

## Dimensions of the Role of the Head Teacher in the Educational System in Poland

### Abstract

Education is increasingly defined as an essential factor not only in cultural and social progress but also in economic and political development.

The effectiveness of a school's management depends mainly on its leaders: the head teacher and deputy head teachers. Their roles, duties, competences and professional preparation are presented in the following article.

**Key words:** *head teacher, educational management, competences of school manager*

### Introduction

Since the 1980s reforms and modifications of elements comprising educational systems have been implemented in all European countries. They particularly concern educational management. Observing the changes in educational management two aspects can be mentioned. They are: decentralization and involving society in the decision-making process. In general, decentralization means shifting decision-making from the central to regional and local level. Decisions can concern changes in the structure of the educational system, modifications of curricula, the process of teachers' employment, educational supervision and financial management. Referring to socialization, which in fact is the consequence of decentralization and democratization of education, it enables individuals involved in education to participate in the process of school management. These individuals could be: parents, representatives of local authorities, groups of educational consultants, representatives of teachers' associations, pupils, members of the business world, ethnic and linguistic minorities or even religious groups. The same changes have