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## Call for Participation in the Second

### International Scientific Conference on Adult Education

# “Developing and Understanding Professional Identity of Adult Educators”

Rijeka, 27 March 2017

Dear colleagues,

It is our pleasure to invite you to the second international scientific conference on adult education titled “**Developing and Understanding Professional Identity of Adult Educators**”, that will be held in Rijeka from 14 June to 17 June 2017.

The conference is organised by **the Adult Education Institution Dante from Rijeka** in cooperation with distinguished academics and adult education experts. The conference is carried out as a central activity of **the international CEI Project** (Ref. No. 1202.062-17) with the support of **the Agency for Vocational Education and Training and Adult Education (ASOO)**.

The Conference aims to bring together scientists and expert practitioners in adult education, representatives of government agencies and/or ministries, professional associations, and other interested stakeholders from Croatia and abroad. By contributing to the conference, participants will publicly promote the importance of adult education, contribute to the strengthening of cross-border cooperation, networking, and conducting andragogical research.

We invite you to (actively) participate in the conference “Developing and Understanding Professional Identity of Adult Educators”, and thus contribute to the exploration of this current and challenging topic from a variety of academic and professional perspectives.

**Basic information about the conference** is located below.

## Conference Organiser

the Adult Education Institution Dante

## Conference Dates and Location

Rijeka, 14 June – 17 June 2017

## Programme Committee

- *Prof Katarina Popović, PhD (Faculty of Philosophy, Belgrade and ICAE, Uruguay; President of the Programme Committee)*

Prof Šefika Alibabić, PhD (Faculty of Philosophy, Belgrade, Serbia)

Prof Miomir Despotović, PhD (Faculty of Philosophy, Belgrade, Serbia)

Prof Branislava Knežić, PhD (Faculty of Philosophy, Belgrade, Serbia)

Dr Siniša Kušić (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Rijeka, Croatia)

Prof Balázs Németh, PhD (University of Pécs, Hungary)

Prof Jost Reischmann, PhD (University of Bamberg, Germany)

Prof Sofija Vrcelj, PhD (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Rijeka, Croatia)

Mario Vučić, MEcon, Assistant Director for the development of adult education (ASOO)

Prof Anita Zovko, PhD (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Rijeka, Croatia)

## Organisation Committee

- *Andrej Marušić (the Adult Education Institution Dante, Croatia, President of the Organisation Committee)*

Iva Barić (logistics)

Lucija Justić (conference moderator)

Petra Katana (coordination and logistics)

Antonela Marjanušić (IT manager and translator)

Marijeta Mašić (PR and promotion)

Ana Štokan (logistics)

## Conference Purpose

The purpose of the conference is to:

- define the profile of adult educators in partner countries;
- analyse the factors, implications and the process of professionalisation of adult education in the participating countries;
- identify and classify the most significant factors affecting the development of adult educators' professional identity in the participating countries;
- contribute to matching labour market needs and the educational sector.

## Main Topic

The aim to improve the quality of adult education can be seen in more frequent attempts at its professionalisation. The considerable variability of adult education is reflected in the great number and variety of andragogical institutions, teaching content, ways of teaching and learning, staff competences and qualifications, and disorganised legislation,

presenting a challenge to the development of adult educators' identity, especially if their lack of joint professional vision is taken into consideration.

Even a brief exploration of this topic raises numerous questions: Who are adult educators? Did they choose that title or did someone else select it for them? What are the terms of their employment and work? How does their career path look like? Is an adult educator a profession? What is the relationship between the concepts of profession, professionalism and professionalisation? Is there a joint professional vision among adult educators? Which social and business context do they belong to? What are the factors affecting the development of adult educators' professional identity? What does 'professional' in the phrase 'professional identity' mean and how do we clearly define 'identity'?

The development of professional identity in the context of adult educators' professional development is a complicated and subjective process full of contradictions and interruptions. Adult educators usually possess subject-professional and lack andragogical competences, making them feel a stronger affiliation to their primary profession rather than adult education. This situation is caused by the interaction of complex subjective and objective factors, whose comprehensive assessment can enable better understanding of adult educators' professional identity at the micro level and improve the professionalisation process at the macro level.

Consequently, the main topic of this scientific conference is **developing and understanding professional identity of adult educators**.

**Sub-topics** that will enable better understanding of the topic are:

- the concept of (adult educators') professional identity
- initial education and further professional development of adult educators
- adult educators' competences and qualifications in the context of global and national policy
- validation of non-formal andragogical competences
- adult educators' professional (career) path
- the needs of the labour market for adult educators
- licensing adult educators
- developing professional identity and ensuring the quality of the adult education system
- the role of professional associations, government agencies, and decision-makers in adult education's professionalisation.

### **Conference Activities**

The scientific conference will comprise:

- **plenary talks** (30 minutes)
- **contributed talks** (10-15 minutes)
- **roundtables**
- **a socio-cultural** activity (a trip planned for the last day of the conference).

A formal written paper is not required for participating in the conference. The call for applications is open until 1 June 2017. The preliminary programme will be published after all applications are received.

## Working Languages

Working languages of the conference are **English** and **Croatian**. A translation of plenary talks into Croatian and English will be available during the entire conference.

## Plenary Speakers

The plenary talks will be given by eminent European experts in the field of adult education professionalisation:



Gina Ebner (Brussels, Belgium)

**Gina Ebner** is Secretary General of the *European Association for the Education of Adults* (EAEA). She worked as a language trainer in adult education and as a pedagogical manager at the *Vocational Training Institute* in Austria. In Brussels, she was a project manager at EUROCADRES (Council for European professional and managerial staff). She is also Secretary General of the *European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning*. EAEA and its 141 member organisations in 45 countries represent adult education, promoting access to non-formal adult education for all, particularly for the currently underrepresented groups.



Prof Balázs Németh, PhD  
(Pécs, Hungary)

**Prof Balázs Németh** does research on the development of European adult education and lifelong learning policy, as well as comparative research on adult education. He is an Associate Professor at the University of Pécs. He is also a founding member of the *Hungarian Higher Education Lifelong Learning Network* (MELLearn) and the official representative of the University of Pécs in the *European University Continuing Education Network* (EUCEN) and the *European Association for the Education of Adults* (EAEA). He also does research on politics and adult education, comparative adult education, and the history of European adult education from 1850 to 1950.



Prof Katarina Popović, PhD  
(Belgrade, Serbia)

**Prof Katarina Popović** is Secretary General of the *International Council for Adult Education* (ICAE), Professor at the University of Belgrade, visiting lecturer, President of the *Serbian Adult Education Society*, member of the *International Adult Continuing Education Hall of Fame*, editor in chief of *Andragogical Studies*, author of numerous articles and books in the field of adult education and licensed trainer in adult education.



Prof Jost Reischmann, PhD  
(Bamberg, Germany)

**Prof Jost Reischmann, PhD** is a retired Head of the Andragogy Department at the University of Bamberg in Germany. He published numerous papers on adult education in German and English and spoke at various international conferences (i.e. in Ljubljana, Belgrade, Helsinki, Budapest, Seoul, Prague, Montreal, Atlantic City, Salt Lake City, Milwaukee, St. Louis). His research is focused on the theory of adult education, didactics, evaluation, and international comparative studies on adult education. He was a consultant and trainer specialising in human resources development in companies such as Volkswagen, BEWAG, Berliner Bank and others. He is the vice-president of the *International Society for Comparative Adult Education (ISCAE)* and a member of the *International Adult Continuing Education Hall of Fame*.

## Conference Registration and Abstract Submission

To register for the conference, please fill out the form attached below. Submit the filled-out **form** together with the **abstract** (if you are presenting a written paper) by sending them via **email** to [info@dante-ri.hr](mailto:info@dante-ri.hr). The deadline is **20 May 2017**.

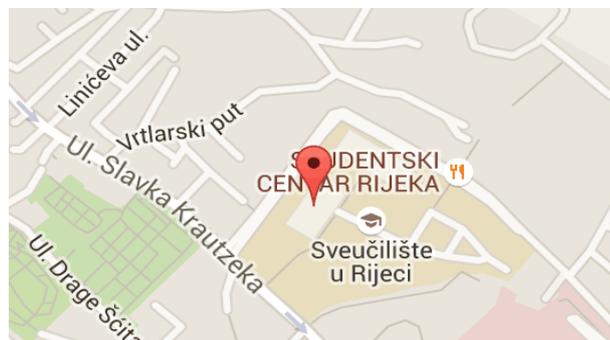
Please use the attached **abstract template** and carefully read the attached **instructions** before preparing and submitting **abstracts**. The abstract must be written in Croatian or English.

## Full Papers

Full papers will be collected after the conference and sent to peer review (two independent reviewers). Full papers must be submitted **by 15 September 2017**. Selected papers will be published in prestigious international scientific journals on adult education. Detailed instructions for writing full papers will be provided later.

## Conference Location

The conference will be held at the University Campus in Rijeka.



For more information on the city of Rijeka, visit [www.visitrijeka.eu/](http://www.visitrijeka.eu/).

## Contact

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We are looking forward to our meeting and mutual cooperation at the conference.

Best regards,

Organisation Committee