

Ethical and Legal Aspect of Retired Researchers and Professors Emeriti Contribution in Public Goodness.

Meeting minutes

Zoom meeting of the Professors Emeriti Network, and the representatives of the network University eLearning & eEducation Group, hold on Wednesday, June 2nd, 2021, 17:00-19:00 CET.

Participants:

Dr. Luigi Campanella, Professor Emeritus, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy,

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Dr. Lucija Čok, Professor Emerita, University of Primorska, Slovenia, Lucija.cok@upr.si

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Dr. Carole-Lynne Le Navenec, Associate Professor Emerita, University of Calgary, Canada,

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Dr.Dr.h.c. Heinrich C. Mayr, Professor Emeritus, Universität Klagenfurt, Austria,

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Dr. Gregory M Sadlek, Professor Emeritus & Dean Emeritus, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences – CLASS, Cleveland State University, OH, USA, G.Sadlek@CSUOhio.edu

Dr. Bernhard Schrefler, Professor Emeritus, Department of Civil, Environmental and Architectural Engineering, University of Padua, Italy, Bernhard.Schrefler@dicea.UniPd.it

Dr. Matjaz Štuhec, Secretary, Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education - SQAA,

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Organization: Dr. Lučka Lorber and Dr. Jože Gričar, University of Maribor

Minutes: Dr. Lucija Čok, University of Primorska

Agenda:

1. Welcome to the meeting; Dr. Jože Gričar
2. Short presentation of the participants

3. *On the Ethical and Legal Aspect of Retired Researchers and Professors Emeriti Contribution in Public Goodness,*

- *Introduction and Slovene experience*, Dr. Lucija Čok, Former Rector, University of Primorska
- *The Austrian Experience*, Dr.h.c. Heinrich C. Mayr, Former Rector, Alpen-Adria University of Klagenfurt
- *The Italian Experience*, Dr. Luigi Campanella, Sapienza University of Rome & General Secretary, European Association of Professors Emeriti
- *The Canadian Experience*, Dr. Carole-Lynne Le Navenec, Program Co-Director, Emeriti Association of the University of Calgary
- *The US Experience*, Dr. Gregory M Sadlek, Dean Emeritus, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Cleveland State University

4. Discussion and conclusions

Ad AI 3:

Five academic environments (Slovenia, Austria, Italy, Canada and USA) dealing with the status of professors emeriti were presented to the participants of the meeting. The papers and PPT presentation in annexes of the minutes are reachable on the web ([Professors Emeriti Network, http://eregion.eu/slovenia-professors-emeriti/](http://eregion.eu/slovenia-professors-emeriti/)), written by Lucija Čok, Heinrich Mayr, Luigi Campanella, Carole-Lynne Le Navenec, and Gregory M. Sadlek, enlarge the presentations of single academic reality. The formal and social status of professors emeriti in Europe varies widely. It reflects cultural and traditional attitudes towards older people in general. Older universities with tradition respect this status more and mainly provide a "soft" transition from working life to full retirement. This is basically a cultural attitude of academia towards older people. However, it is more typical of northern and central European universities. In the South, the attitude towards older professors is much more ruthless, especially in the newly established universities without academic tradition.

Knowledge market inclusion of retired researchers and professor emeriti in Slovenia depends on individual engagement and possibilities. Often their silent presence is required as the operative staff of research institution and universities are not interested in their cooperation, or the legal aspect of their cooperation is limited. However, their engagement in civil society is desired, their products are appreciated. The Austrian and the Italian reality are similar the Slovene one. The Canadian and American experiences can give examples of good practice. What can be done on more transparency of their contribution to public goodness? The comparative discussion among countries and universities on legal, informal and ethical aspects of professor emeriti research and education activities could give a response.

Discussion and conclusions

After a discussion on presented issues, remarks and ideas were exposed on what [European Association of Professors Emeriti](#) - EAPE can do in this regard.

Aiming to put some efforts on exploring the possibilities of the emeriti professors in the EAPE and to contribute in public goodness, social and intergenerational cooperation the participants agree to act on:

- **discussions** in this EAPE group to promote best practices from European universities regarding the status emeriti professors that can be implemented.
- **"minimal" standards** and approaches that all universities can share as a first step. In the best case even recommend the European Commission to develop appropriate recommendations for emeriti professors and researchers in their research programs.
- Incentive EAPE to **prepare a memorandum** on Contribution of Professors Emeriti and Retired Researchers in Public Goodness.

The next meeting of the network will be organized on September 29th, 2021. The program is published at <http://eregion.eu/slovenia-professors-emeriti/>:

Lifelong eLearning & eEducation

Wednesday, September 29, 2021, 17:00-18:30 CET

Zoom meeting of the Professors Emeriti Network, and the representatives of the network University eLearning & eEducation Group.