Ladies and Gentlemen,

The first two issues *Horizons of Education*, published in 2021, reflect on how the epidemiological situation in Poland and in the world contributed to significant transformations in the area of education, care and upbringing. However, the range of influence of the new context of functioning is much greater – it has left its mark on almost all spheres of our lives. Persistent beliefs, emotions and behaviours have changed and are still being changed. The way of perceiving and experiencing everyday challenges posed by dynamically changing circumstances has also been changing, as well.

The articles in the current issue of *Horizons of Education*, which closes a certain thematic cycle, contribute to a wide range of research work on the role played by the COVID-19 pandemic in our lives. The issue opens with a report on research indicating the importance of the pandemic context for the emotional well-being of Poles. The authors of subsequent texts indicate the specific consequences of the pandemic perceived in various contexts, e.g. professional, educational or family functioning. The pandemic changed the way of perceiving and experiencing the world, and has also left its mark on the living matter of language, this aspect is discussed by the authors in subsequent articles in this issue. And finally, paying attention to the negative consequences of pandemic stress encourages to take up topics related to preventive and supportive activities, as the authors of the publications closing the thematic section of the issue, do.

This issue closes, as it was mentioned earlier, a certain thematic cycle – but it does not mean that the topic has been exhausted. We can associate the word “exhausted” not only with saying everything to the end, but also with fatigue and loss of strength. Understood in this way, exhaustion, I believe, accompanies us to some extent two years after the beginning of the pandemic. We are, therefore, happy to be able to publish texts that deviate from the pandemic topic, and take up important topics related to education and upbringing.

Full of hope that our closing of the topic will be accompanied by the lack of the need to address these topics in the future, we encourage you to read it.

On behalf of the Editorial Board
Irmina Rostek
thematic editor of the issue