irena Pulak and dr Aneta Kamińska. The researchers have prepared full papers of their studies that will be published in a Volume of *Teacher Education in Central and Eastern Europe* in January 2014. There will also be a website of *Teacher Education in Central and Eastern Europe* (TECERN) research, which will be available for students, academic teachers and other people interested in that data.

The cooperation was successful and the Polish researchers are going to share other projects with their Hungarian partner and other participants in the future. The project has served as stimuli to extend our research of teacher education, work and the social view.