



Minister of Education, Culture, Science and Sport, Dr. Ziga Turk,  
Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sport,  
Masarykova cesta 16,  
1000 Ljubljana.

DATE

5. November 2012

OUR REFERENCE

YOUR REFERENCE

Dear Minister

I write to you on behalf of ESREA, the European Society for Research in the Education of Adults, to express our concerns about the future of adult education research and policy in Slovenia.

First I want to assure you about the particular engagement of the international research community in Slovenian development.

We have followed the immediate prioritizing of adult learning from the Slovenian independence, and Slovenian colleagues have played a remarkable and very active role in European research and knowledge building in all the 20+ years that have passed. The Andragoski Centar became well known all over Europe under the directorship of Zoran Jelenc and later Vida Mohorski-Spolar, and quite many of ESREAs activities have been organized by this institution, latest a conference in september this year. For this reason of course many people have been very surprised to hear that the institute was going to disappear as an independent institution.

Now of course we all understand – and know from each our country – the financial and structural pressure that every government will have to deal with in this period. I am sure that the intended structural changes are meant to secure a better use of scarce resources. However, I would like to draw your attention to the risk that the particular potentials in research and knowledge building related to adult learning and adult education will get lost inside a broader educational research organisation.

Adult learning is very particular by being closely related to adults everyday lives, their employment and careers, and in this sense adult learning research is also a contribution to a wider understanding of social changes and transformations. It is a clear international experience that these perspectives are getting lost if you do not have institutions and researchers who specifically address education and learning of adults in a broad interdisciplinary environment.

There may be much we do not know, but we appeal to you take very serious these concerns. It is a long and slow process to build research and knowledge areas, and they may get lost very quickly. Slovenia has a particular role in this field because of the very remarkable record for a small country and a relatively new state.

Cordially



Henning Salling Olesen  
Professor, ESREA president

Cc: ESREA members

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