

## Obituary of Prof. Dr. Vlasta Pujin (1929–2008)

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† – Vlasta R. Pujin

Vlasta R. Pujin died on August 29, 2008. She was 79. She was one of latest alive representatives from the Danube River Basin countries who were present at the event of foundation of the “The International Association for Danube Research” (IAD) in 1956 at the XIII Congress of the Societas Internationalis Limnologiae (SIL) in Helsinki.

From 1961 to 1966, she was employed as a research and teaching assistant at the Faculty of Agronomy of the University of Novi Sad. Upon finishing her doctoral studies at the Bavarian Institute of Biology in Munich (1963-1964) and defending her Ph.D. at the University of Novi Sad in 1966 she was elected as the Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Novi Sad. From 1976 to 1991, she was member of the scientific team of the Institute of Biology of the Faculty of Science of the University of Novi Sad. Although she officially retired in 1991, she remained, until her recent illness, very active in research, consultancy and educational work.

During her many years with the University she served as chairwomen of the Institute of Plant Pathology of the Faculty of Agronomy, Institute of Biology of the Faculty of Sciences and as member of innumerable Faculty and University Committees and other management bodies for many years.

Professor Pujin was Europe-wide known for her teaching and hydro-biological research on Yugoslav waters, especially rivers, lakes, canal network and artificial reservoirs in the Danube River Basin. She organized and taught the Yugoslav first University course in Freshwater Biology, later known as the Novi Sad Hydrobiology School. She published over 200 articles in former Yugoslav and foreign professional journals. Her three books, written with coworkers: “Hydrobiology, student manual”, “Eutrophication of stagnant waters of Voyvo-

dina”, and “Agricultural Zoology” are widely used as text-references in the Danube River Basin countries. The first one is still used as a text book by the students of the University of Novi Sad Faculty of Sciences.

She was active in 14 professional national and international societies (IAD, SIL, etc.) and served as president of three of them. Her name is found in many European biographical directories. At various times she served as editorial consultant or on the editorial board of five different scientific journals.

For more than 50 years, from the very first day of its foundation, she was member of IAD, and for 12 years she was the Country Representative of former Yugoslavia in IAD of SIL. Her commitment to IAD is testified by the fact that during her leadership (1984-1996) she did not miss one single annual IAD Conference, as well as her activity in organizing IAD conferences in Belgrade (1969) and Novi Sad (1979). Her dedication to the idea that the Danube River Basin is a unique ecological space contributed to keep the IAD’s door open for everyone who was seriously concerned with the conservation of the Danube River when this cooperation seemed to be impossible; but through the nongovernmental and especially personal enthusiastic commitment these merits turned out to be possible and successful.

Vlasta Pujin presented more than 50 research papers at scientific conferences, many of them at the IAD annual meetings, and more than 20 lectures as invited speaker at scientific meetings. Besides numerous Diploma students, she directed the work of 11 M.Sc., and 10 Ph.D. students.

During her years of retirement, Vlasta Pujin’s services as a freshwater biology consultant were widely in demand by many research institutes and universities, but public, fisheries and conservation agencies as well.

Prof. Dr. Vlasta Pujin will continue to inspire her colleagues and her “children in science” with her humanity, personal modesty, unselfishness and generous aid to whoever needed it. Teacher, Thank You!

### References

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