

privilege to have the opportunity to experience all its beauties. So make the most of your stay here and visit the impressive cultural sights and enjoy all the natural beauties of our city.

Thank you and I wish you fruitful and successful work!

Prof. Dr. Nikola JANKULOVSKI
*Rector of the Ss. Cyril and Methodius
University in Skopje
Republic of North Macedonia*



Dear Professor Stevo Pendarovski, Ph.D., President of the North Macedonia,
Dear Mr. Jeton Shaqiri, Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of North Macedonia,
Dear Professor Ratko Duev, Ph.D., dean of the Faculty of Philosophy,
Dear rectors, vice rectors, mayors, deans, professors and students,
Dear guests and friends,
Good afternoon!

It is a special honor and pleasure for me on behalf of the “Ss. Cyril and Methodius” University in Skopje to congratulate the great 75-year Anniversary of the Institute of Pedagogy at the Faculty of Philosophy, as one of the oldest institutes of our University. I am honored to attend the opening of the International Scientific Conference “75 years of the Institute of Pedagogy – Educational Challenges and Perspectives”, organized by the Institute of Pedagogy, sponsored by the President of the State, prof. Dr. Stevo Pendarovski.

I am very pleased that an impressive number of university professors attends this event from the country and abroad, pedagogues and teachers, who have been dedicating their working lives to the continuation and affirmation of the teaching profession and the prestigious pedagogical activity.

Pedagogues with their professional contribution and great enthusiasm deal with numerous changes, social and educational reforms, write the history of the pedagogical activity in our country and leave a significant mark in the educational development and rise.

Education is the primary moving force of any society. The creation of a “knowledge-based society” and producing high-powered work qualifications is a crucial task of every university.

In this direction, “Ss. Cyril and Methodius” University also strives for the improvement of the quality in the education of future educators, teachers and pedagogues, by improving the standards and capacities of the educational system in our country. Teachers, educators and pedagogues are the bearers of change, development and progress in one country. Hence, it is especially important to make sure that our students, future professionals are adequately prepared for the tasks and challenges facing modern education. Expectations for the pedagogical and teaching profession are always high. In that context, a large number of personal and professional qualities are required from the modern pedagogue and teacher.

Modern educational trends are reflected in the need for accelerated transformation of the overall setting of higher education and the establishment of quality appropriate to the needs of the country, which is at the same time competitive in international frameworks. Therefore, overcoming the relapses of the past and the implementation of internationally recognized norms and standards in higher education will remain imperative in the operation of the University. Only in this way, the higher education will fully fulfill its mission at the national and international level.

At the same time, it is evident that the introduction and implementation of numerous changes, European programs and initiatives are directed towards modernizing the Macedonian educational system in terms of following the contemporary development trends in education in Europe, as well as strengthening the institutional capacities in the field of educational policies.

In that sense, the goal of this international scientific conference which will be realized in the next three days, i.e., the affirmation and promotion of the educational activity in front of the wider academic public at the national and international level, is justified and especially necessary. I believe that through the working sessions of the conference, a space and opportunity for in-depth cooperation between domestic and foreign university professors, educational experts, researchers, educators and practitioners will be created and they will have the opportunity to discuss and exchange experiences on issues related to educational and educational challenges and perspectives. It is always necessary to discuss current issues from all areas of upbringing and education, to promote new pedagogical concepts and ideas, and to share the results of the latest research and innovations.

In that sense, the University's commitments are moving in the direction of providing and promoting quality education for the young generations, because they are the foundation of our future.

The program is very plentiful, and allows the professional and general public to be informed about the work of pedagogues, the conditions and perspectives for the development of the pedagogic activity, as well as about the challenges that the pedagogue encounters. I am especially glad that the program is designed with a multidisciplinary approach and that among us there are professors from several scientific fields who are in close connection with the common moving force, which is pedagogy.

In the expansion of numerous reform efforts in all subsystems of the educational system in Macedonia, in preschool, primary, secondary, higher education, adult education, it is necessary they are to be managed and monitored by the expert academic staff.

Today, the pedagogical profile is dealing with numerous changes, social and educational reforms with great enthusiasm, and there is a need to stamp a significant "professional seal" in the national educational system.

I am convinced that the benefits of this scientific conference will provide a kind of overview of current educational developments in our country, as well as the experiences of foreign universities and their practice, but at the same time, they will actualize and stimulate new issues in the field of pedagogy and education, and as expected results are the knowledge and the recommendations, which will be of great importance for their implementation in the creation of educational policies in the country and improvement of the quality of the educational system in the country.

To all participants of the Conference I wish a successful work.

Thank you!

Mr. Jeton SHAQIRI

*Minister of education and science of the
Republic of North Macedonia*



Dear President of the Republic of North Macedonia, prof. dr Stevo Pendarovski,
Dear Rector of the "St. Cyril and Methodius University", prof. dr. Nikola Jankulovski,
Dear Vice-Rectors,