

➡ **prof. Zigurds Mikainis**, President of Promotion Council, Rezekne Higher Education Institution, Łotwa/Latvia

Human Rights Studies as an Opportunity For Advancing Intercultural Students' Citizenship Education

Studia nad prawami człowieka jako możliwość promocji międzykulturowej edukacji Obywatelskiej

In the XXI century the importance of the interculturalism elements in education has increased. The competences of cultural and intercultural awareness are becoming more and more important. Interest in human rights and their role in citizenship education has become increasingly topical and developed in Latvia. In higher education, intercultural citizenship education plays a decisive role in the practical implementation of the citizenship competencies of young specialists. Citizenship and civic participation are the aggregates of life skills based on the comprehensive acquisition of human rights and their practical application.

The analysis of the content of the study programmes of the Latvian institutions of higher education shows that they contain a number of courses concerning human rights. Their acquisition is an important element for the development of the citizenship awareness of young specialists, based on the understanding of the versatile content of principal human rights and the diverse mechanism of their development.

The objective of the study is to analyse and assess the role of human rights in the citizenship education of the teachers of studies within the system of higher education in Latvia.

The article is based on the analysis of theoretical literature, the regulatory acts of the Republic of Latvia concerning higher education, the documents of various institutions of higher education, curricula and study programmes concerning the acquisition of the values of citizenship education, the development of citizenship and its advancement in the context of human rights acquisition. The authors of the article consider that there is a close interconnection between human rights and the formation of individual's citizenship awareness. Citizenship education and human rights education comprise essential fundamental values and understanding about the mutual dependence and interconnectedness of all aspects of future specialists.

In Latvia, citizenship education and human rights education can be acquired as an interdisciplinary system. This process is implemented in the context of changes and development, i.e. in a constructive intercultural context.

Key words: *interculturalism, human rights, citizenship education, higher education, civic participation.*