

316:061.6(497.7:438)(049.3)

378.4.096:316(497.7:438)(049.3)

XII SKOPJE - KRAKOW SOCIOLOGICAL SEMINAR

40 YEARS OF SCIENTIFIC FRIENDSHIP: Welcoming address of the Head of the Department of Sociology, Zoran Matevski

The Institute of Sociology at the Faculty of Philosophy at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje and the Institute of Sociology at the Faculty of Philosophy at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, organized the XII Skopje - Krakow Sociological Seminar on the topic: Social Exclusion in Macedonian and Polish Contemporary Society. The seminar was dedicated to 40 years of scientific friendship between these two educational and scientific institutions and the life and work of Prof. PhD Jovan Korubin. Seventeen professors are actively participating in the XII Skopje - Krakow Sociological Seminar. The papers of Ilo Trajkovski and Zoran Matevski, presented at this seminar, are part of this issue of the Sociological Review.

Science, education and international cooperation are undoubtedly one of the most significant challenges of modern Europe. We all hope for a just and sustainable world that lives in peace. These lofty commitments can only be achieved through co-operation based on mutual respect, a strong bond of interest and a deep affection between nations and states. This is the vision that we have turned into action through the 40 years of scientific fellowship of our Institutes of Sociology at the Faculties of Philosophy, which are an integral part of Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, which as successor of St. Clement's University is one of the oldest Universities in Europe and the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, as the second oldest University in Central Europe. When we joined together 40 years ago in a quest for knowledge and academic progress in the field of sociology, we hoped that our efforts would turn into a lasting friendship and cooperation in which we would respect each other and eventually serve European sociology. Our academic dream was the beginning of a significant exchange and cooperation between two Institutes in countries with very different social relations, phenomena and processes. Without false modesty, not only did we succeed, but we went a step further as

we set the standard for future exchange and cooperation at the inter-university and inter-state levels.

The language and values of science are universal. It is not unusual that scientists have always been at the forefront of international peace development cooperation. R. of North Macedonia and R. Poland have a long tradition of honouring education and research. Our ancestors made a wonderful contribution to science, with a major impact on the development of the European civilization. History has repeatedly assured us that higher education and scientific research are an important foundation for both countries' prosperity, as well as a key criterion for their international competitiveness and influence.

We have implemented our cooperation in 12 sociological seminars that have provided encouraging impetus and broad perspectives within higher education collaboration. Through the papers published in the proceedings of these seminars, we have elevated the quality of sociological research to a higher level, and provided strong intellectual and human support for the further development of our Institutes and Faculties. With this we helped build new bridges of friendship and cooperation between the Republic of North Macedonia and the Republic of Poland.