

Dear Colleagues,

It is our honor to welcome you to Szeged, the city of sunshine, as we like to call it. The tenth CEA is a historical milestone in the development of the expert community of educational assessment in Hungary: this is the first time that we present and discuss our research results here in Szeged with a wider audience, our international colleagues as well.

Although the first CEA conference was held only a decade ago, its conception dates back to the early 1990's. The euphoric mood of the rapid social changes in 1991 inspired us to launch a postgraduate training in educational evaluation at the University of Szeged. That program was three year long, and bilingual (English and Hungarian) as it mostly relied on international textbooks, and several American guest professors taught courses in it. Later it was integrated into the changed university structure, reduced to two years and one working language. In spite of being renamed and shaped to the actual administrative expectations a dozen times, accredited and reaccredited according to the requirements of the changing higher education acts, the postgraduate training survived, maintained its prestige and turned into its twenties. The alumni of this training, more than 500 by now, are our most precious human resources, participants of our empirical projects and large-scale assessments. It was the most ambitious group of the graduates of this program who proposed to create an opportunity for regular professional meetings.

So we started the series of the educational evaluation conferences in 2003 which since then has been going through a rapid evolution. In 2006, it was transformed into a reviewed conference, invited open submissions and adopted the structure of international scientific conferences. Some years ago, we organized an international workshop to discuss our actual research issues, the success of which prompted for a repetition. This year, we organized the fourth one in a row. The success of these small-scale intensive professional meetings and the growing international interest for collaboration in this rapidly expanding field of research encouraged us to convert it into an international conference.

We are very pleased that for the first time such a large number of our European colleagues responded to our call that the presentations in English constitute one third of the program. We tried to organize this meeting in a way that the presentations in the two languages will run parallel and offer enough opportunity for interaction too.

We are proud to host you here, at the city of the University of Szeged, one of the most prestigious research universities of Hungary. Enjoy the rich culture of this region, and please help us to strengthen the cooperation in the field of educational assessment and other areas of educational research.

Benő Csapó
President of the 10th CEA

Edit Tóth
Secretary of the 10th CEA