

Statement of the editors-in-chief of scientific journals published under the patronage of the Committee for Pedagogical Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences

On behalf of the Polish pedagogical community, we hereby ask to preserve the platform of Polish journals, which is important for humanities and social sciences. In the context of the draft 'Act 2.0', prepared by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, we have been receiving alarming information about the possible liquidation of the previously applicable part B of the List of scored journals kept by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education. Article 258, section 6, paragraph 2 of the Act contains information on the new rules for evaluation of scientific entities. The Act assumes evaluation based on the achievements of a researcher, among others, scientific articles published "in a scientific journal, included in indexed, international databases of scientific journals with the largest reach." The legislator's intention, apparent in this provision, to marginalize the Polish databases of scientific journals, which contain the majority of Polish periodicals in the field of humanities and social sciences, raises doubts.

On the basis of press releases, it can be assumed that the most important criterion for assessing journals is to be their indexation in foreign databases such as Web of Science, Scopus, etc. managed by big publishing companies. Without questioning the justifiability of placing Polish journals in the above databases, we strongly oppose making these the only journal-indexing bases which count as scientific achievements of scientists and are suitable for evaluation of scientific entities where they are employed. Below we present arguments for maintaining the list of Polish journals (Part B of the List kept by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education).

Historical experience in Poland, but also in other European countries, shows that basing scientific achievements on the national context is very often a key condition for the sustainability of scientific achievements, and often also the condition for the survival of a nation. We firmly believe that the creation of a scientific community focused on national research is just as important as internationalization of such research. This equivalence is as important for basic research as for implementations. We expect maintenance of the current balance in the strategy of disseminating research results, respecting both the national and international areas.

We consider paradoxical the legislator's expectation that publishing in a foreign language be more valuable (higher scored) than in the mother tongue. We would like to draw attention to the possible consequences of such an approach, in particular the disappearance of linguistic traditions and the exclusion of various audiences from scientific information. These audiences may also be teachers who, in pursuit of professional development, should not be restricted to sources containing only popular, colloquial knowledge but should have easier access to up-to-date scientific knowledge.

In recent years, Polish scientific journals have made a significant effort toward internationalization, while maintaining a balance in the publication of texts by Polish and foreign authors, as well as in the language of publications. This effort, made thanks to the support of scientific associations and universities, involved human and economic resources, resulting in an increase in the rank and visibility of Polish journals. Many of them, due to this strategy and the support of universities, stand out in the international area thanks to their open access, making their content available free of charge. Access to most journals in foreign databases will have to be paid for, which will exclude many less affluent reader communities.

In 2015, as part of the Polish Scientific Bibliography, the POL-Index Polish Citations Database was established (designed as a part of the POL-on Information System for Higher Education), aimed at determining the Polish Influence Ratio allowing to find out the frequency of quotations of particular articles published in Polish scientific journals. We regret to note that this project, despite the financial outlays previously incurred and the enormous effort made by the editors of Polish scientific journals in 2015, is not being continued. In our opinion, the Polish Citations Database could successfully be used to determine the influence of particular journals on the national scale, just as international databases determine this parameter on the international scale. Such solution would help keep the balance between these two dimensions.

Introduction of a new evaluation policy may lead to the elimination of a significant number of Polish scientific journals or their complete marginalization. Many Polish periodicals have long-established traditions (some are more than a hundred years old) and it is on their pages that the scientific discourse is conducted, which is important for building national knowledge resources. We are of

the opinion that, with the existing rules, the Polish academic community is able to regulate the quality of publications on its own, as evidenced by the periodically performed evaluation that results in lowering or, in extreme cases, taking away points from journals that do not meet the quality criterion. The radical change proposed in the provisions of the Act may be fraught with consequences, destroying the to-date achievements of many generations of Polish scientists, forcing them to accept a neo-colonial policy that recognizes the superiority of what is foreign to what is our own.

We sincerely hope that the arguments presented will be heard and we count on actions being taken to preserve the platform of Polish journals, which is important for humanities and social sciences.

Rocznik Pedagogiczny [Pedagogical Yearbook] – *Maria Dudzikowa, prof. dr hab.*

Studia Pedagogiczne [Pedagogical Studies] – *Henryka Kwiatkowska, prof. dr hab.*

Studia z Teorii Wychowania [Studies on the theory of education]

– *Bogusław Śliwerski, prof. dr hab.*

Pedagogika Społeczna [Social Pedagogy] – *Wiesław Theiss, prof. dr hab.*

Resocjalizacja Polska [Polish Resocialization] – *Marek Konopczyński, prof. dr hab.*

Biuletyn Historii Wychowania [The History of Education Bulletin]

– *Wiesław Jamrożek, prof. dr hab.*

Przegląd Pedagogiczny [Pedagogical Review] – *Roman Leppert, prof. dr hab.*

Paedagogia Christiana – *Jarosław Horowski, dr hab.*

Chowanna – *Ewa Syrek, prof. dr hab.*

Forum Pedagogiczne [Pedagogical Forum] – *Dariusz Stępkowski, dr hab.*

Horyzonty Wychowania [Horizons of Education] – *Rev. dr. Wit Pasierbek*

Parezja. Czasopismo Forum Młodych Pedagogów przy Komitecie Nauk Pedagogicznych PAN [Magazine of the Forum of Young Pedagogues at the Committee for Pedagogical Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences]

– *dr. Alicja Korzeniecka-Bondar*