

Foreword

This volume of conference proceedings includes papers presented at the international conference *Languages as a Lifeskill – New Perspectives on LSP Teaching and Learning*, held in Bucharest, at the Academy of Economic Studies, on 21-22 May 2010.

In line with the tradition of building on the partnership with national and international organisations, this academic event – the 10th conference of QUEST Romania – the Romanian Association for Quality Language Services – was organised in cooperation with the Department for Business English and German of The Academy of Economic Studies Bucharest, and The Grundtvig Lifelong Learning Project "Innovative Practice in Adult Language Education – *IPALE*" (GRU-09-P-LP-82-B-CZ).

Both the conference and the selection of papers included in the proceedings promote quality in language education and research processes. The main focus is, therefore, on high standards of teaching, on educational management, service to students and adaptation of curricula to life skills and to new approaches in applied research.

Dedicated to providers of language education and training, as well as to researchers and professionals from language and literature teaching institutions, the conference has brought together plenary speakers, workshop leaders and project partners from the international community of language specialists, and has provided a forum for the exchange of ideas, methods and expertise on a wide range of topics, in an attempt to address the multiple dimensions of the Language Teacher and Researcher profession.

The main thematic areas addressed in the conference were:

- **New approaches in applied research and education** – e.g. in linguistics, cultural studies, literary studies, education research, interdisciplinary studies
- **Integrated language and intercultural competencies for career development**
- **Teacher Development and Lifelong Learning**
- **Innovative practices in LSP teaching and learning** – e.g. language teaching methodology, using on-line resources for greater learner autonomy, *CEFR* – inspired course design and (self-)evaluation, incl. LWULT-languages (e.g. BG, CZ, HU, PL, RO)
- **Quality Management in language education** – e.g. Quality Assurance in Higher Education - implementing European projects, e.g. QualiTraining (ECML Project); National and European quality assurance systems – learning from each other.

These themes are reflected in the five sections of the conference proceedings volume:

1. ***New Approaches in Applied Research*** – the largest section, with 24 papers on both theoretical and applied aspects in a variety of fields, ranging from literature to applied linguistics and translation studies;
2. ***Integrated Language & Intercultural Skills for Career Development*** – with 18 papers on the intercultural dimension of ESP/LSP courses, integrated communication and cultural skills for better career and mobility opportunities, as well as insights derived from international projects on intercultural issues;
3. ***Evaluation and Self-evaluation of Communication Competencies: Implementing the CEFR, ELP and QualiTraining-based Approach*** – with 9 papers including practical examples of implementing the CEFR, the ELP and "QualiTraining" in various educational contexts, in different countries, e.g. Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Greece, Romania;
4. ***Innovative Practices and Projects in Language Education*** – with 15 papers on innovative approaches to language teaching and learning, introducing IT in the language class, blended learning, enhancing learner autonomy through the MacMillan Campus, raising student motivation, encouraging multilingualism through international projects, including reflections on the benefits of the Grundtvig "IPALE" project;
5. ***Teacher Development and Quality Management in Language Education*** – consisting of 14 papers on teacher development and quality oriented initiatives in countries such as Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania.

The papers, thus, cover a wide range of topics, reflect and are inspired from a multitude of very interesting projects. A lot of them also include practical suggestions for a variety of educational settings. Even if most of the papers are written in English as a *lingua franca*, and some in French, German or Romanian, reference is made to teaching and learning languages in general, as an important dimension of personal and professional development in our plurilingual world.

We hope that you will find the papers inspiring for your activities and you will discover thought-provoking ideas on diverse topics of interest to you.

*Laura Muresan & Marina Militaru,
Editors*