

## Conference “TEACHER – INSTRUCTION – INNOVATION”

**On Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019, the Department of Information and Communication Technologies held a conference for elementary school teachers and principals. Judging by participant reviews, the conference was a success.**

The various ways of using modern technology in education were presented to elementary school teachers and principals, as well as their potential future colleagues (the Pedagogical Faculty students), in the form of workshops.

The approximately 120 conference attendees could attend 24 workshops. Some of the workshops were so popular that they had to be presented multiple times. The following are some of the workshops presented at the conference:

- Augmented reality in education
- Use of iPad in teaching pupils with special educational needs
- Ozobot in instruction
- Minecraft in instruction
- iPad in mathematics instruction
- Use of tablets for programming
- Reading literacy with iPad

The positive reviews prove that the conference was successful and useful:

*“I would like to thank you for an amazing event! I liked not only the fact that the conference was held on a Saturday (as I teach at a small school where there is not enough substitute teachers), but also that there were so many great workshops that I did not know which one to attend (I wished I could have cloned myself). What I liked the most, however, was that many of the workshops were aimed at programming for children. I have been a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade informatics teacher for a couple of years now, and have to say that children’s approach to informatics changes every year. 8 years ago, children were not familiar with computers at all and had to learn the basics. 4 years ago, children had already learned how to use a computer at home, but they were glad they could create something on it at school. Today, the majority of children know how to use computers and touch devices and they are not interested in the things we used to do in informatics class. Therefore, I need new inspiration and I think children might actually be interested in using robotic toys. That is why I would welcome an event aimed at different kinds of programming (suitable for lower primary school pupils)”.*

*“Extremely thought-provoking, but not enough “playing” time. The hour flew by. Next time, I would like to see it go from Monday through Friday with a shorter lunch break. I would not mind a conference fee, either. It was amazing. Thanks once again to all involved”.*

*“I would like to thank the organizers for a successful and thought-provoking conference. I left with many ideas to improve instruction”.*

Having received so many wonderful reviews, we can assure you that similar conferences will be held in the future.

This event showed us that a university can do more than produce scientific results. It can be an environment that encourages discussions and sharing of experience between teachers. This platform can also be beneficial for us scientists as it helps us understand the problems teachers face, allowing us to try and find solutions to them.

Tomas Javorcik

Executive Editor