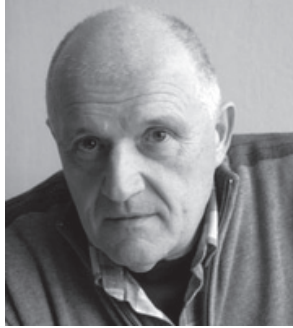


IN MEMORIAM



Milan Polić
(1946–2015)

Death of such a man as Milan Polić always confronts us with the painful thought that one prolific life is over forever, that all our dialogues have ended eternally and that from now on only memories of his spoken and written words remain. Those words still carry a message of life, although death is always a part of it. The life of professor Polić was not lived “habitually, inertly, life where chatter prevails and which is only chattered about, life only sacrificed for some uncertain better tomorrow, superficial day to day life, life that avoids to face itself” (M. Polić, *Death in Life and Education*, 1992, 50). Unlike this, Milan Polić’s life was deeply meaningful and fulfilled with efforts to sprout out an essence of humanity. He believed that a very essence of human life is creativity that only could be revived through education:

“Namely, if education is the development of human essential strengths, their human powers, and it is, then it is above all the development of their creative powers that establish people as beings of freedom, as completely self-relying beings, as beings belonging utterly to themselves, and that is their essence as humans.” (M. Polić, *Education and Consciousness/World*, 1993, 21–22)

Although his life has finished, his ideas, which inspired many of us to live as free and creative beings creating our own human nature – cul-

ture, still remain. I believe that his ideas will continue to inspire future generations of educators to carry on with the education that “develops human strengths according to their maximum abilities, and that means that the way towards something possibly different is constantly open” (M. Polić, *Education and Consciousness/World*, 1993, 22).

Branko Bognar