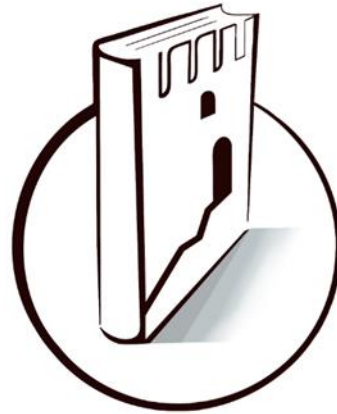


Preschool Teacher Training and Medical College in Vrsac



About us



Vrsac, 2023

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Focus on:
quality, nurturing of inherited values, modernization, mobility,
competencies...

All terms in the text used in masculine grammatical gender refer to both masculine and
feminine gender of the persons they denote.

Instead of an Introduction

Alongside the valley of Panonia, only 84 km away from Belgrade and 77 km from Timisoara in Romania Vrsac stands – one of the most beautiful towns in Banat in the northeast part of Serbia. In this home town of the painter Paja Jovanovic, the father of Serbian drama Jovan Sterija Popovic, great poet Vasko Popa, architect Dragisa Brasovan, famous chess player Bora Kostic and well-known historian Felix Mileker, Preschool Teacher Training and Medical College in Vrsac deals with education of preschool teachers for work with preschool children, following the tradition of schooling of teachers and preschool teachers longer than 150 years. Students have the possibility to study at the 1st level of professional studies according to a modern curriculum, harmonized with European standards, using modern educational equipment and in three teaching languages: Serbian, Romanian and Romani. This is the feature which makes the College unique in the region. They can also continue their higher education at the 2nd level of vocational studies – master studies. In the academic 2022/23. educational activity of the College became richer for one more scientific field, so that today here medical nurses/techitians can also continue their studies at higher education vocational level.

Everyday teaching activity at the College is enriched with emphasized care for the gifted through organization of the acknowledged international scientific conferences – Round tables on the gifted which have been organized for almost three decades; prolific publishing activity, continuous and successful cooperation with fellow citizens, individuals, associations and institutions both from the region and from the whole world. The products of this fruitful cooperation reflect in numerous national and international projects in which the College actively participate, as well as in design and implementation of accredited programs of professional development of teachers, preschool teachers and professional associates. The college finds inspiration for conceiving its study programs and other curricular and extracurricular activities on the on hand in careful monitoring of the ongoing scientific currents, the needs of modern society and profession and, on the other hand – in rich traditional values of the setting it belongs to, where it builds its material and spiritual foundations.

Shared existence of a number of cultures is interwoven and nurtured at the College. Education of future vocational preschool teachers, master preschool teachers and vocational medical nurses/technicians – both equally diligent professions – provides huge creative energy, joy and beauty and they reflect on both scientific and professional work and cooperation with preschool and medical institutions, schools and other colleges, universities, associations not only from the country but from abroad...

Believing that there is no other thing paving the way to those who learn, or helping a learner to progress and go ahead further fast but a solid foundation and a true value he or she strives for, the College makes efforts to offer a good basic knowledge to its students, a foundation upon which they will build excellent upbringing and education of the youngest and their health practice. Furthermore, what should be born in mind is that high quality education and upbringing is an honour, an obligation, a personal example, role model and a key of progress of any learning society seeking for constant creation and empowerment.

I Excerpts from history of the College and town

1. Vrsac through history

Numerous archaeological remains confirm that settlements at the territory of Vrsac date back from the ancient times. Even far back in the Roman reign, when the region was a part of the province of Dacia, there was a Roman watchtower on the hill of Vrsac. In the Middle Age there was as a fortification at the same place referred to in the sources as Kis Somljo. The first Despotate and its capital Smederevo (1439) having fallen, the Serbian despot Djuradj Brankovic, who had been given the land in this region of ours by the Hungarian king, raised a new fortification on the hill of Vrsac, known by local population as the Tower of Vrsac, being even nowadays the real symbol of the town. The fortification was raised in order to defend the town from the incursion of the Turks from the South, but it was abandoned in 18th century. A comprehensive reconstruction and restoration of the fortress was carried out in 2015 and now the Tower of Vrsac is involved in modern currents of culture.



The historian Felix Mileker holds that Vrsac was for the first time mentioned in written sources in 1427, under the name Podvrsan. In the Turk era, back in 1552, Vrsac was known as Semlit and can be found in Turkish sources under this name. What is especially worth noticing in the period of Turkish rule is the uprising of Serbs and Romanians in Banat in 1594, with Vrsac as one of the main rebellion centres. In 1713 Vrsac was mentioned in the Description of Vrsac-Sebes Eparchy as a centre of nahia. Ottoman's rule ended in 1717 when Austrian troops conquered Banat. Colonization of Germans started in 1723 when they built their settlement next to Serbian one. During the last Austro-Turkish war 1788-1791, the monarch army abandoned the town.

Economic growth in the 18th century was encouraged by gaining trade privileges in 1804. When the monarch Franz II visited Vrsac 1817, the town was declared a free royal city, opening up numerous possibilities for further growth. Apart from craftsmanship and trade, Vrsac was successful in growing grapes in vineyards, economic branch which for centuries was one of the main sources of income and which, until the very present day, remained the real symbol of the town. The manifestation in honour of grapes, wine and vineyards "Grozdjebal" has been organized each year for more than half a century.

Economic stagnation started in 1919, after Vrsac had become a town on the border between two states. After the relations between Yugoslavia and Romania had been intensified in 1960s, Vrsac became exceptionally significant border town, resulting in economic restoration and opening up of new horizons in regard to the development of the town and the whole region. At the same time Vrsac became an important centre of pharmaceutical industry, famous in the country and abroad. Today the town is known as an industrial, trade, cultural, educational, spiritual and sport centre, with perspectives for further development of the whole region.

The sudden rise of trade and colonisations taking place in the beginning of 18th century provided Vrsac with the opportunity to become a town with the largest number of inhabitants in Banat. According to the latest registration in 2011, there are 35701 citizens living in Vrsac and in 2016 our beautiful town received an official status of a town.

Vrsac was the centre of Orthodox Episcopacy even back in the period of the Ottoman rule. In 1759 Bishop's residence was built and Banat Eparchial Residence is still the seat of Banat Episcopacy.

As for its cultural conditions, Vrsac can be proud of its rich cultural heritage. There are important institutions with rich cultural tradition in the town: Town museum, Town library, the National Theatre, Literary Centre of Vrsac (KOV); famous artists, scientists, cultural and sport figures were born and spent a great deal of their lives in Vrsac: Nikola Neskovic, icon-painter, well-known national painter Paja Jovanovic, opera singer Sultana Cijuk, the creator of Serbian drama, Jovan Sterija-Popovic, who is in the same time the most famous and the most important son of the city, after whom the town of Vrsac is called the town of Sterija, the poet Vasko Popa, the architect Dragisa Brasovan, famous chess-player Bora Kostic, famous historian Feliks Milener and many others among them.

Various nationalities have lived in Vrsac since long time ago and the most numerous were Serbs, Germans, Romanians, Hungarians, Jews, Roma and others. Variety and richness of diversity has been present in religions life and thus there are different confessions in our town, i.e. orthodox, catholic, protestant...

The wealth of a town is reflected, apart from natural resources, economic and social position of its inhabitants, in its culture, tolerance and mutual respect of all those living in it. We think that Vrsac is a typical example of such a setting. This has created an atmosphere in which all its people, of various nationalities and confessions, are used to living together, accepting its intercultural feature as an inevitable feature of everyday life. We are sure that Vrsac has survived and will exist in the future as a place of tolerance, diversity and unity of all those living in it.

2. An Overview of the development of education and schooling of teachers in Vrsac

Since ancient times Vrsac was exceptionally significant educational centre and it remained so until the present day. Back in 1727 German primary school was mentioned, located behind the present Catholic cathedral. It can be found out according to the records of the Eparchial Council dating from 1796 that there was another national confessional school next to the Church of the Assumption. At that time the head of the eparchy in Vrsac was the bishop Josif Jovanovic Sakabenta who founded a grammar school (lower, incomplete high school) in 1790, where teaching was in German and Latin, and supporting languages were Serbian and Romanian. Thus this is the oldest Serbian high school (incomplete, though) which is founded a year before the high school (grammar) in Sremski Karlovci. At the time these two grammar schools were acknowledged as the most important educational institutions of Serbs.

Another educational institution rather significant for historic Banat as a whole is Serbian-Romanian clerical school in Vrsac, which educated priests for the need of Orthodox parishes in the territory of whole Banat between 1822 and 1867. The school had a rank of a high school and teaching was bilingual.

There were Greek and Jewish primary schools in Vrsac in the late 18th century, which were joined to the Rectorat of German Teacher Training School with two independent teachers. In 1851 the Imperial-Royal Ministry of Education made a decision to found a real gymnasium (lower high school with two grades) to prepare pupils for other professional schools, especially those who wanted to continue their schooling in the Teacher Training School in Vrsac. It started working in 1854 and the name of the school was Deutsche katholische Lehrerbildungsanstalt (the German Catholic institution for teacher training) or – how this school used to be called at the time – Preparandija. As a consequence of changes brought about after Austro-Hungarian decree had been signed (1867), followed by the introduction of the Hungarian language into teaching process, it was decided in 1871 to dislocate the German Teacher Training School – Preparandija from Vrsac to Szeged.

Apart from the two already mentioned institutions, there were many other schools in Vrsac. In the academic year of 1885/1886 Mileker mentions the following schools: the real gymnasium (four grades) for boys in Hungarian and German language, two-grade maiden school, six-grade-school for boys in the centre of the town, six-grade-high-school for girls, mixed school with three grades for boys and two for girls in the south part of the town; primary schools, a music school for violin and flute and two private institutes for education of young women, an agricultural school and a trade school; three private kindergartens.

Teacher training school was brought back to Vrsac not sooner than 1920, after the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes had been created. The institution was first opened in Veliki Beckerek (today's Zrenjanin) but it was moved to Vrsac in the same year. Schooling lasted for three years, and in 1929, it was extended to five-year-long education. Since 1941 education of teachers lasted for four years and in 1954 five year education was introduced again for future education workers. According to the 1933 the Convention on the schools for minorities in Banat, signed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia and Romania, a department Romanian language was established within Teacher training school in Vrsac, which started working the following year. In 1949 a department for pre-school teacher training was opened in the same school.

In 1973 teacher training schools were transformed into pedagogic academies. Pedagogic academy Ziva Jovanovic was a unique high school. The education lasted for 6 years and it had two levels: the first lasting 4 years and the second lasting for 2 years. Teaching was in Serbian and Romanian language.

In 1993 Pedagogic academy was transformed into two-year Preschool Teacher Training College. In 2007 the college got accreditation as a for three-year college (bachelor professional

studies) with a possibility to continue studies within one-year specialist studies. The study programs for the first and second level of professional studies, as well as the College, were reaccredited in 2012 and 2016. 1st level professional studies and the institution – Preschool Teacher Training College “Mihailo Palov” – were (re)accredited in 2012, 2014 and 2016, and 2nd level professional master studies were accredited in 2018. (See more about all accreditations of study programs and the institution on: <https://www.uskolavrsac.edu.rs>). Since the College accredited the study program with the field of medical sciences – *Vocational medical nurse/technician*, Preschool Teacher Training College “Mihailo Palov” changed its name into Preschool Teacher Training and Medical College in Vrsac.



3. Excerpts from the history of health culture and schooling of medical staff in Vrsac and its surrounding

Even in the XII century monks and nuns nurtured health culture and upbringing. When we are talking about the age of Turkish rule (1552-1716) the data on the history of health culture of Vrsac and its surroundings are scarce; however, later, already in the middle of the XVIII century – the first hospital is opened in Vrsac. Subsequently Serbian Church Municipality build in the Serbian part of the town Serbian hospital (an institution for patients' accommodation, treatment and care), which was placed in the churchyard of the Orthodox Cathedral. In the middle of the XIX century German guilds built German guild hospital, next to the building of German hospital. In parallel with the activity of first hospitals, first pharmacies also opened. (<http://www.vrsac.com/>). There was also a number of military hospitals in Vrsac in XIX century.

In the end of the XIX century in 1893 the Association for preservation of health and natural healing was established in Vrsac, consisting of the supporters of the Swiss Arnold Rikli who advocated for healing with natural factors – sun, air and water (helio, aero and aqua therapy). In 1895 the Association founded the Institute for natural bathing "Rikli's well". In 1909 Antituberculosis dispensary was established in Vrsac. The first sanatorium "Sanitas" in Vrsac was founded by dr Ludvig Mehes and the building was erected in 1911/12 in the foot of Vrsac hill. Between the two world wars three more sanatoriums worked in Vrsac and they were the private ownership of Vrsac physicians. In the same period two more pharmacies were opened. In 1947 Town hospital moved in the building of the sanatorium "Sanitas" and in 1953 it changed its name into "General Hospital" to change it once again in General hospital "Andja Rankovic". In 1960 works started on building of a new hospital which started working in 1965.

Having merged medical services of Vrsac, Plandiste, health centres and medical stations in 1967 Medical centre "Andja Rankovic" was formed (<http://www.vrsac.com/>). Another health care institution works in Vrsac which is called today Neuropsychiatric hospital "Dr Slavoljub Bakalovic" and offers specialized medical services (<http://www.vrsac.com/>). Apart from the mentioned institutions, established by the state, there is a number of private medical surgeries in Vrsac, as well as one polyclinic.

Having in mind that we are dealing with history of medical care in Vrsac, it is important to mention a well-known person who lived in Vrsac – dr Gavriilo Pekarovic (1812-1851) whose acknowledged work, among other things, intertwined work with preschool children and health care. Dr Gavriilo Pekarevic studied medicine at the University in Budapest, where he graduated, obtained a PhD degree and specialized paediatrics; he was a friend and personal physician of Jovan Sterija Popovic (1806-1856) and his friendship with the establisher of Serbian drama inspired him to stay and live in Vrsac. As a student Pekarovic published in 1836 in Budim the first book about nurturing of children in Serbian language. The title of the book was "Taking care of children in the first years of life". This first paediatric book in our country made him our first children's physician. As a consequence, Vrsac has a status of town where a pioneer of children health care in Vojvodina (Šljapić, Ž., Šljapić-Roganović, M. (2002). *Dečja zaštita u Vršcu i njen razvoj. Medicinski pregled*, 55(9-10), 431-435, available at: <https://doi.org/10.2298/MPNS0210431S>, p. 431).

When it comes to schooling of medical staff in Vrsac and its surroundings through history, higher education, as illustrated by the educational path of Gavriilo Pekarovic, was obtained far away from Vrsac. Nowadays students can study in many educational centres (in Belgrade, as well as in Timisoara in Romania, in Novi Sad; there is also a private higher education institution for studies of dentistry in Pancevo, which is closest to Vrsac).

In regard to secondary school education in the field of medicine, until 2004 interested pupils from Vrsac and its surroundings could attend professional school in Pancevo which has been educating secondary school students for the work field *Health care and social protection*; in 2004 the pupils from the territory of municipality of Vrsac got the opportunity to gain secondary

school education for the profession medical nurse – technician in their own town in Chemical-medical secondary school. If they wanted to continue their education after secondary school in the medical field, students of this and other schools in Vrsac had to travel to other towns, and it was not a rare case that the financial means necessary for their studies away from home could sometimes have slowed them down in their intentions or could have made them completely give up their further schooling in the field. In the last several years, pupils are offered to study at the private vocational college – International centre for professional studies from Belgrade. With the initiative to establish the study program Vocational medical nurse/technician at the College in Vrsac – (re)accredited state institutions with long tradition of successful and rewarded work in the field of higher education – it became possible for these pupils (from the territory of Vrsac and south Banat) to more easily decide to continue their medical education and gain better possibilities for higher education in the field of medical sciences. The accreditation of professional bachelor studies in the field of medical sciences in Vrsac has improved the possibilities for higher education of medical nurses/technicians, at the same time contributing to, as we can see, traditional nurturing of medical culture of Vrsac and its surroundings.



Source: <https://evrsac.rs/vrsacka-bolnica-obelezila-jubilej-35-godina-odeljenja-ortopedije-i-traumatologije/>

II Preschool Teacher Training and Medical College in Vrsac

1. Mission and Vision

The professional activity of Preschool Teacher Training and Medical College in Vrsac is education of preschool teachers for work with preschool children in Serbian, Romanian and Romani language. The study program *Vocational Preschool Teacher* is strongly dedicated to education of preschool teachers who will, after graduating from bachelor three-year studies (but also master studies) own knowledge and professional skills for identification of children needs and capabilities, their encouragement and development in play, expression, learning and communication, along with respect and nurturing of personal and culturally specific features of each child and his/her family.

The teaching staff of the College is dedicated to the following: research of theory and practice of upbringing and education of preschool children; continual monitoring of efficacy and efficiency of studies; development and improvement of study program with high level of student participation; evaluation and improvement of one's own academic and teaching competencies.

Preschool Teacher Training and Medical College in Vrsac provides strategic contribution to development of society according to its study programs which promote and enables high quality staff for upbringing and education of children since youngest age in mother tongue in multicultural and multilingual setting. Preschool teachers educated in such a way have more possibilities when finding employment, and preschool children who are upbrought and educated by such teaching staff have possibilities for successful integration into society regardless cultural or social differences. Having ensured accreditation for the program of 1st cycle bachelor studies in the field of medical sciences – *Vocational medical nurse/technician*, since academic 2022/23 the College has another professional activity and it refers to education of medical nurses/technicians, aiming at ensuring highly professional staff for providing health care of children and young people, adults and elderly people, as well as for promotion of health and timely prevention in healthy population. The program educates vocational medical nurses for independent work, as well as for work in a medical team, for organization of work and planning and improvement of work quality, control of work and application of modern and contemporary principles of medical care in practice.

Vocational preschool teachers and medical nurses/technicians who are educated at the Preschool Teacher Training and Medical College in Vrsac acquire such knowledge, skills and competences which provide them with reflexivity and adaptability in the changing conditions in their fields of work, they are dedicated to patient care, i.e. education of all children in multiethnic and intercultural environment, to critically and actively approach the problems of educational, i.e. medical system they are employed in, having in mind that they are equipped for lifelong learning.

2. Harmonization with European higher education space, comparability and compatibility with foreign programs

Accredited study programs of the Preschool Teacher Training and Medical College in Vrsac integrate contemporary international aspects, which had influence of profiling the program for education of staff who will work in preschool institutions and subsequently creating and profiling program in the field of medical sciences. The aim is for students to be prepared for efficient individual and social functioning in modern educational circumstances, and when focusing on the program in the field of medical sciences – in the health care system. The College should provide its students with broad general education for preschool teachers and medical nurses/technicians, in which personal development from the angle of European dimension, is, before all, in the function of: provision of knowledge, skills and attitudes to young people which are necessary for them in order to be ready to address main challenges of European society; preparation of young people for mobility, work and everyday life in multicultural and multilingual Europe, as well as enabling young people to preserve their shared cultural heritage and fulfil their civil responsibilities.

The focus is on education for life, for participation in democratic society; for cooperation in Europe; promotion of one's own talents, creativity; personal development; critical thinking, independent work; respect for values like democracy and human rights, Christian and humanistic values; broad general education; thorough narrow professional education; respect for common European cultural heritage and history.

These defined aims (or redefined previous educational aims) will ensure: preparation of young people which will enable them acquire positive and realistic self-image in their personal life, they will create in personal social and common circumstances; preparation for life in democratic society, including rights, basic freedoms, rights and responsibilities of citizens and providing support to young people when getting involved in public life; preparation for work which should enable broad views on work and involve theoretical introduction in the nature and forms of work and working experience; preparation for cultural life, so that young people could find the sources for enriching their own personalities and get involved into spiritual, cultural, historical and scientific heritage, as well as preparation to live in multicultural society. The level of generality and the contents of the aims differ from country to country. In the countries in EU, they gained importance in the context of preparation of young people for future integrations. When the College in Vrsac is in question, they are oriented towards the following: humanistic approach to a person (in educational context / context of social care), development of critical thinking, complex problem solving, decision making and judging relevant social, scientific, judicial and ethical issues, as well as improvement of preschool/medical profession. The College in Vrsac will reconsider its mission vision and prominent aims periodically, evaluate their purposefulness and permanently refine and improve them accordingly.

Study programs present at the College, as well as the syllabi they comprise, are harmonized with the existing study plans and programs for education of preschool teachers at related institutions in the range of countries in the western Europe (Austria, Norway, Germany, Switzerland, Slovakia, Check Republic, Romania, Croatia). The concept of studies at the College is comparable with the concepts according to which the same profiles are educated – at the so-called pedagogic academies, pedagogic faculties and teacher colleges in the mentioned countries. For example, regarding the program *Vocational preschool teacher* it is possible to notice the feature of being harmonized with curricula in related institutions in the range on countries in the western Europe, as well as the countries in the region. The curriculum has been thoroughly compared and structurally and formally harmonized with similar curricula according to which preschool teachers working with children at preschool age are educated at the following institutions within shared European higher education space: Preschool teacher training college "Jozef Etves" in Baja, Hungary, Pedagogical Faculty of the University in Maribor, Slovenia, ELTE University, Budapest, Hungary, University in Pula, Faculty for educational sciences, Croatia.

It is the same situation with the study program Vocational medical nurse/technician which is compatible with other related study programs in the surrounding countries – European Union states (Slovenia, Romania, Croatia), having in mind subject-specific standards for accreditation of curricula in the field of medical sciences. Study program is harmonized with both European and world education system (EU directives for medical nurse education – Directive 2005/36/E3 and Directive 2013/55/EY), providing diploma acknowledgement and great transferability and higher employability in the EU countries. Having all the above mentioned in mind, it is worth noticing that the College study program *Vocational medical nurse/technician* is harmonized with those existing at the following HEIs in Europe: Medical College in Celje (Slovenia), University for Medicine and Pharmacy “Victor Babes” in Timisoara (Romania), Medical Faculty, study program for medical care at the University in Bjelovar (Croatia).

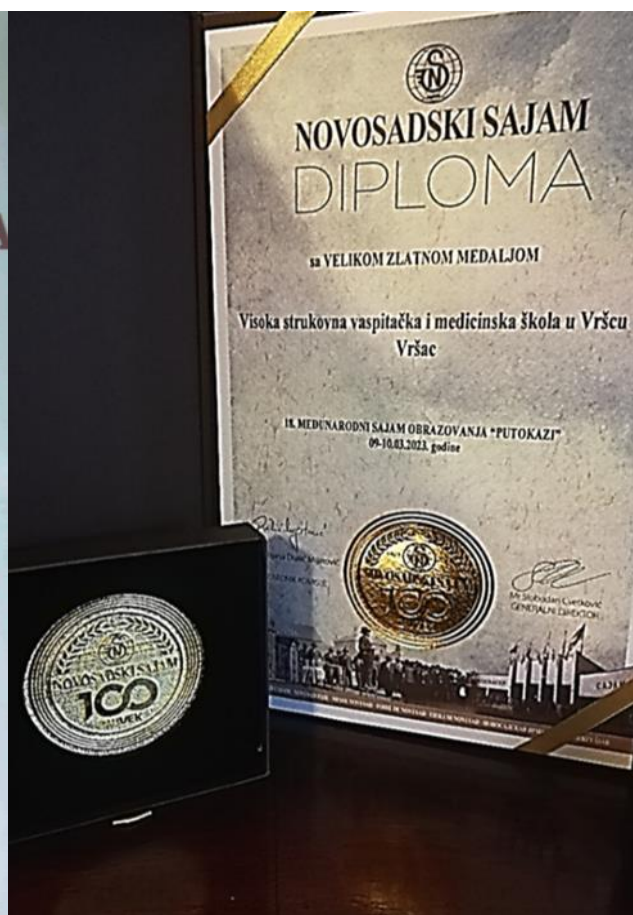
Study program for master vocational studies offered by the College in Vrsac, as well as the syllabi it contains is harmonized with the curricula at related institutions in the range of countries in the western Europe, as well as the countries in the region. The curriculum is thoroughly compared both structurally and formally and harmonized with similar curricula preschool teachers are educated at the 2nd level higher education studies – master in the following institutions within the European educational space: *University of Oulu, Department of Educational Sciences and Teacher Education*; study program: *Early Childhood Education programme*), Pedagogical Faculty of the University in Maribor (study program: *študijski program 2. stopnje Predšolska vzgoja*) and Manchester Metropolitan University, UK (study program: *Early Childhood*).

Comparability of the study program offered by the College with similar programs in other countries reflects in the European credit transfer system, according to which, following the standards adopted in Europe, students' pre-examination and examination obligations are carefully weighed, so that the number of credits is in harmony with students' work load necessary for passing the exam. At the same time, apart from the fact that it offers to its students the most recent scientific insights in the field of education and care, introduction of contemporary teaching methods and techniques, as well as continuous monitoring of individual student within each course, the study program is fully harmonized with European trends.

3. The College in numbers

In the mother worlds, many things are measured by numbers, weighed in percentages and evaluated according to lists. What can be measured at the College in this way is shortly represented in the following table.

Accredited as state HEI – longer than 15 years.
Scientific-educational field: 2 fields (Social-humanistic and Medical sciences).
Studies at two level: 1 st level vocational studies (bachelor) and 2 nd level vocational studies (master).
More than 1650 graduated vocational preschool teachers, 280 preschool teachers – specialists, 120 master preschool teachers.
Teaching in 3 languages – Serbian, Romanian and Romani.
More than 80 participations of College teaching staff in professional and scientific conferences in the country and abroad during one academic year.
More than 100 scientific and professional papers, reviews, monographs and other publications of College teaching staff is published.
Versatile project activities – College teachers within the College and/or in cooperation with other upbringing-educational institutions, organizations, associations, etc, participated in more than 15 projects of different types and duration during the academic 2022/23.
Seminars and accredited professional development programs – tradition longer than 20 years.
Teaching staff and student mobility – possibility of mobility to 10 different foreign universities, with the list of partner institutions growing.
Almost 30 round tables on giftedness.
Publishing activity of the College – almost 30 years long; more than 300 titles published in 5 libraries.
The Journal <i>Истраживања у педагозији / Research in Pedagogy</i> – is a member of more than 10 world electronic data bases; more than 20 issues published.
Intensive extracurricular activities – more than 10 years of Language club (about 60 performances for children, around 20 inclusive workshops); approximately 3 decades of successful activity of College Choir, less than 10 integrative motor-defectology workshops with children from the Association “Отворено срце света”...
Memberships – European Association of Institutions in Higher Education (EURASHE), <i>European Talent Point</i> , Conference of Academies of vocational studies in Serbia (KASSS) etc.
Important rewards and acknowledgements: Erasmus charter for higher education (2021–2027), Charter of the Town of Vrsac (2019), Great golden medal for high quality in education (2023)...



CERTIFICATE }

This is to certify that

**Visoka škola strukovnih studija za vaspitače „Mihailo
Palov“ Vršac**

became qualified for the title of
EUROPEAN TALENT POINT.



And what cannot be measured in numbers are the values which College nurtures every day. This is the place where shared life of many cultures takes place, intensive cooperation in the country and abroad is organized with preschool and medical institutions, other colleges, faculties, universities, individuals, associations, etc.



4. Current curricula/study programs of Preschool Teacher Training and Medical College in Vrsac

Study programs for preschool teachers in the academic 2023/24

Field	Academic 2023/24	Program	Professional Title	Curriculum available at:
Social-humanistic Sciences	1 st year of study	Vocational preschool teacher (three years, 180 ECTS)	Vocational Preschool Teacher	https://www.uskolavrsac.edu.rs/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Upisni-informator-2022.pdf (стр. 8 и 9).
	2 nd and 3 rd year of studies	Preschool teacher – bachelor 1 st level studies (three years, 180 ECTS) – program with modules	Vocational Preschool Teacher Vocational Preschool Teacher with emphasized competencies for work with children in nursery Vocational Preschool Teacher with emphasized competencies for work with children in English language Vocational Preschool Teacher with emphasized competencies for work with socially deprived children	https://uskolavrsac.edu.rs/info/vaspitac-dece-predskolskog-uzrasta/
	1 st and 2 nd year of studies	Vocational Master Preschool Teacher – master 2 nd level studies (two years, 120 E)	Vocational Master Preschool Teacher	https://uskolavrsac.edu.rs/info/strukovni-master-vaspitac/

Study program for medical nurses/technicians in the academic 2023/24

Field	Academic 2023/24	Program	Professional Title	Curriculum available at:
Medical sciences	1 st and 2 nd year of studies	Vocational Medical nurse/technician – first level bachelor studies (three years, 180 ECTS)	Vocational medical nurse ¹	https://uskolavrsac.edu.rs/info/strukovna-medicinska-sestra-tehnicar/

The syllabi for all curricula are available at: <https://uskolavrsac.edu.rs/info/knjiga-predmeta-silabusi/>. During the academic 2022/23 the first level study program – bachelor *Preschool Teacher* (with the modules: General module – *Preschool teacher*; Module with emphasized competencies for work with children in nursery; Modul with emphasized competencies for work with children in English language; Module with emphasized competencies for work with socially deprived children) is successfully re-accredited into a study program *Preschool teacher*.

¹ According to *Правилник о Листи стручних, академских и научних назива*: 53/2017-100, 114/2017-38, 52/2018-123, 21/2019-302, 34/2019-185, 6/2020-122, 24/2020-4, 152/2020-65.

5. Teaching staff

The Preschool Teacher Training and Medical College in Vrsac has strategically ensured the teaching to be carried out by qualified and competent teaching staff in three teaching languages (Serbian, Romanian and Roma). The procedures referring to the employment and selection into academic titles have been continually evaluated. The teachers with their academic degrees and scientific titles, i.e. references, are in accordance with the plans and programs of the College; the teaching staff supports it completely and guarantees the quality imposed by the standards, i.e. the professional competences students are to gain during their studies. Apart from the proscribed procedures and conditions for teacher selection into scientific title, the care for the quality of teachers and assistants, i.e. the pedagogic work at the College, implies permanent creating of conditions for the professional improvement of the teaching staff in regard to their professional and scientific work.

The Preschool Teacher Training and Medical College in Vrsac has six vocational councils. And they are:

1. Vocational council for Pedagogy,
2. Vocational council for Philosophy and Social Sciences,
3. Vocational council for Mother Tongues (Serbian, Romanian, Roma)
4. Vocational council for Teaching Methodology
5. Vocational council for Foreign Languages
6. Vocational council for medical science and psychology

The vocational councils design their work analyzing, projecting, dealing with the professional matters and making stands and decisions before the Teaching Staff Council.

The Preschool Teacher Training and Medical College in Vrsac systematically monitors, assesses and stimulates scientific, research and pedagogic activities of its teachers, referring mostly to the following:

- preparation and implementation of classes;
- consulting work;
- mentorship;
- publishing of papers in scientific and professional journals (annually more than 100 papers on the average);
- conferences participation in the country and abroad (annually more than 70 participations);
- scientific projects participation (both as managers and participants);
- international cooperation participation (international research projects, co-organization of conferences, peer-reviews of scientific papers, visiting professors lectures, publishing of mutual publications, organization of discussions and book promotions, students and publication exchange, etc);
- organization of exhibitions and concerts;
- textbooks writing (about 12 new textbooks per year);
- monographic publications publishing etc.

With its strategy, it enables permanent education, professional and scientific professional development, training of teachers and associates, as well as the assessment of the quality of their work in teaching. Work biographies with bibliographies of teaching staff are available at: <https://www.uskolavrsac.edu.rs/profesori/>.



6. Students

The approximate number of students studying at the Preschool Teacher Training and Medical College in Vrsac each year is around 300. They are predominantly girls, although there are more and more boys interested in the profession of a preschool teacher. The students come from the whole country, before all from the places near Vrsac (Smederevo, Pozarevac, Alibunar, Kovin, Bela Crkva, Beograd, Pancevo, Zrenjanin, Novi Sad...), but they are traditionally accompanied by the candidates from the more remote places of the country. A certain number of foreign students, mostly from Romania and Montenegro, enrol the college each year. The teaching at the college is carried out in three teaching languages: Serbian, Romanian and Roma, opening up great opportunities for the encouragement and promotion of an intercultural setting typical for Vojvodina. The students can gain intercultural competence developing ability to interact in the complex cultural context with individuals who have more than one cultural identity and language. Atmosphere is promoted at the College opening up possibilities for students to get to know various cultures and compare them, gaining critical cultural awareness, mutual respect and understanding.

Graduated students have opportunity to continue their education at the accredited



master studies program.

In the spirit of contemporary pedagogic tendencies the students are expected to show initiative, to participate and be active throughout their studies. They are encouraged to self-development and free development, reflected in personal self-fulfilment, emotional development, critical thinking and forming positive self-image. Accordingly, apart from their regular everyday duties, students can get involved in various activities taking place at the College. So, they often become members of research teams, participate in the publishing activities or enrol the programs of professional development organized by the Preschool Teacher Training and Medical College.

In accordance with their future profession, students are encouraged to take part in artistic and creative work in choir and orchestra, as well as drama and art clubs. The products of such extracurricular student engagement are appearances in the events organized on special occasions. Apart from group and individual exhibitions, the College has organized drama and puppet plays, as well as inclusive workshops, motoric-defectology workshops in cooperation with the organization "Open Heart of the World" (serb. *Otvoreno srce sveta*). Students make the requisites and puppets for the plays themselves and perform them for the children attending the kindergartens where students have their regular practice. It is worth mentioning that the choir members have successfully participated in international contents of choirs. Furthermore, the students are included in numerous forms of cooperation existing between the College and the kindergartens in the town and each year, before Christmas, they present the youngsters with the toys, puppets, various objects, illustrations and teaching means they make by themselves mostly of natural materials. Furthermore, the students are involved in numerous other types of cooperation between the College and Preschool institutions, as well as other organisations in the city.



Encouraging the development of the advanced students, the Preschool Teacher Training College has established rewards for best works of students in the field of psychology, pedagogy and arts, as well as for the best final papers.

The Students' Parliament is also active at the Preschool Teacher Training and Medical College in Vrsac, whose representatives participate in the work of the Staff Council the Board of the college, expressing their opinions, needs, initiatives and suggestions. Furthermore, Student Parliament representatives successfully organize a variety of discussions and lectures dealing with current topics. Today the Student Parliament is registered as a non-governmental and non-profit association, founded to achieve aims in the field of education, culture, science, sports and other activities of the College students.



Apart from promotion of inherited values, the College also offers numerous new possibilities for students. Having signed the Inter-Institutional Agreement with the Universities in Arad, Maribor, Jasi, Alba Iulia and Sibiu, the College has expanded its participation in Erasmus+ program of student and teacher mobility through *Key Action 1*. It implies shorter mobility of teaching and non-teaching staff and mobility of students for one term in order to attend teaching and take exams in EU program countries higher education institutions. The mobility is two directional and implies mobility of partner teachers and students. The number of signed agreements and mobilities is permanently increasing (Interested students can find more about this at: <https://www.uskolavrsac.edu.rs/erasmus-mobility/>).

Vocational practice of students presents an important and integral part of the study program for both the Bachelor and Master studies at the Preschool Teacher Training and Medical College in Vrsac, for both future preschool teachers and medical nurses. Vocational practice is incorporated in the program with a large number of classes in every semester of schooling. Surveyed employers often emphasize satisfaction and the impression that our graduates are well prepared for immediate work in the profession (in preschool and health care

institutions). The opinion of the National Accreditation Commission after obtaining accreditation for a period of 7 years for the Vocational Educator and Vocational Nurse/Technician study programs is that vocational practices are excellently organized and well integrated into the structure of modern study programs, and that they greatly provide the opportunity to prepare students for future direct work in the profession.



Attending *Integrated Vocational Practice 1 - 6* at the Vocational Preschool Teacher study program creates conditions for developing the knowledge, skills and values of students for direct work with children, for developing cooperation and a learning community, and developing professional practice. By attending vocational practice, students - future preschool teachers are in a situation to better understand the holistic nature of child development and the mutual dependence and conditioning of the child's social, motor, emotional and cognitive development. Integrated vocational practice is carried out in state and private preschool institutions. It allows the students to comprehend their future role preschool teachers in the organization of the educational process as a connected process of care, upbringing and education (<https://www.uskolavrsac.edu.rs/category/pedagoska-i-samostalna-praksa/>).

Vocational research practice 1 and 2 on the Vocational Preschool Teacher Master's study program includes independent and research work of students with the professional guidance of mentors - professors from compulsory and elective subjects in the first and second year, which is carried out in preschool institutions with which the College has signed a protocol on cooperation or in which master students are already employed. Master's students within the *Vocational research practice* should demonstrate and apply fundamental knowledge and didactic-methodical skills and competences for independent work with preschool children through various types of activities and research initiated by the new knowledge acquired during the Master's studies. <https://www.uskolavrsac.edu.rs/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/02-Vodic-za-izradu-projekata.pdf> . On their own initiative, master's students can access informal practice that takes place outside of formal educational institutions, within the context of educational work with preschool children, with the aim of developing desirable competencies of reflective practitioners. (<https://www.uskolavrsac.edu.rs/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/01-Informalna-praksa.pdf>).

Finally, vocational practice in each of the 6 semesters and 3 summer vocational practices in the Vocational Nurse/Technician study program result in an extremely high number of practice hours (over 1250 during the entire schooling) which are carried out in health care institutions with which the College has signed contracts on cooperation.

In terms of organization and representation of professional practice, the aforementioned study program is aligned with the European and the global education system (EU directives for nursing education – Directive 2005/36/EC and Directive 2013/55/EU), and provides students with the possibility of easy employment.



7. Ambient

In the immediate vicinity of the town park, surrounded by verdancy, the Preschool Teacher Training and Medical College is placed in a new, modern building, which has all the conditions necessary for adequate education of students. The space available for teaching and administration meets all relevant urban, technical-technological and hygienic conditions. It includes: a large amphitheater with 220 seats, a small amphitheater with 100 seats, 5 auditoriums (50 seats each), 1 computer laboratory (25 places), 7 rooms for mentor work (75 places); 1 banquet hall with 60 seats; among the abovementioned spaces is the area of the Center for Lifelong Learning. The college also has space for the Student Parliament, office space - (3) and a room for student services, a gymnasium (410 m²) with 2 changing rooms, an entrance area with notice boards. Auditoriums and offices are equipped with computers, projectors, televisions, laptops, interactive whiteboards, as well as accompanying equipment (printer, scanner), and an independent Internet connection. The institution provides the necessary training for teachers, associates and students with the aim of helping them effectively use the library and other information resources and services. In the hall of the college, electronic bulletin boards with constant internet connection have been installed. The college has five concert pianos, an electric piano, synthesizers (10) and appropriate audio-visual equipment. In the college complex there exists a sports field, and in the immediate vicinity there is a city stadium with sports fields, which, along with the school fields, are occasionally used for physical education classes and recreation.

The college has an appropriate library supplied with the necessary textbooks and other resources, which, with its level and volume, provides support to the teaching process, scientific research and professional work, as well as appropriate information resources and services. Regular activities are carried out in the library: collection, processing, storage and use of books, magazines and newspapers, as well as collection, processing and provision of information and data related to library material, with the aim of using it for educational, scientific, cultural and other purposes.

In order to achieve its tasks and create permanent values in culture and education, the library, in carrying out its activity, implements direct cooperation with other libraries, institutions of culture, education and other activities, as well as with faculties and other colleges. Students have at their disposal every day: a reading room with computers, a printer and internet access (wireless), as well as library units, textbooks, etc. which are relevant for study programs. The library collection (basic) contains 28,246 books, of which 7,038 are in the Romanian language and 407 are in the Roma language. In addition to the basic library fund, the Library also owns two legacies. The legacy of "Milan Pražić" includes 1052 books, while the legacy of "Mihailo Palov" contains around 35000 books; The library is also enriched with a professional library, a gift from academician Grozdanka Gojkov - 2800 books. In other words, students have at their disposal about 35,000 library units in Serbian, Romanian and Roma languages (part of professional literature is in English, German and Russian). Computer equipment in the library: 5 laptops and 1 computer for library staff. Libraries systematically inform professors and students about new editions of books and professional periodicals; in the reading room, new editions, collections of papers from international and domestic scientific and professional conferences, and magazines in several languages are exhibited daily. Day by day the bright halls of the college, enriched by greenery and paintings echo with the murmur of students; the voices of lectures and



practical lessons can be heard through the doors of classrooms, while in the silence of the library the students read, search on the Internet for the modern literature and write their seminar and professional bachelor degree papers.

Theoretical classes and practical classes, when it comes to the Vocational Nurse/Technician program, are conducted in amphitheatres, lecture rooms/classrooms and cabinets at the college in Vrsac, while exercises and practical work is carried out in primary, secondary and tertiary health care institutions - partners of the college.

8. Scientific – Research, Professional and Artistic Activity

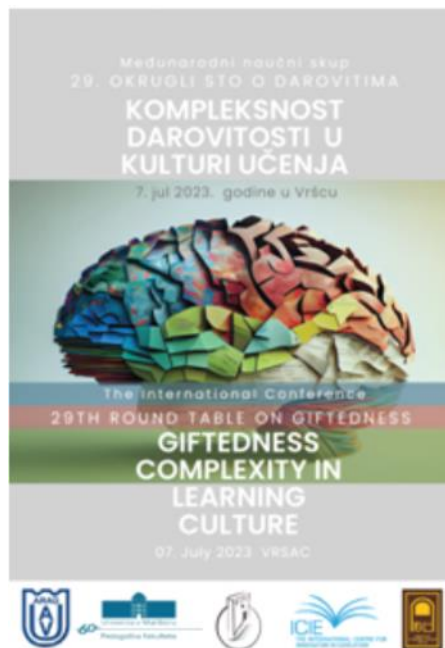
Scientific – research, professional and artistic activities of the Preschool Teacher Training and Medical College in Vrsac are carried out in the following forms:

- organization of Round tables and conferences,
- participation in national and international projects,
- participation of teachers in conferences in the country and abroad,
- lectures (exhibitions, performances) of well-known experts in the field of science and art,
- accreditation, organization and implementation of professional development programs for preschool teachers, teachers and assistants,
- publishing.

We will briefly look at some of them.

8.1. Round Tables on Giftedness

The Preschool Teacher Training and Medical College in Vrsac traditionally organizes the Round Table dedicated to the domain of giftedness and creativity of children and young people every year. The first scientific-professional round table on giftedness was held back in 1995 (May 17), and the participants of the meeting were scientists and experts of various profiles from our country (pedagogues, psychologists, linguists, musicians, artists, educators, etc.), giving the round tables an interdisciplinary character. Since the 14th round table (held in 2008), this scientific conference on the gifted has acquired the character of an international conference. So far, 29 gatherings have been held, attended by more than 1,000 scientists and experts - pedagogues, psychologists, artists, researchers from pedagogical and psychological institutes, universities, faculties, colleges, teachers, preschool teachers and students from several countries. We will highlight only the topics discussed at these gatherings in the last five years: “Giftedness Complexity in Learning Culture” (2023), “Affective Personality Dimensions and Giftedness Fulfillment” (2022), “Self-regulation and Development of Potentials of the Gifted” (2021), “The Gifted: Personal and Social Perspective” (2020), “Complexity of Giftedness and Creativity Phenomena” (2019). In parallel with the organisation of the round tables, the college publishes the articles of the participants in the Books of Collected Articles, which are available in the online format at the following address: <https://uskolavrsac.edu.rs/nauka/>.



Due to the long lasting interest of its teachers in the phenomenon of giftedness and all aspects of its manifestation, the Preschool Teacher Training and Medical College was in 2016 given the status of *European Talent Point. European Talent Support Network*, gathering more than 300 partner organization from 39 countries not only from Europe, but from other continents as well. The College is the fifth certified organization at the territory of the Republic of Serbia.

(More information on the round tables, books of abstracts, books of collected articles etc. can be found on the following address: <https://uskolavrsac.edu.rs/nauka/>).



8.2. Project activities – excerpt

Apart for teaching, professional-research, publishing and other activities, significant attention has been paid to project activities, in which students routinely participate. What follows is an outline of primarily international projects, which are ongoing or finished in the last five years (For more information on project activities, see:

<http://www.uskolavrsac.edu.rs/projekti/>.)



- **(2021–2024):** The international project STATUS (Steering Transition and Advancement of Tertiary Underrepresented Students), approved within the Erasmus+ program and aimed at building inclusive higher education systems and promoting interconnected higher education systems, is ongoing. The college in Vršac is the coordinator and participant of the project consortium, which also includes representatives of the University „1. December 1918.” (Alba Iulia, Romania), University of Madeira (Portugal), University of Palermo (Italy), WEBIN (Western Balkans Institute, Belgrade, Serbia), as well as representatives from Palermo (CESIE, Italy). The thematic focus of the project is on creating a stimulating environment at the tertiary level of education for the retention of underrepresented students (Roma, migrants, socially deprived groups, etc.) in given national and European contexts. In addition, the project seeks to contribute to a more efficient practice of cooperation between higher education institutions and other relevant stakeholders in the local community.
- **(2021–2023):** Since 2021, the college in Vršac has been involved as a partner in the implementation of the international project FUNED (For Unique New Education Design, RORS-434), financed with funds from the Interreg - IPA CBC Romania - Serbia program. This program is focused on the development of the border area through improving accessibility to the labor market and encouraging employment, environmental protection and tourism between regional and local public authorities, schools and educational institutions, chambers of commerce, non-governmental organizations, museums and cultural institutions. The leading partner on the project is the Preschool "Zrenjanin", and the foreign project partners are Asociatia Kreativ Research - Centrul de Studii Media si Cercetari Sociale and Asociatia Daria - Zambet de Copil from Romania. The project was focused, among other things, on the professional development of educators and the creation of innovative methodological procedures.
- **(2019–2021):** The international project Constructing Confidence and Trust Online (CoConTrustO) in cooperation with partners from the Western Balkan countries is implemented by the University of Chemnitz, Faculty of Humanities, Department of English, and is financed by Alexander von Humboldt University and DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst). Partners from Germany, Serbia, North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania and Croatia participate in this project.
- **(2018–2022):** The international project KEY (Keep Educating Yourself), financed with the funds of the Erasmus+ program of the European Union, is implemented with the aim of building capacities for lifelong training of preschool teachers in accordance with their needs. The college was a member of a consortium consisting of 17 partners from Serbia, Montenegro, Romania, Hungary, Slovenia and Great Britain. Among other activities, the project enabled the establishment of lifelong learning centers within the higher education institutions involved in the project.

More information about the mentioned and other projects of the college in Vršac can be found at: <https://www.uskolavrsac.edu.rs/projekti/>.

In addition to the international projects, during 2022/23 school year, two development research projects were implemented, which also involved a large number of students and participants from the Lifelong Learning Center of the college in Vršac. The projects are the following: "Heuristic strategies as creative design in higher education teaching" and "The importance of transferable (communication, personal, digital) skills for the professional development of preschool teachers in AP Vojvodina" (for the progress and results of the projects see: <http://vaspitacice.rs/>), both projects are supported by the Provincial Secretariat for Higher Education and Scientific Research, Novi Sad, AP Vojvodina.



In previous years, development research projects were also supported by the same secretariat and very successfully implemented (see projects: *Models of a holistic approach to the development of children's abilities and skills in AP Vojvodina*, *Digital competencies of preschool teachers - state and perspectives*, *Integrative approach at an early age - the role of preschool teachers*, information available at: <http://vaspitacice.rs/>).

8.3. An Outline of other Activities

Individual participations of teachers in scientific and professional conferences in the country and abroad are numerous and witness about intense engagement in scientific-research and professional segment of their work. What should be emphasized is the fact that a number of their papers have been published in the journals on the SSCI and *SCI* lists (the papers are visible in the *WOS – Web of Science*), as well as that certain professors have in the previous academic years participated in international conferences as invited key-note speakers. The Preschool Teacher Training and Medical College has for many years periodically organized lectures given by visiting professors. According to the principle of reciprocity, College professors have also been visiting lecturers in higher education institutions abroad.

Being engaged in the design and implementation of the contents for seminars for professional teacher improvement, the teachers of the College have inevitably and in a committed way worked on their own personal scientific and professional improvement. Since 2000 the College has regularly had accreditation of several programs for teacher professional improvement accredited by the Ministry of Education. The catalog of the continuous professional development program for teachers, preschool teachers and professional associates for the school years 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25 has been published on the official website of ZUOV (see <https://zuov-katalog.rs/index.php?action=page/program>) in which there are nine accredited programs of the college in Vršac (see <https://www.uskolavrsac.edu.rs/akreditacija-zuov>):

Name of the approved program	Stock No
Physical activity for the prevention of peer violence	208
Peer violence and what to do with it?	35
Models of professional development - social, personal and professional dimensions	608
Improving digital literacy and digital culture in education (online)	756
The Gifted: Mentoring - The Missing Link (online)	494
For a step ahead in preschool - improving transferable (communication, personal and digital) skills	819
A holistic approach to the early development and learning of preschool children and the "Years of Ascent" - challenges and perspectives	883
Interculturalism in kindergarten: Roma culture, customs and language	824
Training for the acquisition of functional and methodical knowledge and competence of teachers of the Roma language for the optional subject: Roma language with elements of national culture Note: This program was approved by the Pedagogical Institute of Vojvodina.	1195

The college is directed towards the design of new programs, along with the implementation and reaccreditation of old ones. (About earlier program accreditations, see: <https://www.uskolavrsac.edu.rs/akreditacija-zuov/>, and about the implementation of the programs, see <https://www.uskolavrsac.edu.rs/>.)

In accordance with the aforementioned, it should also be mentioned that the Center for Lifelong Learning, an organizational unit of the college, was founded in 2019. Cenatr contributes to personal and professional development through the analysis of development needs, the setting of development goals, the creation of an action plan, the implementation of learning and development programs and the evaluation of the entire process. The mission of this Center is to promote learning, providing knowledge from a set of transferable skills that will help users in their personal and professional development throughout their lives.



The general goals are: 1. continuous personal and professional development of the target groups (preschool teachers, teachers, nurses, professional associates, occupational therapists, parents, family members, media, local self-governments, interested members of the wider social community, citizens' associations) who are directly and/or indirectly involved in work for the welfare and development of the community; 2. continuous learning and development of vulnerable groups (children, youth, elderly, unemployed, marginalized groups). The Center realizes its work goals (for specific goals, see the Rulebook on the Work of the Center for Lifelong Learning): by designing and implementing accredited professional development programs; designing and implementing other forms of lifelong learning: seminars, training workshops, on-line training, forums, round tables, discussions, panel discussions, scientific and professional conferences...; through individual personal, written or electronic consultations with lecturers or the team, and in connection with a specific issue; issuing publications; creating and setting up databases; creating project proposals - national and international; realization of various projects aimed at the development of lifelong learning; implementation of a mobility; implementation of short study cycles. All the above-mentioned activities are carried out by competent members and associates of the Center (source: *Rules of the Center*, <https://www.uskolavrsac.edu.rs/31/>). The Center's current offer of programs (accredited programs by ZUOV, as well as proposals for professional development programs) is available at the address: <https://www.uskolavrsac.edu.rs/31/>.



A selection from the past activities of the Center can be seen on the website of the college of Vršac. We also add that the various activities of the Center and the College, among other things, are also aimed (explicitly and/or implicitly) at strengthening the transferable skills of young people and the personnel who educate them (on transferable skills, see <http://vaspitacice.rs/sta-su-prenosive-transverzalne-vestine-i-razlozi-za-njihovo-unapredjivanje/>), and by reviewing them, one can

that special attention has been dedicated to them for the past ten years (2013–2023, see: <https://epale.ec.europa.eu/sr/blog/mogucnosti-osnazivanja-prenosivih-vestina-uz-institucionalnu-podrsku-na-primeru-aktivnosti>). Improving these skills is particularly important, as they are part of preparing students for lifelong education and effective professional development.

9. International Cooperation

The Preschool Teacher Training and Medical College in Vršac achieves bilateral cooperation with numerous institutions through a wide range of activities starting from:

- organizing joint scientific and professional gatherings in our country and abroad (see e.g.: <https://uskolavrsac.edu.rs/nauka/>),
- through the joint implementation of international scientific and professional projects (see: <https://www.uskolavrsac.edu.rs/projekti/>),
- implementation of joint publishing activities (see: <http://research.rs/>),
- mobility of teachers and students (see: <https://www.uskolavrsac.edu.rs/erasmus-mobility/>);
- through lectures by visiting professors, organizing forums, promoting books, etc. (to see: <https://www.uskolavrsac.edu.rs/>).

Rather fruitful form of international cooperation is the involvement of professors in publishing activities of the College and other higher education institutions. Thus, numerous books have been published, many of them co-authored by domestic and foreign authors, and many peer reviews have been written. Special contribution to cooperation refers to the fact that the professors of the College are the members of foreign journals editorial boards.

Cooperation through versatile project activities has already been mentioned, but it should be pointed out that The College was often the initiator and coordinator of such projects. Finally, since 2016 the College has been a member of EURASHE – *European Association of Institutions in Higher Education*, offering programs focused on professional higher education and engaged in applied and vocationally oriented research within the Bologna cycle. More than 500 HEIs from 40 countries within European Higher Education Area are members of this association.

Intensive and very successful cooperation is achieved with vocational schools, other higher education institutions, preschool and health institutions, associations, individuals in the local environment and throughout the country.

10. Publishing Activity

Special attention has been paid to the publishing activity of the College for more than 30 years. In spite of poor economic conditions, great dedication of the teaching and non-teaching staff has preserved this significant activity of the college. All the titles were published thanks to the great dedication of the college staff. Almost everyone participates in some way in the preparation of texts for the press (professors and other employees proofread, edit, break the text, etc.). In the period between 1995 and 2023, within the publishing activities of the Preschool Teacher Training and Medical College in Vrsac 311 titles have been published in five different libraries. As part of its publishing activities, the College also presents monographs, textbooks and manuals in electronic form (see <http://www.uskolavrsac.edu.rs/elektronska-izdanja/>.)

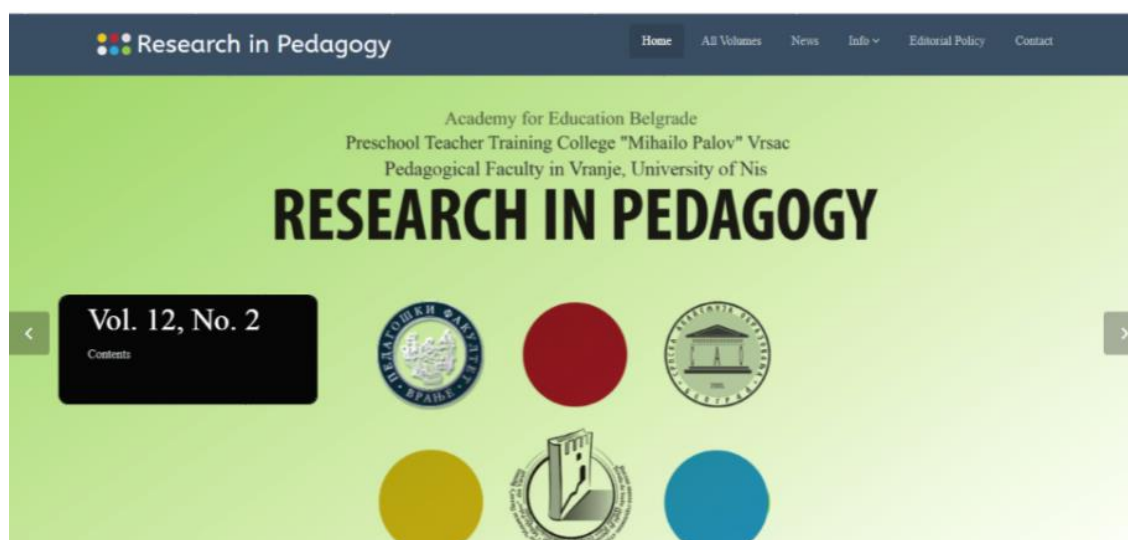
10.1. Journal *Research in Pedagogy*

Serbian Academy of Education (SAE) and Preschool Teacher Training College *Mihailo Palov* (today: Preschool Teacher Training and Medical College in Vrsac) launched a journal titled *Research in Pedagogy* in 2011. It is an international peer-reviewed journal, with an international editorial board, devoted to publishing research papers in different education related fields presenting findings of scientific research in pedagogy, before all, empirical, but also theoretical, applied, etc. The journal is published with the aim of arousing interest in pedagogic research and opening up possibilities to test and critically consider the reaches and limitations of more recent theoretical approaches, models and strategies in upbringing and education according to research findings.

The magazine is published twice a year (December and June) and a total of 23 issues have been published to date (all copies are available online, see web address below). Until 2015 the journal was bilingual, i.e. in Serbian and English language, for some time it is primarily in the English language and now it is bilingual again.

Significant efforts that are permanently invested in editing and publishing the journal led to its recognition in the academic community in the country (according to the Categorization of domestic scientific journals for 2022, it is in category M51) and in the region and resulted in the introduction of the journal into several existing international scientific databases.

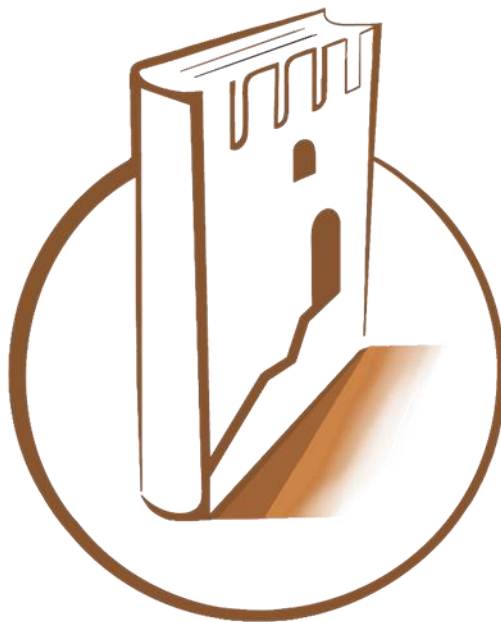
(More information, as well as instructions for publishing papers in the journal *Research in Pedagogy* v. at the address: (<http://research.rs>).



Instead of a conclusion

Quality education and upbringing is an honor, an obligation, a personal example and the key to the progress of every learning society. Excellent upbringing and education requires continuous creation - to contribute with your words and deeds to the creative heritage of all kinds in general. The Preschool Teacher Training and Medical College in Vrsac will continue to strive to do its best on this complex educational path that is one of the most beautiful that the human race can take.

(Excerpt from the speech on the occasion of receiving the Charter of the City of Vrsac for the outstanding contribution of the college in Vrsac in the field of education, cultural creativity and heritage preservation, May 2019, see <https://www.uskolavrsac.edu.rs/visokoj-skoli-dodeljena-povelja-grada-vrsca/>).



In addition to the resources listed in the main text and accompanying footnotes, the following sources/materials were used to draft the About Us document, along with oral and online communication with colleagues from the college of Vrsac:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Previous version of the <i>About Us</i> document https://www.uskolavrsac.edu.rs/engleski0/, in Word format (June, 2017);
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Publication of the institution</i> (from 27 May 2022) – material for the accreditation of the <i>Vocational Preschool Teacher program</i>;
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mission and vision of the College: documentation prepared for application (18th international education fair "Putokazi", Novi Sad) - Large gold medal for high quality in education;
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Statute and other documents of the College (Report for the academic year 2021/22, Work Program of the College 2022/23, Rules of the Center for Lifelong Learning...), see. https://www.uskolavrsac.edu.rs/;
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Portal: http://vaspitacice.rs/;
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Website of the college (https://www.uskolavrsac.edu.rs/; Information for students (2022/23); Informator for student enrollment in the 2023/24 academic year, information on various activities, etc.); promotional presentations of study programs of the University (https://www.uskolavrsac.edu.rs/upis/ etc.).
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ...

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