



University of Rijeka Rectorate and *Universitas* Association

Public discussion
"Vote for Europe/Vote for Science"

Science Festival: **April 8th, 2019, 12 PM, Rijeka City Hall, Korzo 16**

We are pleased to announce that the University of Rijeka and *Universitas* Association have decided to organize a public discussion concerning the forthcoming elections of Croatian representatives to the European Parliament (23-26 May 2019). *European Universities Association* (EUA) encourages their members to get involved, in accordance with their preferences, possibilities and capacities, in promoting the European elections by devising activities created to educate on the importance of the EU Parliament, i.e. the influence of the representatives on the real life of the community of the EU member country. Following the initiative of Madam Rector, Prof. **Snježana Prijić-Samaržija**, Ph.D., University of Rijeka decided to organize a public discussion entitled "**Vote for Europe/Vote for Science**" dedicated to European educational policies and the influence on creating Croatian academic opportunities aimed at raising students' and the public's awareness of the importance and role of the elections to the European Parliament.

The participants of the discussion are:

- Prof. **Snježana Prijić-Samaržija**, Ph.D., University of Rijeka Rector
- Mr. **Boris Jokić**, Ph.D., Institute for Social Research in Zagreb
- Prof. **Zoran Kurelić**, Ph.D., Dean of the Faculty of Political Sciences of the University of Zagreb
- Mr. **David Matthew Smith**, Ph.D., Director of the Ruđer Bošković Institute
- Ms. **Sanja Modrić**, a columnist at *Novi list*,
- Mr. **Tonino Picula**, current Croatian representative at the European Parliament.

A representative of the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) will be confirmed afterward and included in the list of the participants.

The discussion will be moderated by Ms. **Nataša Božić Šarić**, TV host and editor at the N1 Television.

The discussion will take place on **Monday, April 8th, at 12 PM at the Rijeka City Hall, Korzo 16.**

Public discussion "Vote for Europe/Vote for Science" is part of this year's Science Festival. It is intended for the members of the university, academic community, students and the press, as well as the public. It is organized by the University of Rijeka Rectorate in collaboration with *Universitas* Association within the scope of the first day of the Science Festival program.

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At the end of the public discussion, the moderator will announce a sort of extension to the discussion, which will be realized by opening a public consultation for students and the academic community at University's portal. E-consultation will be available until the end of the elections to the European Parliament.

Consultation is being executed with aimed public audiences, as an extension of activities that began with the public discussion, with the topic of knowledge about and the influence of European educational policies and the role of our representatives in articulating the interests of our academic community. Interested parties can send suggestions, comments, remarks, and ideas via consultation until the end of elections.

Upon the completion of the elections and consultation, the ideas and suggestions will be summarized into a text that will result in a document, colloquially named Rijeka Declaration – "UNIRI.DE".

The Declaration will be sent to every newly elected Croatian representative at the European Parliament. The aim is to clearly state what students and academic community expect from politicians concerning the improvement of studying and learning in Croatia, i.e. higher education. It is a sort of statement resulting from the activities concerning public discussion and public consultation.