

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,

Dear Mayors,

Dear Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje, prof. dr. Ratko Duev,

Dear Head of the Institute of Pedagogy, prof. dr. Elizabeta Tomevska-Ilievska,

Dear, present deans, vice-deans, senators, professors, pedagogues, teachers, students, guests.

Seven and a half decades The Institute of Pedagogy at the Faculty of Philosophy of St. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, with its teaching and scientific-research work enriches the social and public life of our country. The international scientific conference being 75 years Institute of Pedagogy – Educational challenges and perspectives”, seems to be a logical completion of all previous activities of the Institute and tracing new directions in one of the most important activities, which covers the entire corpus of education and training of generations that will be the future of our country and the future of the world. Because, now, more than ever, the question arises as to how we should change the education in order to be more prepared to intercept the time that lies ahead.

Numerous are the challenges that condition the answer to this question. The Government and the Ministry of Education and Science have set out that the strategic goal is to provide quality education that will be accessible to every child, by providing an educational system that will create a staff capable of logical and critical thinking, based on analysis and facts. The school should prepare the children to use the knowledge to solve the problems that they will face in the future, and also to be creative and active.

Through the educational process to be formed individuals who respect and cultivate civil rights, tolerance and diversity, that will be able to respond to the needs of the labor market in accordance with the accelerated technological development.

In the fundamental educational changes based on these goals, we started from the nine-year primary education, based on the new Concept and for the first time are being established national standards for the achievements of students at the end of primary education. In the educational process, we put in the first place the student and his needs, opportunities and affinities, while the teacher was given autonomy and the opportunity to decide how is he going to create the lesson. We have also promoted the level of digitalization of the entire educational process, in order to follow the development of the advanced practices of the countries with better quality educational systems.

Dear present guests,

The new Concept, digital learning materials and changes in general, have caused controversy among the general and professional public. Personally, I think that societies that want to move forward with big steps should not be afraid of public debates, which are a good guide for policy makers. In this way, I am convinced that the scientific opinions that will be presented by the large number of authors-participants in the conference and the multidisciplinary access, will show new approaches to education, study and solving pedagogical problems. Because the only thing that is unchangeable is our commitment to improve the quality of education, as a basis for the overall development and prosperity of the country, for social transformation and democratization.

In the end, I would like to congratulate the 75th Anniversary of the Institute of Pedagogy, and wish you to continue to enrich your pedagogical thought, to create high practitioners and to continue to be integrated into the overall development of the national educational system. The profile of the educator is very important in the educational system in our country and I think that the pedagogical critical experience should be respected in order to achieve more qualitative education. I believe and hope that in the future, the professors from the Institute of Pedagogy will continue to be our partners and whose valuable experience will be built-in for future national educational policies. To all that are present, beside the successful scientific dialogue, I recommend you to take your time to see the beauties of the Macedonian pearl the city of Ohrid.

Thank you.