

Prof. Dr. Stevo PENDAROVSKI
President of the Republic of North Macedonia



Dear organizers,
Dear participants,
Dear friends,

Allow me first to congratulate you on a great jubilee – 75 years since the founding of the Institute of Pedagogy at the Faculty of Philosophy of the University “St. Cyril and Methodius – Skopje. Our oldest institution for the education of pedagogists, teachers and educators, is celebrating this important jubilee in a worthy manner, in addition to other activities, with the International Scientific Conference entitled “75 years of the Institute of Pedagogy – Educational Challenges and Perspectives”.

I wish to underline what a special honor it is for me to be the patron of the Conference. Unfortunately, due to urgent work commitments I cannot be with you today, but I do thank you for the opportunity to share some of my thoughts in this way.

Bearing in mind that the conference is attended by around 200 participants – rectors, mayors, university professors, deans, professors, pedagogists, teachers, educators and students, including numerous participants from fifteen countries, I can rightly state that it is a special event and a unique opportunity to share information, experiences, to network and jointly develop future projects. I have no doubt whatsoever that in the next three days it will be possible to hear interesting presentations and fruitful discussions and debates. After all, that is the way to achieving better results and reaching the highest standards.

Educational processes should not be considered static and unchangeable – on the contrary, they should be adapted to the needs of those for whom they are intended, as well as to the demands and expectations of societies, in correlation with development trends. In this context, the contribution of those who, as practitioners, are involved in the educational process itself and who are in charge of its proper implementation, is immeasurable.

Dear participants,

The Republic of North Macedonia is not part of the highly developed industrial countries and does not have resources that can ensure rapid economic development. Hence, our greatest wealth is human capital – it must be invested in and given the necessary attention.

Of course, the process starts from an early age. Education is the foundation for building healthy individuals who will acquire knowledge and skills necessary for the development of our country. Namely, that is why it is necessary to constantly invest in education and science and give space for talent and creativity to come to the surface.

We live in a time and a world where things are changing rapidly. The Covid 19 pandemic has set us back, because despite all efforts and the use of the latest technologies, the educational process still lost a portion of its dynamism and quality. That is precisely why we must have a readiness and a strategy to face the accumulated problems, but also challenges that are yet to come. New concepts and methods should be adopted and ideas, information, doctrines exchanged. Education and science must finally become the backbone of any planning of our future development.

Dear attendees,

Let me conclude by wishing you a pleasant stay in beautiful Ohrid and a successful conference. Thank you.