

**THE POSITION OF EDUCATORS IN GLOBAL EDUCATION****^{1,*}Dr. Sci. Minela Kerla and ²Dr. Sci. Džana Rahimić Ramić**¹Association of Online Educators-UONEDU, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina²University of Sarajevo, Faculty of Philosophy, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina**Received 25th May 2025; Accepted 29th June 2025; Published online 31st July 2025****Abstract**

The 6th international conference of the Association of Online Educators (UONEDU), held in February 2023 under the title "The Position of Educators in Global Education", had the goal of looking at the role of educators in the contemporary educational and social context. The focus of the conference was the analysis of the challenges that educators face in the era of digital transformation, as well as the opportunities that open in the direction of the development of inclusive, intercultural and sustainable educational practices. The conference was realized in a hybrid format and brought together participants from different sectors - the academic community, educational institutions and civil society. Through thematic sessions, plenary presentations, workshops and panel discussions, key areas were covered: digital competencies of educators, organization of online classes, preservation of mental health and prevention of professional burnout, work with children with developmental and sensory difficulties, respect and appreciation of cultural diversity, and development of 21st century competencies such as critical and creative thinking. Special emphasis is placed on the need for lifelong learning, personalized approaches to teaching and the integration of modern educational models, including philosophy for children (P4C) and digital pedagogy. The participants pointed out the importance of strategic development of non-formal education and empowerment of educators through institutional support and intersectoral cooperation. This report synthesizes the findings and recommendations of the conference with the aim of improving educational practice and policy in accordance with the challenges of the digital age, the needs of students and the global goals of sustainable development.

Keywords: Educators, Global education, Digital pedagogy, Inclusivity, Lifelong learning, Online education.**INTRODUCTION**

The role of the educator in the modern education system goes beyond the boundaries of traditional teaching and grows into a multidimensional function that implies action on a social, cultural, technological and ethical level. In the context of global educational flows, the educator is at the same time a carrier of knowledge, a mediator of cultural values, an advocate of inclusion and an initiator of critical thinking.

The conference aims to affirm the role of educators in global education and social development. It is traditionally held every February, highlighting the importance of educators as initiators of change and production of knowledge. The 6th international conference of the Association of Online Educators (UONEDU), held in February 2023 under the title "Position of Educators in Global Education", was dedicated to examining contemporary challenges and perspectives of educational practice. Through thematic sessions and panel discussions, the key areas shaping today's educational landscape were addressed: technological development, digital pedagogy, sensitivity to different educational needs, appreciation of cultural diversity, development of competencies for the 21st century, and the role of education in the promotion of peace and sustainable development. Objectives of the conference are the following: highlight the role of educators in modern and global education, to identify the challenges faced by educators in the digital age, link educational practices with the goals of sustainable development, promote inclusive, intercultural and non-formal education, as well as open a space for the exchange of experiences and examples of good practice among educators.

Methodology and structure of the conference

The conference was held in a hybrid format and included: poster presentations, plenary presentations, thematic presentations, workshops and panel discussions with participants from the educational and academic sectors and citizens. Notes from the sessions, evaluation questionnaires and transcripts were used for the preparation of this Report. Thematic units and findings are: digital transformation of education, where educators must continuously develop digital skills; online teaching requires a new approach in communication and pedagogical organization; professional challenges and burnout, where it is pointed out that workload of educators leads to burnout, which affects the quality of education; systemic measures to protect the mental health of teaching staff are needed; inclusivity and sensory disabilities for students with sensory and neurological differences require an adapted approach in nowadays and more training is needed for educators in working with children with disabilities; cultural diversity. Learning and teaching must respect diversity and nurture cosmopolitan values. Understanding cultural identity is crucial for a quality educational process; developing competencies of the 21st century, where critical, creative and collaborative thinking are basic competencies; the real dynamics of foreign language learning with acquiring language levels requires time and planned work; educators and participants must have realistic expectations regarding the duration and intensity of the courses. Conference participants emphasized the necessity of empowering educators through lifelong education, institutional support and the inclusion of modern educational approaches such as philosophy for children (P4C), personalized learning and the development of digital competences. The importance of understanding education as a joint process in which all actors are

***Corresponding Author: Dr. Sci. Minela Kerla,**

Association of Online Educators-UONEDU, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

interdependent - students, teachers, parents and educational institutions - in an offline and online environment is emphasized. This Report systematizes the presented positions, insights and conclusions of the conference, with the aim of contributing to further scientific and professional consideration of the role of educators in contemporary global education, and to offer guidelines for improving educational policy and practice in the digital age.

Conclusions of the conference

Educators have a key role in shaping individuals and society, especially in the modern age of rapid technological and social changes, where educators are key actors in the development of individuals and societies in the age of digital, cultural and environmental challenges. Today, education requires a balance of formal and informal approaches, with a strong focus on interaction, empathy, and adaptation to the individual needs of students. Online and non-formal education must be strategically developed, while ensuring quality and pedagogy adapted to new contexts. The specific needs of students related to developmental, neurological and sensory differences are becoming more pronounced - which requires additional education and sensitivity on the part of educators. Inclusive education requires additional investments in training and sensitization of educators. Developing critical thinking skills for children at a very early age has proven to be a valuable tool for developing key competencies in students.

Language learning should be based on standards and realistic time frames, especially online, which require realistic expectations and a planned approach – there is no quick and easy way to knowledge. Conferences and networking of educators are important tools for the exchange of knowledge and practices. Education must actively contribute to building peace, global understanding and sustainable development, not only through content, but also through work methods. Cultural diversity in education must be recognized and nurtured as a resource, not an obstacle. Developing intercultural competences and a cosmopolitan spirit should be an integral part of educational policy. Recommendations of the 6th UONEDU Conference are to invest in continuous education of educators, especially in the field of digital competencies, mental health and inclusive approach to learning in digital and emotional literacy. Systematically recognize and support informal online education as an equal form of learning in modern society. Provide psychological and organizational support to teachers in order to reduce overload and prevent burnout. Introduce mandatory training of educators to work with children with sensory, neurological and developmental differences. Promote multiculturalism and cosmopolitanism in education - through curricula, work methods and institutional policies. Continue with the organization of such expert meetings, because they provide space for the exchange of knowledge, experiences and ideas between educators and scientific workers.
