

Hanna Kurian-Harkowiec

**PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCES OF EDUCATORS IN SCIENCE
CENTERS IN POLAND**

SUMMARY

Keywords: professional competences, qualifications, professionalism, educator, science center.

The work consists of an introduction, four chapters, an ending containing conclusions from own research and recommendations for practice, a bibliography, netography and an annex. The main purpose of the considerations was to determine the opinions of educators on the professional competences of people working with children in science centers and the factors differentiating these opinions. The issue of informal education is presented in a broad context. A literature review was conducted regarding the competences, qualifications and professionalism of teachers employed in science centers.

The research used a survey questionnaire and professional biographies of respondents. Analyzes of the collected material are quantitative and qualitative. It was found that opinions on the competences of people employed in science centers in Poland are diverse. Some people noticed that they and other educators lack preparation to work with children. There were correlations between variables. There is a need to conduct additional classes and workshops to improve the competences of this professional group. Further research on educators's competences is necessary because it is an important social problem. Non-formal education has an increasing impact on the development of interests, passions and talents of the young generation. People supporting her should be professionals and perform their professional duties efficiently.