

31<sup>st</sup> of May 2015

Dear GIREP Members and Friends,

The new GIREP Committee has worked hard in the last year: we had four meetings via Skype where we discussed the GIREP website, publications, conferences, cooperation with other institutions and EU projects as HOPE. We finalized with the help of Prof. Mojca Cepic the scanning of the GIREP books and now they are available for all members on GIREP website. We promote the GIREP Statute renewal to have GIREP as a legal body, able to take part in official EU initiatives and projects. We worked for GIREP Conferences up to 2018, ensuring a continuous cooperation with analogous bodies (GIREP-EPEC in Wroclaw - July 2015, WCPE in San Paulo - July 2016, GIREP-ICPE-EPEC Dublin – July 2017, GIREP-MPTL in San Sebastian – 2018).

Time is quickly passing by and next year GIREP will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. On this occasion we would like to thank all former and active GIREP members as well as GIREP sympathizers for their continuous support, valuable presentations at GIREP conferences and seminars, and contribution to the development of physics education on all continents. The idea is to have a GIREP Seminar in Krakow on the model of 2001, 2003 GIREP Seminar, having in depth discussions on some selected topics by means of workshops after a short introduction by panel talks in the first day. The Committee decided this initiative after considering and excluding a celebrative book publication. We are very interested in GIREP members ideas and contribution on this 50<sup>th</sup> GIREP Anniversary.

During the last few years GIREP has renewed or launched a lot of initiatives to expand and invigorate the community of physics educators and physics education researchers, particularly in Europe.

GIREP Thematic Groups (GTGs) have been established in order to involve members in discussions and work on particular problems and issues in physics education. So far six GTGs have been initiated (<http://girep.org/thematic-groups/>) and others are welcome upon specific interest of GIREP members. Moreover, GIREP intensive workshops for teachers (GIWT) have been started to enhance cooperation between academics and practitioners. Furthermore, GIREP country representatives were appointed to strengthen local GIREP communities and support their initiatives. On the supranational level GIREP has established solid collaboration with many other communities contributing to physics education, such as AAPT, APS, EPS, ESERA, IACPE, ICPE, LAPEN, LASERA, MPTL. A concrete example is the initiative of a grant for teachers taking part to the workshop promoted in Wroclaw GIREP-EPEC Conference this July by David Sands, chair of EPS-PED. The reduced fee for GIREP members to AAPT Conferences is another concrete result.

The next GIREP-EPEC conference on Key competences in physics teaching and learning is organized very soon, on 6-10th of July 2015 in Wroclaw, a historical town in Poland. Next year, GIREP conference will be organized jointly with the 2<sup>nd</sup> WCPE in Sao Paolo in Brazil.

Between the annual meetings, two GIREP newsletters are issued per year, being important tools for internal and external communication, and as such they are freely available on-line (<http://girep.org/newsletters/newsletters.html>). The newest one has just been uploaded to GIREP webpage and for your convenience it is also attached to this e-mail.

Along with that we would like GIREP to become in the nearest future the forum for the discussion and preparation of new projects and networks we might submit for financial support.

Dear Colleagues, we would like to invite each of you interested in physics teaching and learning as well as in physics education research to join GIREP. In order to become a member, one should follow <https://www.girep.org/register.htm>. We would like also to thank all former members for supporting GIREP and hope for further collaboration. As a GIREP member one gets a reduced registration fee for GIREP conferences and exclusive access to the digital proceedings of the past GIREP conferences, including a collection of GIREP books and proceedings scanned recently.

We hope to see you soon in one of GIREP conferences!

Prof. Marisa Michelini  
President of GIREP