

INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to invite Readers to read the first English volume of the “Rocznik Lubuski” annual. The texts gathered here are the result of cooperation between employees of the Faculty of Education, Psychology and Sociology of the University of Zielona Góra and the colleagues from national and foreign scientific centres. Invitation to cooperate has been accepted by researchers from Germany, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine, Romania, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Some articles are the result of joint projects, others are such projects’ announcement. We assume that the edition of the English-speaking volume of the annual will provide a boost to the development of international research ventures involving researchers from our faculty. There are strong indications that this plan has a chance of success.

The volume contains more than twenty studies on issues of trust, cooperation and education and mutual links between these phenomena. It has been divided into three parts. In the first part we have placed texts which deal with the issue of trust, in the second part cooperation is the dominant feature, while the last part is focused on education and its relationship with cooperation.

The topics proposed by the authors of the articles suggest that social researchers do not hide themselves in an ivory tower, they are not afraid to deal with tough, but socially important and current topics. Therefore, texts relating to the refugee crisis in Europe, populism, the situation in Ukraine, social conflicts and the situation in the labour market will be found here. The volume begins with the article written jointly by the editors of this collection. It contains an attempt to characterize the contemporary times as the era of increasing isolationist trends. Above all, however, It is an invitation to research cooperation for the strategy of building a “common space”, a space for encounter, dialogue and interaction. We would like all the volume to contribute to breaking down barriers between groups and human beings. Our expectations have already come true to some extent, as in the course of the preparations we have experienced goodwill from many people. Thank you for your trust and support. Have an enjoyable and fruitful reading.

*Dorota Bazuń
Mariusz Kwiatkowski*