

Nagovor rektorja prof. dr. Zdravka Kačiča ob rektorjevem dnevu Univerze v Mariboru

29. januar 2025

Spoštovani gostje rektorji in prorektorji slovenskih univerz, spoštovana akademska skupnost Univerze v Mariboru: nagrajenke in nagrajenci, prorektorji, dekanice in dekani fakultet, zaslužni profesorji in upokojeni profesorji, učitelji, raziskovalci in strokovni sodelavci, študentke in študenti, gospe in gospodje! Letošnje leto je za Univerzo v Mariboru posebno, jubilejno leto. Pred 50 leti je bila dne 18. septembra 1975 »ob zvoku fanfar v zboru uglednih gostov in domačinov slovesno razglašena druga slovenska univerza«. Z današnjo slovesnostjo pričenjamo sklop celoletnega praznovanja 50. obletnice ustanovitve Univerze v Mariboru.

V osebnem življenju posameznika srečanje z »abrahamom« običajno predstavlja nekakšen ustvarjalni vrh oz. polno zrelost pred počasnim prehodom v starost. To pa ne velja, vsaj ne nujno, za obletnico institucij, še posebej ne glede prehoda v starost in še posebej ne za institucijo, kot je Univerza v Mariboru, ki je polna vitalnosti in smelih načrtov usmerjena v jutri.

Z jasnim pogledom v prihodnost smo sprejeli strateške usmeritve. Zastavili smo si ambiciozne a realne cilje, z doseganjem katerih bomo pomembno nadgradili kakovost našega izobraževalnega in raziskovalnega dela ter prenosa znanja v okolje. Zastavljeni cilji za trajnostni razvoj univerze sledijo smeri razvoja bolonjske reforme, z namenom, da še bolj utrdimo in zagotovimo konkurenčno znanje na globalni ravni. Trajnostnost postaja osrednja tema delovanja. Naše izobraževalne in raziskovalne dejavnosti so usmerjene v doseganje trajnostnih ciljev, kot so varovanje okolja, socialna vključenost in ekonomska odpornost. Kot univerza, se zavedamo svoje odgovornosti pri oblikovanju bodočih generacij strokovnjakov, ki

Address of Rector Prof. dr. Zdravko Kačič on Rector's Day at University of Maribor

January 29, 2025

Revered Guest Rectors and Vice-Rectors of Slovenian universities, Revered Academic Community of the University of Maribor: Prize Winners, Vice Rectors, Deans of Faculties, Emeritus Professors and Retired Professors, Teachers, Researchers and Associate Experts, Students, Ladies and Gentlemen!

This year is a special Jubilee year for the University of Maribor. Fifty years ago, on September 18, 1975, "a second Slovenian university was solemnly proclaimed upon the sound of a fanfare in an assembly of distinguished guests and locals." With today's ceremony, we begin a year-long celebration to mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of the University of Maribor.

In an individual's personal life, the meeting with "Abraham" usually represents a sort of creative peak, signaling full maturity prior to a slow transition to old age. This does not apply—at least not necessarily—to the anniversary of institutions, and especially not to the transition to old age or to an institution such as the University of Maribor, which is full of vitality and bold plans, being future-oriented.

With a clear view towards the future, we have adopted strategic directions. We have set ambitious but realistic goals. By achieving these goals, we will upgrade the quality of our educational and research work and our knowledge transfer to the environment. We have defined goals for the sustainable development of the university and followed the development directions of the Bologna Reform with the aim of further consolidating and ensuring competitive knowledge on a global scale.

Sustainability is becoming a central theme of our function. Our educational and research activities are directed towards the achievement of sustainable goals such as environmental protection, social inclusion and

bodo s svojim znanjem in vrednotami ustvarjali bolj pravično in trajnostno družbo. Nadaljevali bomo z aktivnostmi za uresničitev zastavljenih ciljev do konca desetletja in zagotovili končno izvedbo vseh načrtovanih projektov za ustrezno infrastrukturo vsem članicam Univerze v Mariboru.

Zato je pomembno, da tudi v prihodnjih letih zagotovimo ustrezno kontinuiteto našega skupnega dela, ki bo temeljilo na že doseženem. Ob vzajemnih naporih, da bi ustvarili boljšo prihodnost, bo zlasti treba okrepiti medsebojno zaupanje, znotraj tako posameznih fakultetnih skupnosti kot tudi celotne univerze. Za vzor pri tem imamo lahko pionirje mariborskega visokega šolstva, ki so se nekdaj skupaj kot uporniki oziroma »zaporožci«, kot so se sami poimenovali, pogumno in uspešno borili za t. i. »mariborski koncept višjega šolstva v takratnem reformiranem visokem šolstvu« oziroma za pravico do znanstveno-raziskovalnega dela, kar je omogočilo nadaljnji razvoj visokega šolstva v Mariboru.

Ob tem želim izpostaviti pomen sožitja med posameznikom in skupnostjo, kar predstavlja pomemben vidik poslanstva univerze. Beseda univerza izhaja iz latinskega izraza »universitas magistrorum et scholarium«, kar v grobem prevodu pomeni »skupnost učiteljev in študentov«. Prav tako je tudi vsaka oseba, ki obiskuje univerzo, torej vsak študent in študentka, ki prestopi prag univerze in jo obiskuje nekaj let, sam po sebi univerzum. Vsak posameznik namreč tvori majhen delček vesolja in v vsakem posamezniku biva celoten univerzum.

Na univerzi se torej srečata dva univerzuma; univerzum sveta in znanja ter univerzum človeka – ne človeka na splošno, ki ne obstaja, ampak ravno tiste osebe, mladega človeka, s svojo zgodovino in osebnostjo, sanjami ter intelektualnimi, moralnimi in drugimi lastnostmi. Izziv univerze je ti obzorji, svetovni in osebni, povezati, da se bosta lahko pogovarjali, in bo iz tega pogovora izšla osebna rast samega študenta, ki se oblikuje, dozoreva v znanju in svobodi, v sposobnosti razmišljanja in delovanja, kritičnega in ustvarjalnega sodelovanja v družbenem in civilnem življenju, z lastno kulturno in strokovno kompetenco.

economic resilience. As a university, we are aware of our responsibility to shape future generations of experts who shall, by virtue of their knowledge and values, create a more righteous and sustainable society. We shall continue to engage in activities that will help us to realize our set goals and ensure the final implementation of all planned projects by the end of the decade, with a view to providing appropriate infrastructure to all members of the University of Maribor.

This is why it is important that we also promote the continuity of our joint efforts in the years to come, by ensuring that they are rooted in what has already been achieved. In building upon our mutual efforts to create a better future, it will be crucial to strengthen mutual trust within individual faculty communities, as well as across the entire university. As a role model to guide us on our path forward, we can look to the pioneers of Mariborian Higher Education who were once rebels—or “Zaporozhians”, as they called themselves—who bravely and successfully fought together for the so-called “Mariborian concept of higher education in the then reformed higher education” or for the right to undertake scientific research which facilitated further development of higher education in Maribor.

With this in mind, I would like to highlight the importance of the coexistence that is found between the individual and the community which is an essential aspect of the university's mission. The word “university” originates from the Latin term *universitas magistrorum et scholarium*, which roughly means “community of teachers and students.” Every person who attends a university is a student who crosses its threshold and attends it for a few years; in this way, they experience their own universe. Each individual forms a small particle of outer space or universe, and in every individual, the entire universe dwells.

At a university, two universes meet: the universe of the world and knowledge, and the universe of a human-being. We do not speak of a human-being in a general sense, but rather the specific person, the young human-being with his/her history and his/her personality, his/her dreams and intellectual, moral and other characteristics. The challenge of the university is to connect these two horizons; that of the world and the personal, so that they can speak to each other. From this dialogue, the student's

Univerza tako na nek način predstavlja privilegiran kraj srečevanja, ob nenehnem iskanju človeške harmonije ter trudu za graditev mostu med sedanjostjo in prihodnostjo, med potencialom in uresničitvijo, med izzivi in rešitvami. Naša odgovornost je, da ta most nenehno dograjujemo in utrjujemo, da bo vsak korak čez varen, vzdržljiv in usmerjen v boljši svet. Spoštovani, vsako leto znova ob Rektorjevem dnevu izpostavljamo dosežke, uveljavitev in razvoj Univerze v Mariboru, in sicer na način, da podelimo nagrade in priznanja tistim posameznikom, za katere smo v njihovem delu in dosežkih prepoznali pomemben prispevek za celotno akademsko skupnost. Vsem letošnjim nagrajencem in dobitnikom priznanj iskreno čestitam, ob čemer se zavedam, da je še mnogo drugih, ki s svojim delom doprinašajo k ugledu te univerze, zato se jim prav tako zahvaljujem. Podeljena nagrada naj bo vzpodbuda, v zavedanju, da se je za znanje potrebno potruditi. Zaslužena priznanja za vaš dragoceni prispevek naj vas navdihujejo na nadaljnji poti, vse nas pa vzpodbujajo k temu, da še naprej krepimo zavezanost humanizmu, svobodi, solidarnosti in enakosti kot osnovnim vrednotam, ki uokvirjajo in pogojujejo naše delo.

Predvsem pa naj nikoli ne usahne naš notranji zagon za iskanje resnice, odgovorov in znanja, kar pomembno doprinaša k samouresničevanju človeka, njegovi etični drži in s tem boljši družbi kot celoti.

Prof. dr. Zdravko Kačič
rektor Univerze v Mariboru

personality grows, emerges and matures, as they develop knowledge and freedom, the ability to think and behave, and to cooperate critically and creatively in social and civil life, and within the scope of his/her own cultural and professional competence.

So in some way, the university represents a privileged meeting place wherein we strive constantly to achieve human harmony and to build a bridge between the present and future, between potential and realization, between challenges and solutions. It is our responsibility to keep building and fortifying this bridge so that each step over it shall be safe, durable and directed to a better world.

Revered Guests, each year on Rector's Day, we highlight the achievements, establishment and development of the University of Maribor. We award prizes and recognitions to individuals whose works and achievements have contributed significantly to the entire academic community. I offer my sincere congratulations to all of this year's award winners and recipients, and to the many others I am aware of whose efforts nurture the reputation of the university. And for this reason, I also express my gratitude to them. The given award should make us mindful that knowledge is acquired through effort. The deserved recognitions for your valuable contribution should inspire you on your future paths and encourage us all to further strengthen our commitment to humanism, liberty, solidarity and equality as basic values which frame and condition our work.

Above all, may our inner momentum to seek truth, answers and knowledge never wither, because it is these aspirations that guide the self-realization of an individual as a human, his/her ethical stance, and the betterment of society as a whole.

Prof. dr. Zdravko Kačič,
Rector of University of Maribor