

## Preface

This volume contains selected papers submitted to the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual International Conference of the Bulgarian Comparative Education Society (BCES), held in Sofia, Bulgaria, in June 2023. The Conference theme is *Recovering Education: Using the Experiences and Learning Acquired to Build New and Better Education Systems*.

The volume includes 41 papers – an introductory piece and 40 papers divided into 6 parts representing the BCES Conference thematic sections:

- 1) Comparative and International Education & History of Education (7 papers).
- 2) International Education Issues (12 papers).
- 3) School Education: Policies, Innovations, Practices & Entrepreneurship (6 papers).
- 4) Higher Education & Teacher Education and Training (2 papers).
- 5) Law and Education (6 papers).
- 6) Research Education & Research Practice (7 papers).

The authors of the papers included in this volume pose several interesting, provoking, and topical questions which they then address through theoretical and empirical methods, approaches, and techniques.

The papers of this volume provide evidence that this is a very good time for doing research in all aspects of education. The current post-pandemic period provides excellent opportunities for looking at the past three to four years, filled with disappointments, damages, and lessons learnt, and direct attention to hopes, efforts, and prospects to recover. Today's day gorgeously furnishes education researchers with a productive, chaotic, and stimulating mixture of failures, mistakes, problems, progresses, and achievements at all levels of national education systems. The current time of recovering education and building new and better education systems is a little 'golden age' of doing education studies.

Readers of this book can find attention-grabbing empirical data, reviews, analyses, conclusions, and recommendations. It is important to note that this volume brings the BCES Conference publications into their third decade as well as an ongoing tradition of cooperation, understanding, and support between researchers from all over the world.

May 2023

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