

Preface

Nikolay Popov

20th Volume of BCES Conference Books

This is the 20th Volume of BCES Conference Books. It contains selected papers submitted to the 20th Jubilee Annual International Conference of the Bulgarian Comparative Education Society (BCES), conducted virtually in June 2022.

The 20th BCES Conference theme is *Towards the Next Epoch of Education*. The theme is focused on problems, discussions, changes, solutions, and challenges that have recently happened, and as well on various opportunities, prospects, and advantages that have been made available to all actors in the educational systems around the world – students, parents, teachers, administrators, psychologists, principals, faculty members, researchers, and policy makers at municipal, regional and national level.

The volume includes 33 papers. As always, the book starts with an introductory piece, and the other 32 papers are divided into 6 parts representing the BCES Conference thematic sections:

- 1) Comparative and International Education & History of Education (4 papers);
- 2) International Education Issues (7 papers);
- 3) School Education: Policies, Innovations, Practices & Entrepreneurship (9 papers);
- 4) Higher Education & Teacher Education and Training (4 papers);
- 5) Law and Education (2 papers);
- 6) Research Education & Research Practice (6 papers).

This year, the BCES Annual Conference is very special – it is the 20th jubilee edition of this international event.

The Bulgarian Comparative Education Society was established in 1991 in Sofia, Bulgaria. In 2002, the BCES organized its first international conference merely as an attempt to gather colleagues from different parts of the world and discuss matters of common research and academic interests. This initiative had no big plans, no high expectations, no pretentious considerations. The BCES purely wanted to become an integral part of the global educational process and organizing such a conference was its way of making this possible. The conference began as a modest effort, progressing along a journey, resulting in it becoming an established international educational gathering. Fortunately, this effort to establish the conference on the international stage, resulted in it gaining much appreciation from colleagues in

countries in all continents. It very quickly became a well-known event, with very good prestige, and attracting international interest.

The BCES Conference journey has so far continued for 20 years, involving more and more followers and making more and more friends worldwide. Because this conference means friendship, honesty, reliability, trust, respect, support, and understanding. People with different origin, background, priorities, race, religion, color, culture, ethnos, and habits attend this event annually. People from the Far East to the west coast of the Americas, from Southern Africa to the Nordics every year present their papers and contribute highly to the conference continuation and further development.

As in all previous volumes, readers can find in this year's edition an eclectic and interesting assortment of research methods, approaches, models, theories, and concepts, and as well as personal observations, critiques, academic experiences, ideas and views.

The BCES Conference journey goes on. Its 20th jubilee event marks another step in a continuing tradition.

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Prof. Dr.habil. Nikolay Popov
Sofia University, Bulgaria, BCES Chair