

Comparative Education, Teacher Training,  
Education Policy and Social Inclusion

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Marcella Kysilka, James Ogunleye

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# Comparative Education, Teacher Training, Education Policy and Social Inclusion

## Volume 6

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Bulgarian Comparative Education Society

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## **PREFACE**

### **The Conference**

This volume contains papers submitted to the 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on “Comparative Education and Teacher Training”, organized by the Bulgarian Comparative Education Society, hosted by the Faculty of Primary and Preschool Education of Sofia University, and held in Sofia in July 2008.

The overall goal of the conference is to focus academic discussions on the role of Comparative Education and new practices in teacher training.

The conference objectives are:

- 1) to examine different approaches to the role of Comparative Education as a science, research methodology, and academic discipline;
- 2) to develop linkages with colleagues who work in various teacher training programs at universities, colleges, and institutes around the world;
- 3) to outline prospects for the development of education policy and school reforms at the institutional, regional, national and international level;
- 4) to discuss new practices in lifelong learning education and social inclusion.

Organizing this Conference is our way of being an integral part of the international comparative education community.

### **The Bulgarian Comparative Education Society**

The Bulgarian Comparative Education Society (BCES) was founded in Sofia in October 1991. Since March 1992 it has been a constituent member-society of the World Council of Comparative Education Societies (WCCES).

The BCES is very small. It is perhaps the smallest society in the WCCES. Yet despite its size, the BCES plays an active role in the Southeast European region and keeps close contacts with the WCCES Secretariat and many member-societies.

The Bulgarian Comparative Education Society is registered as a non-profit, non-governmental organization. It focuses on:

- organizing conferences on comparative education
- doing comparative education studies
- coordinating international research projects
- supporting publications on problems of education
- organizing study visits to Bulgaria for foreign students and teachers
- publishing books on comparative and international education

BCES topics of special interest are:

- comparative education as a university discipline
- pre-service and in-service teacher training
- education policy at international, national, regional and local level
- new practices in preschool and primary education
- new practices in secondary education
- reforms in higher education

### **The Conference Host**

The Faculty of Primary and Preschool Education of Sofia University is the host of the conference.

Sofia University is the first institution of higher education in Bulgaria, established in 1888. Its history is an embodiment and a continuation of centuries of cultural and educational tradition in this country. Sofia University has always been the largest and most prestigious educational and scientific center in Bulgaria. Today it has 15 faculties with 80 degree programs.

The Faculty of Primary and Preschool Education was founded in 1983. During the 25 years of its existence the Faculty has constantly updated curricula and programs to keep abreast of both developments in pedagogical scholarship and social demands. The Faculty has 10 degree programs as follows:

- Preschool and Primary School Education
- Primary School Education and Foreign Language Teaching
- Preschool Education and Foreign Language Teaching
- Special Education
- Social Education
- Music Education
- Fine Arts Education
- Speech Therapy
- Pedagogy of Mass and Art Communication
- Medical Rehabilitation and Ergotherapy

### **The Book**

The book consists of 40 papers, written by 66 authors, and grouped into four parts:

- 1) Comparative Education as a University Discipline
- 2) Pre-Service and In-Service Teacher Training
- 3) Policy of Education and Schooling Reform
- 4) Lifelong Learning Education and Social Inclusion

All papers in the book provide their own significant contributions to defining problems, clarifying concepts, discussing phenomena, and examining different approaches to the challenging topics of Comparative Education, Teacher Training, Education Policy, Lifelong Learning Education and Social Inclusion.

I would like to express my most sincere gratitude to all participants in the BCES 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference for their collaboration. This publication would never have been possible in the absence of their high-quality papers.

Special thanks are also due to the Workshop Chairs – Charl Wolhuter, Bruno Leutwyler, Marcella Kysilka, and James Ogunleye – for their constructive cooperation in the conference organization and editorial work on the different parts of the book.

Nikolay Popov  
Conference Chair, Editor-in-Chief

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