This special edition presents a snapshot from around the world of the current state of the researches devoted to the possibilities of educational environment in the development of students and teachers. The scientific literature justified, that the development of personality in ontogenesis, along with heredity, upbringing, is influenced by educational environment and the man’s own activities. From this perspective, personal development requires the creation of certain conditions, one of which is the educational environment allowing students to take responsibility for the selection of contents and forms of their activity.

There is no uniform approach to the characterization of the concept of "educational environment". Its essence, content, structure and functions have not received adequate coverage in scientific studies. The phenomenon of educational environment by analogy with the economic, informational, political environment can be considered not as a geometric area, the volume of which has a certain shape, but as a subjective form of perception, a set of relations. The concept of "educational environment" is defined as the surrounding the person's activity and development area in the educational institution; as a "territory" where there are sources of developmental impact, its generating factors, laws and principles; a range of activities are organized, educational technologies are implemented; not only as a set of influences and conditions of formation of the person, but also opportunities for their self-development and improvement.

In this special issue, contributors from six quite different countries (Russia, Poland, Belarus, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan) give the analysis of the possibilities of educational environment in the development of students and teachers. In addition, they offer different rationales in its realization, and also make comment on how they see the future of the enhancement of different educational institutions educational environment.

Khuziakhmetov, Shafikova & Kapranova’s article presents the main conditions of educational environment for the teenagers’ moral relations development.

Novik & Podgórecki offer a detailed technology of focused and systematic formation of communicative abilities of deviant adolescents.

Ribakova, Parfilova, Sh. Karimova and R. Karimova describe features of the orphanage children’s communicative competence evolution.

Nasibullov, Kashapova & Shavaileva in their article determine the conditions of formation of social successfullness of students with disabilities in the system of continuous inclusive education on the basis of value approach.

Zakirova, Gaysina & Zhumabaeva’s article aims at substantiation of the effectiveness of the developed pilot program of psycho-pedagogical support of the orphans’ adaptation in a foster family including diagnostic, projective, correctional, rehabilitative, recovery and consulting parts.

Yusupova, Podgorecki & Markova summarize the results of the research on formation of students’ international relations culture in a multicultural educational environment.

Gromova & Alimbekov’s article is directed to study of the first-third year students’ identity structure, and of the connection between an index of egocentrism and characteristics of identity.

Vedishenkova, Efimova & Ryabova’s article provides the potential of the students’ research activity as a factor of integration of their general and professional educational activities.

Sharifyanova, Shtreter & Nauryzbayeva’s article aims at developing the structure and the content of structural-functional model of designing individual educational path of teacher’s professional development in conditions of information educational environment.

Sadovaya, Khakhlova & Reznikov’s article studies the problem of future social teachers being professionally ready to organize children’s leisure activities.