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Dear colleagues!

Let me congratulate the teachers and scientists of the New Bulgarian University on its thirtieth anniversary!

I visited the NBU for the first time in twenty sixteen at the founding meeting of the East European Network for Philosophy of Science. I was pleasantly surprised by the event's hospitality and organization level. The NBU School of Cognitive Sciences was already world-famous at that time.

But now I am even more pleased with the birthday invitation of one of the best universities in Bulgaria, whose Erasmus + index is BGSofia02.

At the same time, we are facing global threats such as Russian aggression in Europe and climate change.

What should the university look like in the chaotic "tomorrow", in the post-pandemic times of weakening social ties and reducing the state's financial capabilities?

One of the university's values is innovation, a source of productivity growth. Innovations must be widely applied in practice to do this. But today, university education does not have enough time for adaptation to new technologies.

Therefore, universities must foremost provide basic knowledge and the ability to learn throughout life.

But how do we build an effective learning process? What achievements of the cognitive sciences should we use to teach effectively?

What should the university offer as a competitive advantage in the struggle for student time? Successful projects for the portfolio, mastering essential skills for the labor market? What should be the successful combination of basic training and a project-based approach? Between narrow specialization and interdisciplinary knowledge?

What is the way to do it? Through online courses such as Coursera, qualification certificates? What should be their combination with university studies?

Can students combine study and work, and how should that be effectively organized? How can we interest businesses in mutually beneficial cooperation?

We do not yet have answers to these questions.

But universities have always been a source of innovation. We need to update this status and understand - what is the university's future?

The problems facing universities are interdisciplinary challenges so that we can use philosophical, cognitive, pedagogical, computer sciences, economics, marketing, and management approaches to answer the questions:

1. What future do we prepare our students for, and what will they need to succeed?
2. How to prepare them for this, and what to teach?
3. What should be an educational institution's role, value, and budgeting?
4. What roles, values, and funding sources should be for managers, teachers, and researchers?

Anyway, I hope for new insights and ideas throughout the conference!

And I want to wish my colleagues the new ways, world recognition, and grateful students!