



**Stephanos Dritsos**

*Chairman of the Organizing Committee*

*Dear Participant,*

*In the globalised world that we live in, our social, economic and even human and natural environment are changing rapidly. However, one source of stability can be recognised that has lasted throughout the ages. It is education. In the Greek language, the word for education is “paideia” (παιδεία), which has a deeper meaning encompassing the concepts of culture, perfection and excellence. Indeed, the state of the populations’ education in a country is the critical indicator of the quality of peoples’ lives in that country. When considering how to educate civil engineers, the following questions naturally arise:*

*How should education respond to social needs?*

*Are broader social needs and market priorities in balance?*

*Is economic progress the leading parameter for education?*

*Is it the education of the people that governs the markets or do the markets govern the peoples’ education?*

*Finally, which is the best way to educate civil engineers?*

*When the Civil Engineering Department of the University of Patras accepted the EUCEET Association’s invitation to co-organise its first conference, it was intended that these questions should be discussed. Possible answers to the questions may be discussed better within a scientific conference. To this end, the general theme of the conference “New trends and challenges in civil engineering education” was chosen. Naturally arising within this general theme are the sub-themes of: Teaching and Learning, Civil Engineering Curricula: Old and New, Bologna Implementation and Concerns, PhD Studies and Qualification, Accreditation, Assessment. It will be seen in the following*

## Preface

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*volume of abstracts and the accompanying full paper CD of the proceedings that the Conference theme and sub-themes have attracted a wide variety of high quality papers and participation from well recognised educational institutions throughout Europe and its environs. It has to be noted that all submitted papers were subjected to a rigorous review process.*

*It was a pleasure and an honour to serve in the organisation of this event. I am thankful to the members of the Scientific and Organising Committees, all authors, participants and sponsors. It is certain that the quality of the event will be considerably enhanced by the crucial matters covered by the invited keynote speakers, who are all distinguished and highly respected specialists in the field of civil engineering education. In particular, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Prof. Marina Pantazidou and Ms Eftychia Apostolidi, secretaries of the Scientific and Organizing Committees respectively, as it is certain that none of this would have been possible without their unstinting devotion to duty while working behind the scenes. It is with great pleasure and intense pride that the Civil Engineering Department of the University of Patras has the honour of hosting the EUCEET Association's first conference. Furthermore, the Civil Engineering Department of the University of Patras offers a very warm welcome to delegates attending this conference and wishes the EUCEET Association every success with its first and subsequent conferences as well as with the broader work that the Association performs.*