



ICAE

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ADULT EDUCATION

PRESS RELEASE

June, 2014

New ICAE Secretary General is appointed

ICAE-The **International Council for Adult Education** is pleased to announce that after an exhaustive search, involving candidates from each region of the world, and extensive interviews it has appointed Professor **Katarina Popovic**, of the Serbian Adult Education Society and University of Belgrade in Serbia, as its new Secretary General, in succession to Celita Eccher who has held the position with great flair for the last thirteen years. Katarina, who is currently an elected vice-president of the European Association for the Education of Adults will begin work on 1 July, but will join the ICAE Executive Board at its annual residential meeting in Hamburg on June 26-27th.



Katarina Popovic

Katarina has had a distinguished career in academic and in civil society settings, was active in the Serbian peace movements, has worked for many years in collaboration with dvv-international (the German International Development Agency for Adult Education). She has published widely and worked in many countries in Europe, central Asia and the Middle East.

Alan Tuckett, President of ICAE commented, *'We are delighted to have attracted a candidate with the depth of experience and proven ability of Katarina for the significant task of succeeding **Celita Eccher** as the Secretary general of ICAE. Celita led the rejuvenation of ICAE, introduced our annual academies in global advocacy for emerging leaders, forged alliances with partner organisations and secured ICAE's places in representing adult learners at UNESCO and the UN. We all recognise that these are challenging times for adult learners in many parts of the world. The struggle to secure fully the right to learn continues to be fought out almost everywhere, but it affects especially women, the poorest groups and the most marginalised. We look forward to working with Katarina in building on our current work to identify fresh avenues for winning those struggles.'*

Katarina Popovic commented, *'To be the Secretary General of ICAE is a great honour and huge responsibility. I cannot think of a more important task in the field of global adult education than to run an organisation as ICAE - to be the voice and representation of adult learning and to fight for the right to education for everyone. I feel like my whole career up to now has been a preparation for this mission - my research, projects, training, and especially my activities within the EAEA Board. All efforts are flowing into this new task. At the very beginning I am simply delighted to become a more active member of the global family of adult education!'*

She continued *'I am standing on the shoulders of great people - committed, hard working enthusiastic persons that have created the outstanding profile of ICAE and achieved so much for adult education and learning worldwide. I am thankful for that and at the same time I know that it won't be easy to continue in the same way. It will be an especial challenge to follow my predecessor in this position, **Ms Celita Eccher**, who was a capable leader, a successful fighter, and great networker. Thanks to her knowledge, energy and commitment ICAE became one of the most influential organizations in global civil society. To sustain the achievements and keep up this work will be a big challenge.*

For further information, or to arrange an interview with Katarina please contact her at: katarina.popovic@outlook.com and from July 1st onwards you can also contact her at: Sec.General@icae.org.uy and/or through ICAE Secretariat at: secretariat@icae.org.uy