

Greeting, salutation

Madam Minister, (Minister of Education, Youth and Sports)

Your Excellency, Mr. Rector (Rector of the Charles University in Prague)

Madam Director General (DGII Director General - Democracy, Council of Europe)

Ladies and gentlemen, dear guests,

It is my great honour to welcome you, participants of the 7th Prague Forum on educational policies in Europe organised by the Council of Europe in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Charles University in Prague and the Faculty of Education on the theme "Towards a Pan European Platform on Ethics, Transparency and Integrity in Education".

### **Introducing the faculty**

Faculty of Education as one of the largest faculties of Charles University in Prague fulfils its mission in the field of higher education and lifelong learning for teachers, educators and other educational staff including the staff of the School of Management. We prepare teachers training for specialism in all curricular subjects in the elementary and secondary schools. Research is mainly focused on the science of education and training, especially on didactics. Next year, along with other faculties of education in the Czech Republic and in Slovakia the Faculty at Charles University will celebrate 70 years as a university faculty.

The Faculty is professionally-oriented and works across the whole spectrum of education, from pre-school education to adult learning. Although the Charles University in Prague has five other faculties involved in the preparation of teachers, the Faculty of Education is the only one dedicated to teacher preparation.

Currently, the Faculty of Education has more than 4800 students studying full-time and part-time (66% in full-time study). In addition to the Bachelor's and Master studies, the Faculty of Education also provides doctoral studies, which sees a future for the development of disciplines and subject didactics, which has long been in its research activities and international co-operation.

### **International co-operation in the Faculty**

Faculty members are actively involved in international co-operation with universities and institutions in Europe and beyond. There are 61 international intercollegiate agreements for collaboration, with the most being extensive co-operation with Germany and Poland. A contract with Joetsu University in Japan was recently concluded and will be used in January 2016 when preparing the opening of a traveling exhibition involving four universities from Taiwan, Mongolia, Japan and the Czech Republic. Very close ties have traditionally been developed with Slovakian universities, both within the educational mobility and the organisation of joint international conferences and the creation of specialist publications.

For the development of international relations in the field of science and research with French institutions it is of considerable importance to Charles University that we are a member of the Council CEFRES (Centre francais de recherche en sciences sociales).

Charles University has long supported student and staff mobility and work placements ERASMUS+, in which all departments are involved. Most contracts under Erasmus+ have been agreed with universities in Germany, France and Spain and the Slovak Republic.

The Faculty is one of the first faculties of Charles University and in the Czech Republic, actualise the Erasmus Mundus programme. Together with the University of Roehampton (the co-ordinating institution) and the University of Oslo we shall provide an MA / Masters in Special and Inclusive Education for students and academics..

There is, thus, a relatively broad experience in international projects, shown in the past in dealing with projects under Frameworks 5, 6 and 7 and more than six TEMPUS projects. In 2014, Faculty members were involved in 15 international EU projects, one of which is a project belonging to the 7th Framework Programme. Application for ERASMUS-KA3 a project is currently being completed. This year faculty submitted three requests for the Horizon 2020 project.

### **Today's meeting**

As dean of the Faculty of Education, I fully support and welcome the initiative of the Council of Europe and its efforts to launch a pan-European platform of ethics, transparency and integrity. I am pleased that it is the Charles University, which is hosting participants for such an important forum and which can create an appropriate environment for discussing such a serious and, at the same time, very current topic.

The Faculty of Education, the Czech Republic and Slovakia closely co-operate through the Association of Deans of Faculties of Education. The main topics of the Seventh Prague Forum and its results will be used in the working meetings of the Association of Deans. The results of the Forum will be followed very closely and we will try to reflect them in practice in the faculties' teaching.

One of the key priorities of the faculty is to ensure the quality of teaching and research activities.

- Thus, the Faculty pays great attention to plagiarism in academic work of its students and the publication activities of its research and teaching staff.
- The Faculty strives for transparency in recruitment, systematically and, through a multi-tier system and monitors compliance with all laws and regulations regarding admission procedures.
- The Faculty has established long-term monitoring mechanisms for compliance with all regulations and measures for students to fulfil their course requirements and which necessary for the proper and successful completion of studies. (It is not a degree factory!)
- The Faculty ensures that its staff comply with ethical principles in teaching and research activities.

In the above matters, faculty managers are working closely with the full support of the Academic Senate and with student councils.

As part of the Charles University, the Faculty is ready to actively engage in taking the necessary action working with the Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport in the Pan-European launch of the Council of Europe platform for ethics, transparency and integrity in education (ETINED). The Faculty is also ready to assist in implementing strategies to support ethics, transparency and integrity in the education of children in Europe, specifically in the Czech Republic and to educate future teachers in this spirit. A part of this platform's activities is discussion on the issue of ethical principles in education, including ethics in the work of teachers in education, plagiarism and fake certification. Since they profoundly affect the mission of the faculty of education (teacher training and the continuing professional learning and development of teachers), we shall closely follow and, where necessary, contribute to this debate, disseminate and act upon the results of these discussions. Ethical principles in education will be exercised in relation to international co-operation emerging from activities in the Association for Teacher Education in Europe (ATEE) of which organisation the Faculty is an institutional member.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, let me (once again) wish you a warm welcome and every success for the workings of the Seventh Prague Forum.