

OVERVIEW

This number 32 of *Calidad en la Educación* Magazine includes an amazing selection of researches, essays and experiences addressing relevant issues of the higher education world. Of course, they represent an important input for debate, reflection and exchange of ideas on the education field.

Articles included in the “Studies” section reflect the system priorities: the need of a deep knowledge about the real impact of quality assurance mechanisms to identify future challenges and effectively improve the system in order to strengthen it and also the national significance of having a good technical education recognizing and valuing lessons learnt through formal education and working performance. It is specially related to a technical education which allows young people develop competencies and get fully integrated into the world of work.

Thus, the first article included in the aforementioned section is “Impact of quality assurance policies in higher education programs: an exploratory study” by Judith Scharager and María Teresa Aravena. It is one of the projects selected in the official announcement made in 2009 by the National Council of Education in order to support research projects on higher education. This section also includes the article “Characterization of ‘first generation’ students in higher education – new paths to equity in education” based on an empirical study by Jorge Castillo and Gustavo Cabezas. Then, the qualitative research “The relationship among teachers and students at university: a fundamental motive for learning” by Gonzalo Gallardo and Pablo Reyes identifies features in the student-teacher relationship which are useful for the learning process. Next article, “Evaluation of curricula reform in technical –professional high schools: teachers’ point of view” by Óscar Espinoza, Dante Castillo and Patricio Traslaviña analyses what teachers think about the implementation of curricula reform

in the professional– technical education. Finally, the article “The role of university teaching in teachers’ initial formation” by Priscilla Echeverría reviews the teaching actions of university teachers and their collaboration in forming other teachers.

The Essays section begins with the input from the Brazilian researcher Manolita Correia. Her article “Internationalization of education industry: the case of Australia”, presents an interesting review of the consequences of adopting education policies oriented to purely commercial economical interests. The article finds that the theory of world economy provides more suitable interpretation resources to understand the success of the teaching industry in that country. The second essay included “Criteria for evaluating strategic plans in academic units” by Rodrigo Fernández develops and provides criteria for evaluating strategic plans in academic units based on an interesting bibliographical review. The essay “Institutionalism for new challenges” by Jorge Marshall discusses factors to consider in a reform facing the current challenges in the higher education. Finally, the article “University trainers of future professionals: a new way of understanding teaching in higher education” by Helena Montenegro and Rodrigo Fuentealba invites us to understand the key role of university teachers in training future professionals.

The article presented in the Experiences section is called “Introducing technology through a virtual classroom and changing teaching practices” by Bernardita Contreras and provides an interesting strategy for teachers to use new technologies supporting their teaching methods.

We are completely confident that contents of works included in this number are a real input for our readers and the whole community interested in the higher education field. We invite all of you to submit your works to be published in this magazine. Finally, I would like to thank the external evaluators who made this issue possible through their deep and dedicated work.

Daniela Torre G.
Executive Secretary
National Council of Education