Issues of Multiculturalism and Multilingualism in Modern Education System
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Preface

The present volume is the third one in the series "Studia humaniora et paedia-gogica collegii Narovensis", founded in 2004. We publish here materials from the international scientific conference «Issues of Multiculturalism and Multi-lingualism in Modern Education System», which took place at Narva College of the University of Tartu on 17-19 April 2008 with participants from thirteen countries. This conference was the final stage of the realisation of the European Social Fund project "Improving the Quality of the Multicultural Component in Teacher Training", which Narva College of the University of Tartu worked on from 2006 till 2008.

Within the frame of the project, a research group was formed, which consisted of lecturers at the college and representatives of other educational and research institutions in Estonia. Our aim was to make as many practising teachers and students as possible aware of cross-cultural communication and intercultural pedagogy. We demonstrated and explained ways in which languages and cultures enter the life of contemporary people, how they exist in this new communicative environment, how they preserve old traditions and create new ones. The research methods we used led us to new knowledge acquisition as well as to processing and using it in our own lives. The methods included information dissemination, retro- and introspection, learning by doing, surveys, observations and experiments. Well-known lecturers were invited to present the present state of the pedagogy, methodology and other issues in the research field.

We are assisted in the publication of the series «Studia humaniora et paedia-gogica collegii Narovensis» by the international editorial board consisting of prominent scholars from Germany, Russia, Finland and Estonia. The publication of the present volume was accomplished with the help of an editorial advisory board formed by scholars and researchers from Estonia, Britain, Germany and Finland who specialise in the issues of multiculturalism in education. All the articles published in this collection have undergone pre-publication (anonymous) reviewing.

What makes this issue different from the previous ones is its publication in two parts, each of which is identical in the content but differs in the language of publication. The first part consists of articles written in Russian and Estonian, while the language of the same articles in the second part is English. This struc-
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The topical issue of multiculturalism and multilingualism in contemporary education has united in this collection of articles the efforts of researchers from Britain, Germany, Israel, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Russia, the USA, Finland, Switzerland and Estonia. Together with this volume, Narva College of the University of Tartu also publishes two volumes of the periodical series «Acta et commen-tationes collegii Narovensis» which comprise other materials from the conference. These volumes consist of articles written by scholars from Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Russia, Finland and Estonia; the papers are presented in Estonian and Russian.

We would like to express our gratitude to all the authors of the articles, to the reviewers, to the members of the editorial boards, and to thank everybody who participated in the pre-publishing preparation work. We hope that the cooperation, which started here between scholars of different countries, will develop into new projects, research and conferences.

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