ABSTRACT

This paper focuses mainly on analysing the concept of the teaching profession in the context of the practice of teaching. To this end, it addresses two major elements deemed to be definitive of what the profession is: on the one hand, the body of knowledge it calls for and its features, and on the other hand, the claims of jurisdiction over the profession in the public, legal, and organizational fields. Between these two focuses of attention, efforts to protect the teaching quality are at stake – since it is considered that it should be the responsibility of the profession itself – and public demands regarding said quality. The second part of the paper refers to the practice of teaching and the limitations that affect it, which stem both from the profession itself as well as on the society in which it is practiced.