

Foreword

There are books that gain their readers only through thoughtful reading and analysis, books that are characterised by the effort to shed light on a particular scientifically compelling or practical area, as well as those that convey messages more through text and less through the authors that have shaped or inspired them.

The present publication differs from those books in a particular peculiarity – it is inspired by a unique personality and spirit of Sabina Jelenc Krašovec, whose scientific integrity and benevolent smile is found in a plethora of themes and authors that make this publication. In it, one shall find a variety of themes that Sabina elaborated on: the vulnerable groups and their education that she was dedicated to, the universal adult education themes, such as informal and inter-generational learning, but also very topical themes, such as civic education and public spaces education. With her research-based and practical work, Sabina covered a wide range of themes while succeeding to be a daring and inquisitive researcher, thoughtful practitioner, head of relevant projects, but also one who counselled policy-makers. The personality of this versatile researcher, dedicated educator and gifted woman emerges from the lines of this book, it turns the pages, it merges them and raises new questions that the readers shall discover in each particular chapter.

More than anything and along with all her other professional roles, Sabina was an adult educator. The genuine and the traditional one (in the best way possible) – the one having an in-depth expertise in her domain, continually striving to make progress through research, projects, scientific articles and books, but above all consumed to the very core by fundamental and humanistic principles, the one who placed human beings and their needs at the very centre of education and learning. For this reason, the professionalisation is given a relevant place in the present book – it stands as an umbrella concept in Sabina's work that joins individual themes, problems and reflections. And as the streams flow into one big river, so do the individual themes presented in this publication fuel the central effort in order to enhance the adult education theory and practice.

The chapters of the present publication reflect a relevant characteristic of Sabina's professional work – critical thinking that gave her a clear stance and a belief that adult education and learning need to be transformative to fulfil the assigned role in the development of an individual and society. Moreover, the present dialogue with her ideas also has a personal touch, it brings her open, cheerful spirit and her humanistic, internationally open credo back to memory; the present

writings are not compelling only for the respective researchers, but also for Sabina's friends, who are happy and proud to have known her and grateful for her everlasting inspiration.

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