

Preface

BCES: A Fifteen-Year Conference Tradition

This volume contains selected papers submitted to the XV Annual International Conference of the Bulgarian Comparative Education Society (BCES), held in June 2017 in Borovets, Bulgaria, and papers submitted to the V International Partner Conference of the International Research Centre (IRC) ‘Scientific cooperation’, Rostov-on-Don, Russia, organized as part of the BCES Conference.

The XV BCES Conference theme is *Current Business and Economics Driven Discourse and Education: Perspectives from Around the World*. The V International Partner Conference theme is *Science and Education in Modern Social, Economic and Humanitarian Discourse*.

The book consists of 38 papers written by 69 authors.

The volume starts with an introductory paper by Johannes L van der Walt. The other 37 papers are divided into 8 parts: 1) Comparative Education & History of Education; 2) Teacher Education; 3) Education Policy, Reforms & School Leadership; 4) Higher Education, Lifelong Learning & Social Inclusion; 5) Law and Education; 6) Research Education; 7) Educational Development Strategies in Different Countries and Regions of the World; 8) Key Directions and Characteristics of Research Organization in the Contemporary World.

Fifteen years ago, in 2002, when we organized the Inaugural BCES Conference, we had no idea what would happen in the future. The conference originated as a forum on Comparative Education and Teacher Training. However, throughout the years, other fields such as, History of Education; Education Policy, Reforms and School Leadership; Higher Education, Lifelong Learning and Social Inclusion; Law and Education; Research Education – have been included in the conference programs.

The BCES Annual International Conference has three main features:

1. It is our way of being an integral part of the global education community, our way of inviting the world to come to Bulgaria.
2. It is purposefully kept small as an event aimed at providing a homey environment, friendly atmosphere, and excellent opportunities for discussion.
3. Despite its size, it is always visited by participants from all over the world.

During the past fifteen years, the BCES Annual International Conference has, without doubt, been established as a traditional, prestigious and high quality event that habitually attracts colleagues from all continents.

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