

## Editorial

When we started working on the 11<sup>th</sup> EuroLogo conference, scheduled for August 2007 in Bratislava, a few regular participants pointed out to me that although Logo would celebrate its 41<sup>st</sup> birthday, it would be exactly 40 years since its first official publication as a tool for learning. Good point! That was a challenge we couldn't resist – that is the reason why the main title of the conference says *40 Years of Influence On Education*. We decided to constitute the 11<sup>th</sup> conference as an opportunity to analyze the previous 40 years and reflect upon the future development and strategies. We recognize those years as especially rich of powerful ideas about modern education. Evidently, we have succeeded in understanding much about the potential of digital technologies for learning processes, about how to integrate them into contemporary education. There is hardly any country in this world where constructionist addicts have not managed to make at least a single small step in the wishful direction in real school settings. And yet we all hoped for more, we hoped for much bigger change to happen. We thought that by the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century much more attention would be paid to the development of children's creativity, their computational competencies in official schooling systems. We hoped that Logo – either as a language by itself or in any manifestation as a philosophy of new education – would gain much bigger popularity and wider presence. In his keynote speech Wallace Feurzeig is saying:

*Throughout its history, the Logo movement has played a significant role in fostering these goals, and it continues to do so, both within schools and outside. Logo may have gone underground in U.S. schools. But the influence of the ideas and philosophy underlying Logo remains powerful and pervasive, in the world and even in my country.*

European and world community of Logo people obviously has a lot to discuss also in 2007. This is proved by high interest in coming to the conference, high number of submitted papers and the presence of all generations of Logo devotees in Bratislava this summer – from the inventors and fathers to young doctoral students and teachers from all levels and types of schools. For us, for our Department of Informatics Education and our so called Bratislava Logo group it is a great honour and privilege. If I look **back 25** (I mean back through 25 previous years of our active involvement in developing and implementing educational software platforms) or if I scan back of the fundamental books on my shelves and inspect the list of participants of the conference, I am thrilled to bits and bytes: The authors of my BOOKS – my teachers are here in Bratislava! Unfortunately, this isn't true about Seymour Papert – for well-known reasons – although in December 2006 in Hanoi we started working on his visit to Bratislava EuroLogo 2007.



*Seymour Papert after his keynote presentation at the Study conference of the 17th ICMI Study at the Hanoi Institute of Technology, Vietnam, in December 2006. Seymour is talking with Celia Hoyles and Richard Noss, London Knowledge Lab, University of London. If the accident had not happened the very next day, he would – as he intended – be with us in Bratislava during this conference. We are all sending him warm greetings and our best wishes!*

Fortunately, I can see here Wallace Feurzeig, representing the Logo founders and fathers (and as a virtual panel member also his co-writer Paul Goldenberg who kindly helped us to prepare the discussion titled *Learning vs. Creativity: a False Dichotomy*). I can also see here other key

Logo authors – Brian Harvey, Celia Hoyles, Richard Noss, James Clayson, Eric Klopfer and more!

Another outstanding Logo author and key personality in the field is Jenny Sendova. It is a great honour for us that Jenny and her colleagues are so actively involved in this year EuroLogo conference programme. I intentionally mention Jenny because she has always played an exceptionally important role for our Logo developing group and for the presence of Logo in Central and Eastern Europe in general. We were perfectly legitimate and honest with Andrej Blaho when we wrote in the preface to our *Learning by Developing* book:

*We first met Logo in the early 80s thanks to two remarkable Bulgarian textbooks by Nikolov and Sendova, then through a number of MIT technical reports and later (when they managed to get to our part of the world) from the excellent Logo books of Abelson and Berentes. We were hooked! Then came the amazing Turtle Geometry of Abelson and diSessa!*

With great pleasure I notice among the participants and authors of the conference our partners from several previous research projects from Greece, United Kingdom, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Austria, Lithuania and Brazil. With the equal pleasure I notice among the authors also many young people – newcomers to Logo community – young researchers and teachers.

I want to express my hearty thanks to our very strong group of the keynote speakers who have kindly accepted our invitation and play such an important role in the conference programme! Here they are:



Wallace Feurzeig



Celia Hoyles



Eric Klopfer



Chronis Kynigos



Richard Noss



Jenny Sendova

I also warmly thank the authors of 11 plenary presentations and 48 selected papers for their contributions! My appreciation belongs also to our Comenius University for the continuous support of our work and namely for the support in organizing the conference. At last but not at least I want to express my deep respect to exceptionally action group of my colleagues and friends who made this conference happen. Good luck to you, 11<sup>th</sup> EuroLogo!

Ivan Kalas