

Professional development and work of education professionals during the pandemic COVID -19

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Teachers are daily part of a changing work environment in which they are confronted with the diversity of students' learning, educational and other needs, the complexity of modern social and communicative circumstances, material and didactic complexity and the interdisciplinarity of learning materials. In today's world, teachers' professional development requires much more than just "good teaching", various cognitive, social and moral competencies are needed, and more recently, as we face the SARS-COV-2 pandemic (COVID -19), digital competencies and a different way of teaching and connecting with students. The changes are forcing schools to adopt distance education, e-learning, distance learning and online courses and putting teachers in a situation where they need to be able to adapt their teaching methods to distance education. In this paper, we aim to find out how the changing situation in the society affects the educational staff in public kindergartens and schools. We are interested in the professional development factors that education employees face in the newly created situation and their opinions about what skills they would need to make their work less stressful and more successful. We are also interested in their willingness to engage in continuing education and training.

Key words: COVID -19, distance learning, professional development, continuing education and training, skills