

Foreword by the editors

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It is with a great pleasure that we publish this book with full texts of the 12th FIEP European Congress in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in September 2017.

The congress was hosted by the University of Luxembourg, specifically the *Faculty of Language and Literature, Humanities, Arts and Education (FLSHASE)* as well as the *Institute of Applied Educational Sciences (AES)*. Founded in 2003, the University of Luxembourg is internationally renowned as one of the world's best young universities (Young University Rankings 2017) due to its excellent research and multicultural approach.

Correspondingly, the 12th FIEP European Congress brought together leading scientists and researchers from around the world to discuss current challenges and developments in the field of physical education. The increasingly sedentary lifestyle of many children, the inclusion of children with special needs and the use of digital technologies in physical education were just some of the topics that were addressed during the congress.

This happened on the one hand through a total of 14 parallel sessions featuring the contributions of more than 120 researchers and on the other hand through a number of invited symposia hosted by international umbrella organizations such as the International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education (ICSSPE), the European Physical Education Association (EUPEA) and the International Federation for Adapted Physical Activity (IFAPA). The congress's scientific programme was further enriched by a poster session as well as the contributions of young researchers within the FIEP New Leaders Programme.

Furthermore, we were proud to have secured internationally renowned experts for the keynote talks:

- Dr. Richard Bailey (UK), member of the Executive Office of the International Council of Sports Science and Physical Education, reviewed the content and effects of physical activity programmes in schools.
- Prof. Martin E. Block from the University of Virginia (USA) explained how future physical educators can be prepared for inclusive teaching methods.
- Prof. Ina Hunger from the Georg-August University Göttingen (Germany) talked about the relationship between physical activity and social opportunities in early childhood.

- Prof. Dr. Ivo van Hilvoorde from the University for Applied Sciences of Windesheim (Netherlands) described opportunities for using digital technologies in physical education from a global perspective.

The present book includes the full text of all keynote presentations, most of the contributions to the invited symposia¹, as well as selected contributions to the parallel oral sessions and the FIEP New Leaders Programme. We want to express our thanks to all contributing authors!

Finally, we would like to express our special thanks to the *Fonds National de la Recherche* (National research fund in Luxembourg), the Luxembourgish Ministry of Economy's General Directorate for Tourism, the Luxembourgish Ministry of Sports, and the FLSHASE for supporting the congress. Last, but not least, we want to thank all participants to the 12th FIEP European Congress for making the congress an unforgettable success!

¹ For those contributions to the invited symposia that no full text was submitted for publication, the congress abstract was included in this book.