

*In memoriam*

Professor Tomka Miljanović, PhD  
(1954-2021)



Professor Tomka Miljanović was a full professor in the field of Biology Education at Department of Biology and Ecology, Faculty of Sciences, University of Novi Sad.

Tomka Miljanović was born in Grabovica in 1954. She finished the first four grades of primary school in Grabovačka Rijeka and completed her primary education in Bukovac. She attended the secondary vocational school of healthcare in Novi Sad and obtained her bachelor's degree in biology at the Faculty of Sciences in Novi Sad. Immediately upon her graduation from university in 1978, she started teaching biology in the Educational Centre "Veljko Vlahović" in Priboj where she worked until 1988. Then she moved to Novi Sad where she worked as a biology teacher in the primary school "Kosta Trifković" from 1988 to 1998. During that time she began her postgraduate studies in taxonomy at the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Novi Sad. In 1996 she successfully defended her master's thesis entitled "Taxonomic and Genetic Divergence of Wild Sunflower Species *Helianthus giganteus* L. and *Helianthus maximiliani* Schrader". In 2000 she received a PhD in Biological Education from the Faculty of Sciences, the University of Novi Sad. Her PhD thesis was entitled „Active Learning of Biology in Primary Education“.

In 1998 she started working as a teaching assistant at the Faculty of Sciences in Novi Sad. At the same faculty she was appointed assistant professor in 2001 and associate professor in 2005. She obtained the title of a full professor in the field of Biology Education at the Faculty of Sciences in Novi Sad in 2010. Prof. Tomka Miljanović taught the following undergraduate courses: Methods of Teaching Biology 1, School Practice 1, Modern Information Technology in Biology Teaching, History of Biology, Introduction to Teaching Profession, School Experiments in Biology and Extracurricular Activities for Biology Teaching. She also taught two master courses, Methods of Teaching Biology 2 and School Practice 2. Prof. Tomka Miljanović was initiator and designer of the curriculum for the doctoral degree in Biology Teacher Training. She taught the following courses in this program: Selected Chapters of Teaching Methods in Biology, Selected Chapters of Teaching Methods in Applied Biology, Problems in Contemporary Biology Teaching, Innovative Models of Bi-

ology Teaching (Interactive Teaching) and Teaching Methods in Biology and Gifted Pupils.

Tomka Miljanović also taught courses at other universities in the Republic of Serbia. She taught Methods of Teaching Biological Science at the Faculty of Biology, University of Belgrade in the period 2004-2006. From 2012 to 2014 she taught Methods of Teaching Biological Science at Department of Biology and Ecology, Faculty of Science of University of Kragujevac. She also worked at the Teacher Education Faculty, University of Belgrade, from 2018 to 2020, where she taught Introduction to Natural Sciences and Familiarization with the Environment.

Prof. Miljanović participated in four national and two international research projects. During her career she published more than 100 research papers and reports presented at national and international conferences. Although her research activities included several areas, most of her work was devoted to the issues related to modern biology and ecology teaching at all levels of education. Some of her most prominent research articles focused on the effectiveness of innovative models of biology teaching in comparison with the traditional teaching approach, as well as on the comparison of biology curricula in the Republic of Serbia and other countries.

She co-authored three university textbooks in Biology Teaching Methodology that have been in use at the Faculties of Sciences in Novi Sad, Kragujevac and Banja Luka. She was one of the authors of six monographs and four biology coursebooks for students of the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades of primary school. She also created 25 specialized workbooks in biology for primary and secondary school students. All these represent a significant contribution to successful understanding and learning of biological contents.

She was an advisor of 69 bachelor's theses, 11 specialization papers, 72 master's and 7 PhD theses, all defended at the Department of Biology and Ecology in Novi Sad.

As one of the most prominent specialists in the field of Biology Education in Serbia and the neighbouring countries, Prof. Miljanović was an author and instructor of five biology teacher training seminars, organized biology competitions for students of primary and secondary schools at municipal,

regional and republic levels and coordinated and participated in the activities of eco-camps for primary and secondary school students. She was the head of the Committee for Biology Teaching Licence Examination.

Prof. Miljanović was the head of the Chair of Human Biology and Biological Education at the Department of Biology and Ecology, Faculty of Sciences, University of Novi Sad, from 2011 until her retirement in 2020.

During her career Prof. Miljanović participated in several international study programs including Specializations International Center of Croatian Universities in Dubrovnik; University of Erlangen, Faculty of Education Nürnberg, Germany; Universitatea de Vest "Vasile Goldis", Aradea, Romania; Debreceni Egyetem, Természettudományi Kar, Hungary and Faculty of Mathematics and Science, University of Jyväskylä, Finland.

For her contribution to the development and advancement of biological sciences she received the Golden Award of the Serbian Biological Society in 2013.

Prof. Miljanović was a highly esteemed scholar in her area of research. All her activities contributed to the development and improvement of biology teaching in primary and secondary education, popularization of biological sciences and an increase in the level of biological knowledge.

Vera Županec, PhD, Tijana Pribičević, PhD,  
Tihomir Lazarević, PhD  
University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Sciences,  
Department of Biology and Ecology  
Trg Dositeja Obradovića 2, Novi Sad, Serbia