

## EDITORS' NOTE

The idea of organizing the rather symbolically entitled international scientific conference devoted to the Balkan studies 'Mapping Balkan Routes' (Literary, Cultural and Linguistic Landscapes) was conceived during the visit of a delegation from the University of Vlora 'Ismail Qemali' to the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade, in November 2016. On that occasion an agreement on cooperation between these two universities was signed by Rector of the University of Belgrade Prof. Vladimir Bumbasirevic, PhD and Rector of the University of Vlora Prof. Roland Zisi, PhD. Organizing a joint international scientific conference emerged in the shape of a proposal as one of the many forms of effectuating such successful cooperation following a talk on mutual activities involving all levels of academic education.

Owing to the kindness of Prof. Zisi, PhD, Rector of the University of Vlora 'Ismail Qemali' and his colleagues from the Faculty of Humanities, the first conference entitled 'Mapping Balkan Routes: Literary, Cultural and Linguistic Landscapes' was held at the mentioned Faculty in Vlora, Albania on 8-9 September 2017. In addition to authors from Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece and Russia, more than 70 participants from the region and beyond, including Italy and France, took part in the first conference, whereas the overwhelming majority of papers were dedicated to topics related to Balkan studies from the field of linguistics, literature, culture, didactics and the like. The pertinent Book of Proceedings is scheduled for publication by the end of 2020.

The second international conference 'Mapping Balkan Routes 2: Literary, Cultural and Linguistic Landscapes – European Perspectives' was held at the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade on 26-27 October 2018. The welcome address was given by Prof. Ivanka Popovic, PhD, Rector of the University of Belgrade, as well as by Prof. Armela Panajoti who addressed the participants on behalf of Prof. Roland Zisi, PhD, Rector of the University of Vlora 'Ismail Qemali', Prof. Julijana Vuco, PhD, Vice-Dean for International Cooperation, Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade, Prof. Vesna Polovina, PhD, Head of the Department of Albanian Language and Literature, Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade, Prof. Floresha Dado, PhD, Member of the Albanian Academy of Sciences and Prof. Bardosh Gace, PhD, Director of the Centre for

Albanian and Balkan Studies, University of Vlora 'Ismail Qemali. The second conference also gathered a large number of participants, more than 70 in total. In addition to participants from countries in the region such as Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Slovenia, Croatia, Montenegro etc., the conference was also attended by participants from Italy, Great Britain, the Czech Republic, Russia and Spain. The largest number of papers from the second conference was devoted to topics related to Balkan studies from the field of linguistics, literature, culture and didactics. The Book of Proceedings includes a total of 19 papers in English, Serbian or Albanian, which were all peer-reviewed (and were given positive reviews and approval for publication by the peer reviewers and editors). The papers are classified according to thematic areas into five groups: 1. Language and Linguistic Studies; 2. Lexicology/ Linguistics / Semantics, 3. Didactics / Second language acquisition (SLA, SLL)/ Education, 4. Literary studies and 5. Literary studies/ Cultural studies.

An additional but rather fruitful form of collaboration and continued expansion of activity the significance of which is considerable for education and both of the Universities, includes obtaining a grant from the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) within the E+ program for establishing a Jean Monnet teaching module entitled *Foreign Language Teaching in and for European Contexts*, which was jointly carried out by the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade and the University of Vlora (19 August 2020).

We would like to use this opportunity to express our profound gratitude to Prof. Ivanka Popovic, PhD, Rector of the University of Belgrade, as well as to Prof. Roland Zisi, PhD, Rector of the University of Vlora, for providing invaluable assistance and understanding with respect to the significance of organizing a conference of this type in Balkan studies and for establishing cooperation with universities in the region and in other parts of Europe. We would also like to thank Prof. Julijana Vuco, Phd, Vice-Dean for International Cooperation, Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade, for her tremendous help, engagement and contribution to establishing cooperation between these two universities, in addition to extending our gratitude to Prof. Armela Panajoti, PhD, Prof. Bledar Toska, PhD, Prof. Vesna Polovina, PhD, academicians Prof. Floresha Dado, PhD and Prof. Francesko Altimari, PhD, as well as to all those who contributed to scientific cooperation and to establishing contacts at all scientific and academic levels.

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