
CONGRATULATION ON THE 60th ANNIVERSARY OF ACADEMICIAN OLEG TOPUZOV: PORTRAIT OF A SCHOLAR



Full member (academician) of the National Academy of Educational Sciences of Ukraine
Doctor of Pedagogical Sciences
Professor
Honoured Worker of Science and Technology of Ukraine
Vice-President of the National Academy of Educational Sciences of Ukraine,
Director of the Institute of Pedagogy of the National Academy of Educational Sciences of Ukraine

In 2024, we are celebrating the 60th anniversary of Oleg Topuzov, a leading scholar in the area of Ukrainian education, a talented personality, an effective manager, Doctor of Pedagogical Sciences, Professor, Full Member (Academician) of the National Academy of Educational Sciences of Ukraine.

An anniversary is always a great opportunity to celebrate the achievements and wish new milestones. Reflecting on the achievements of Oleg Topuzov is a particularly complex task, as he has made a great number of valuable contributions to the development of Ukrainian science and education.

Brief biography

Oleg Topuzov was born on 25 September 1964 in Tysmenytsi, the urban-type settlement in Ivano-Frankivsk oblast¹ in a family of teachers. In 1987, he graduated from the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Geography of the Drahomanov Ukrainian State University with Diploma in Geography and Biology. In 1987–1990, he worked as a geography teacher at Sofiyivka-Borshchahivska Secondary School in Kyiv-Svyatoshynskyi District, Kyiv Oblast, continuing the family dynasty of teachers.

Oleg Topuzov began his scientific career in 1991 at the Institute of Pedagogy of the National Academy of Educational Sciences of Ukraine as a junior research fellow at the Laboratory of Learning Theory and Best Pedagogical Practices. Gradually, with the acquisition of scientific experience, Oleg Topuzov climbed the career ladder, working as a research fellow and senior research fellow. In 1994, Oleg Topuzov successfully defended his Candidate of Sciences thesis on 'Corrective Electives in Primary School' (speciality 13.00.01 — Theory and History of Ped-

¹ Oblast is a unit of administrative and territorial division in Ukraine.

gogy). In 2001, he was awarded the academic title of Senior Researcher in the speciality 13.00.02 — Theory and Methods of Teaching Geography.

A new stage was the position of Head of the Laboratory of Geographical Education of the Institute of Pedagogy of the National Academy of Educational Sciences of Ukraine, which Oleg Topuzov headed in 1996-2004.

The year 2008 became a decisive one for Oleg Topuzov's further scientific career:

- he defended his doctoral dissertation on 'Methodological foundations of problem-based learning of geography in secondary schools' (speciality 13.00.02 — theory and methods of teaching (geography) after successful completion of his doctoral studies at the Institute of Pedagogy of the Academy of Educational Sciences of Ukraine;

- he was awarded the academic title of Professor in the speciality 13.00.02 — Theory and Methods of Teaching (Geography);

- was elected Deputy Director for Research of the Institute of Pedagogy of the National Academy of Educational Sciences of Ukraine.

In 2012, Oleg Topuzov began acting as Director, and in 2013 he was unanimously elected a Director of the Institute of Pedagogy of the National Academy of Educational Sciences of Ukraine.

In 2017, Oleg Topuzov was re-elected a Director of the Institute of Pedagogy of the National Academy of Educational Sciences of Ukraine, a position he currently holds.

In 2017, the General Meeting of the National Academy of Educational Sciences of Ukraine elected Oleg Topuzov to the position of Vice-President of the National Academy of Educational Sciences of Ukraine.

In 2019, Oleg Topuzov was elected an academician of the National Academy of Educational Sciences of Ukraine.

An innovative researcher

His dedication to science and hard work have resulted in significant and unique scientific achievements.

Oleg Topuzov is a well-known scholar and pedagogue in Ukraine and abroad, whose research is devoted to substantiating the concept of the theory, methodology, methods and technologies of teaching geography in general education institutions, didactic principles of implementing problem-based and competence-based teaching of geography, individualisation of learning in a mixed form of organisation of the educational process, development of methods of teaching geography as a science and discipline, provision of scientific and methodological support for general secondary education, modern textbooks.

Oleg Topuzov is the author of more than 670 scientific works, including 14 monographs; 7 concepts; 30 teachers' and 23 students' textbooks; 20 curricula and 6 teacher training programmes; 12 textbooks for higher pedagogical education institutions and 11 textbooks in Geography for grades 6-10 of the general secondary education institutions; 12 collections of tasks for the development of students' literacy in natural science, mathematics and reading in the PISA format. articles in journals indexed in the Web of Science and Scopus.

Oleg Topuzov is the founder and leader of the scientific school of didactics and methods of teaching geography. Under his scientific supervision and advice, 25 Candidate of Sciences/ PhD theses and 11 doctoral theses were defended.

For ten years, Oleg Topuzov chaired the Specialised Academic Council K 26.452.05 and D 26.452.05 at the Institute of Pedagogy of the National Academy of Educational Sciences of Ukraine in the speciality 13.00.02 — Theory and Methods of Teaching (Geography, Chemistry, Biology). Currently, Oleg Topuzov is a member of the Specialised Academic Council D 26.452.01 at the Institute of Pedagogy of the National Academy of Educational Sciences of Ukraine, specialising in 13.00.09 — Theory of Learning and 13.00.01 — General Pedagogy and History of Pedagogy.

An important characteristic of Oleg Topuzov's work is the promotion of innovations in science and education. Oleg Topuzov is:

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- Editor-in-Chief of the [Ukrainian Pedagogical Journal](#), launched in 2015 on his initiative;
 - Editor-in-Chief of the scientific collection of works '[Problems of the Modern Textbook](#)';
 - Member of the Scientific Council of the English-language journal of the National Academy of Educational Sciences of Ukraine '[Education: Modern Discourses](#)'.

These scientific journals are indexed in national and international abstract and scientometric databases.

An efficient manager

The effective work of Oleg Topuzov as Director of the Institute of Pedagogy of the National Academy of Educational Sciences of Ukraine shapes the innovative image of the Institute, which is the basis for scientific research that works for the leadership of Ukrainian education in the context of European integration. Today, despite the challenges of wartime, the Institute of Pedagogy effectively provides scientific and methodological support for the implementation of the reform of general secondary education 'New Ukrainian School'. Scholars of the Institute of Pedagogy are co-authors of state educational standards, authors of primary, basic and high school curricula based on activity-based, personality-oriented and competence-based scientific approaches.

Under the leadership of Oleg Topuzov, the Institute of Pedagogy of the National Academy of Educational Sciences of Ukraine effectively cooperates with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, central and regional executive authorities, and foreign scientific and educational institutions, which ensures the Institute's significant presence in the national and international educational space.

Oleg Topuzov is the founder of an effective system for implementing research results. The Institute's scientific products are constantly exhibited at the exhibitions 'Modern Educational Institutions' and 'Innovation in Modern Education' and are annually awarded in nominations for the best publications. The high-quality level of the products is evidenced by their recognition in the competition of the National Academy of Educational Sciences of Ukraine for the best scientific works. An effective form of implementation is the annual web conference 'Scientists of the National Academy of Educational Sciences of Ukraine to Ukrainian Teachers', launched by Oleg Topuzov in 2015.

An important priority of Director Oleg Topuzov is to preserve the best traditions of the Institute of Pedagogy of the National Academy of Educational Sciences of Ukraine and to promote its activities. To this end, in 2015, on the occasion of the Science Day, Oleg Topuzov initiated an annual competition for the Prizes named after outstanding scientists of the Institute. The prizes are awarded to researchers of the Institute, as well as to scientists and teachers of other institutions and educational establishments for their significant contribution to the development of pedagogical science.

In recognising the scientific achievements of Academician Oleg Topuzov, we consider it equally important to recognise his personal qualities, which we are convinced are the basis for the successful progress of a scientist. Along with leadership, his defining qualities are determination, integrity, consistency, harmony, openness, and willingness to support colleagues. Oleg Topuzov inspires his colleagues to work creatively, enjoys well-deserved authority and respect in the team and among the educational community of Ukraine.

We are pleased to have such high-level professional working in Ukrainian pedagogical science. This contributes to the innovative development of national education, its successful harmonisation with European standards in the context of integration into the European educational space. On behalf of the editorial board of *Education: Modern Discourses* journal, we sincerely congratulate Oleg Topuzov on his 60th anniversary and wish him new scientific achievements. Many years to come!

Education: Modern Discourses Editorial Board

A complete list of Oleg Topuzov's scientific works is presented in the bibliography
[«Олег Михайлович Топузов. Вицепрезидент НАПН України» \(2024\).](#)