Foreword

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The cornerstones of every faculty and university are teaching and research, but in today's world it is also increasingly important to communicate and present our achievements to the public. High-quality research work is the basis for the transfer and delivery of knowledge and scientific achievements to students, so that they can develop adequate research potential through their study verticals and become our successors in research and educational work.

Since its foundation in 2000, the Faculty of Humanities has established itself as a generator of knowledge that enriches the local and wider environment with plentiful humanistic content and research potential. Today, in 2020, a full 20 years have passed. If we consider this as participants and co-creators, every step, event, or achievement seems to be important, regardless of the short time span.

From the very beginning, the Faculty's study contents and research areas have included both the humanistic and sociological sciences and the arts, emphasizing mutual impact and connection - the interculturalism typical of this environment. Our researchers and educators are experts who, through their research work and achievements, prove that they are qualified to face the social, cultural, and economic changes that can be felt in Slovenia and Europe alike.

Since its foundation, the Faculty has established close research and educational cooperation with institutions outside the University of

Primorska. Such integration into the wider environment contributes to our research success and enriches the content of the study programs. The longest common path we have taken is with the Anton Melik Geographical Institute and the Karst Research Institute based in Postojna, both of which were founded by the Research Center of Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (RC SAS).

Later, we also established and developed close cooperation with other institutes within the RC SAS. Our departments and research institutes cooperate with Slovenian Migration Institute, the Milko Kos Historical Institute, the Institute of Slovenian Ethnology, the Fran Ramovš Institute of Slovenian Language, the Institute of Archaeology, the Institute of Cultural History, and the Institute for Ethnic Studies.

In 2016, the Science and Research Center, with which the Faculty was closely linked, left the University. Since then we have been trying to establish connections with new research partners. In the field of archaeology and cultural heritage we cooperate closely with the Slovenian Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage and the Slovenian Institute of Urban Planning. One of our newer partners is also the Institute of Contemporary History, with whom we share research projects and educational work with some of their staff who are involved in our study programs.

We are proud to continue and enhance the centuries-old tradition of humanistic education and research in Koper, which has welcomed intellectuals, researchers, and students since the 14th century. Therefore, on our anniversary, we are exhibiting the results of researchers and educators representing the youngest generation of the Faculty. The contributions of our colleagues are brought together in two volumes, covering various scientific disciplines under the common denominator of the humanities, social sciences and the arts, which form the basis of our study programs, and show how broadly our scientific potential has developed.

Finally, the Faculty is proud to be the only member of the University of Primorska to have three professors emeriti, which undoubtedly reflects a two-decade journey of high-quality research and educational work. Professor Emeritus Dr. Lucija Čok, linguist, was the first Chancellor of the University of Primorska and one of the founding members of our Faculty and University. She was also awarded the Order of Merit of the Republic of France, the *Ordre national de la Légion d'honneur* and the title *Cavaliere della Repubblica Italiana*. Professor Emeritus and honorary member of the Senate of the University of Primorska, Dr. Mitja Guštin, archaeologist and

holder of an honorary doctorate from the University of Innsbruck, founder of the Institute for Mediterranean Heritage SRC, which today operates within the Faculty as the Institute for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage. Professor Emeritus Dr. Anton Gosar, geographer, was the first elected Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and since its foundation has been active in both the educational and research fields.

We believe that the rich collection we have before us shows and reflects how the research work of the Faculty helps to shape and respond to the spirit, culture and heritage of the society and environment in which we live. We meet and discover societies of the past to understand and value the challenges of the present, and we prepare for the tasks of the future.

No research path is always smooth, sometimes it is dusty and rocky, it can take us to depths as well as heights, but it always leads us among people to whom today we present some of our achievements.

Prof. Dr. Irena Lazar, dean