

Habilitation Dissertation

**"CREATIVE ENDEAVOURS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF
PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCES OF FUTURE TEACHERS"**

Gabriela Kelemen, Ph.D.

Gabriela Kelemen is Professor, holding a Ph.D. at the Department of Pedagogy, Psychology and Social Work, Faculty of Educational Science, Psychology and Social Work, "Aurel Vlaicu" University of Arad, Romania (<http://www.uav.ro/ro/facultati/stiinte-ale-educatiei-psihiologie-si-asistenta-sociala>). She holds a Ph.D. in Education Sciences from Babes Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, obtained in 2008 after the submission of the thesis entitled "Identification and education of gifted children" at the Babes-Bolyai University, scientific coordinator Professor Vasile Chiş, Ph.D. Her areas of expertise are: Pedagogy of preschool and primary school, Didactics of Romanian Language, Psycho Pedagogy of play, Psycho Pedagogy of learning disabilities, Fundamentals of Special Education, Methodology of integrative activities, Didactics of early learning activities and young schooling, The competence profile of educators for early education and young schooling. She is editor-in-chief of the Journal Plus Education, journal with coverage and indexing in: Ulrich's, IndexCopernicus, DOAJ, EBSCO, Cabell Publishing, Directory of Research Journals Indexing, CEEOL, WorldCat.org, CrossReff and according to CNCSIS classification it is a B+ category journal.

The first section of the habilitation thesis *Axiological remodelling of contemporary education* begins with a summary of professional, academic achievements and scientific performances which try to underline aspects of university teaching activity related to the initial training of future teachers for preschool and primary school education. The concerns for an efficient professional activity in training future teachers are emphasized by our attempt to search and find optimizing didactic strategies. They aim for an efficient and thorough training of future teachers for preschool and primary school education from theoretical and practical perspective. The Postmodern contemporary society with all that it implies requires well-balanced training of the young generation so as they would be able to face social challenges. Moreover it is necessary

to pay increased attention to the training and education of students who wish to pursue a teaching career.

The candidate, Gabriela Kelemen elaborated and published books and academic courses: 11 books as unique author published by National A2 category publishing houses; she published 5 volumes at prestigious publishing houses from abroad, 2 volumes, as co-author și coordinator at national publishing houses, 5 chapters in collective volumes in category A2 publishing houses or acknowledged by CNCSIS Commission, 21 studies in volumes, 10 studies and articles in volumes and foreign journals of education, 4 of them in ISI journals, 54 studies and articles in volumes and journals of education recognized by the academic community and the CNADTCU Commission, 3 articles in ISI Proceedings and 24 studies as a result of participation in national and international conferences. The habilitation thesis refers to several strategies to improve the initial teacher education area where the candidate Gabriela Kelemen has already published several books and studies.

Refers to the issue of *Contribution to developing the didactics for primary and preschool education*. In this area, the candidate Gabriela Kelemen has stressed the importance of knowledge of pedagogy and she considers that is absolutely necessary for a teacher to understand the historical evolution of pedagogic approaches, to be up-to-date with research in the field of pedagogy, didactics, to use the most adequate learning strategies and to use the proper ones in a concrete learning situation. Her books and studies have brought contribution to the enrichment of didactics for primary and preschools education, underlined the manners of implementation of preschool and primary school curricula, learning difficulties and strategies for preventing them, pragmatic modalities for achieving a correct and expressive Romanian language, the role of the play in developing the personality of children in early ages, using modern and active methods in order to improve learning in students, knowledge about psychology of child with different ages.

The candidate, Gabriela Kelemen, was the director of a research and development project PERFORMER- *Perspectives of training by masters of early education professionals and small schooling at a higher quality level* with a value of €1 146 477, 00, is a director of a research and development project SOCIO-PLUS with a value of €1 950 358.27, director of a research and development project Erasmus Intensive Program Play, Toy and Culture with a value of €24 383,00, director of a research and development project Erasmus Plus KA2 Programme SPSM- Employabilité en Europe with a value of €35 996,00, and a team member in the international

project Erasmus Plus KA2 Programme What really matters (WRM), and in the national project “Studentul consiliat-excelent viitor angajat!”

În the second part of habilitation thesis, the candidate has described her activities in the domain of pedagogical research. She has written numerous articles about her research published in different journals. She has participated with research and studies to prestigious national and international conferences.

In the third section of the habilitation thesis –*Plans of career development and evolution*, the candidate Gabriela Kelemen describes the main directions of the professional and research path that she wants to follow and these priorities are related to the two previously mentioned areas: to continue to develop the professional competence of students in the domain of didactics for future professors. In other words, I will concentrate my efforts in my research and attempt to discover the most efficient strategies for a more efficient preparation of future teachers. The second domain of study, but equally important is the domain of Gifted Children. My research focuses on ways of identifying gifted children and develops the best methods for education of gifted children according to their specific intelligence and talent.

Concerning the academic career, after obtaining habilitation the candidate intends to apply for the quality of doctoral supervisor. The second aspect of professional development is the willingness for continuous improvement in teaching activities, trying to perform more adequate and stressing the importance of blending theory with practice. The most important abilities of trainings programmes can be identified by a close relationship with students. The research results will be published in prestigious publication and integrated in the educational process.