

Preface

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New Challenges to Education: Lessons from Around the World

This volume contains a collection of selected papers submitted to the XIX Annual International Conference of the Bulgarian Comparative Education Society (BCES) held in June 2021. The XIX BCES Conference theme is *New Challenges to Education: Lessons from Around the World*.

The book includes 40 papers written by 66 authors from 15 countries. The volume starts with an introductory piece co-authored by Zoltán Rónay and Ewelina K Niemczyk. The other 39 papers are divided into 6 parts representing the thematic sections:

- 1) Comparative and International Education & History of Education (3 papers);
- 2) International Organizations and Education (4 papers);
- 3) School Education: Policies, Innovations, Practices & Entrepreneurship (13 papers);
- 4) Higher Education & Teacher Education and Training (5 papers);
- 5) Law and Education (8 papers);
- 6) Research Education & Research Practice (6 papers).

The papers included in this year's conference volume outline a variety of challenges all actors in the education process (students, teachers, administrators, policy decision makers) at all levels of the education systems have recently faced. Readers can find conceptual and empirical studies, quantitative and qualitative methods, descriptive and analytical approaches, and even pessimistic and optimistic authors' views. This volume presents how novel concepts, ironical definitions, and provoking considerations are born in difficult times, when restricted life meets unrestricted spirit.

The past two years have shown how fragile or sturdy, vulnerable or protectable, conservative or innovative things in education are. In this compilation book, readers, who are interested in educational processes around the world, can find interesting examples of damages caused, mistakes made, successes achieved, chances missed, opportunities used, and lessons learnt.

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