15th Lošinj Days of Bioethics

The international scientific-cultural event Lošinj Days of Bioethics was held for the 15th time on May 15th – 18th, 2016 at the “Aurora” and “Vespera” hotels in Mali Lošinj, Croatia. The organizers of the Lošinj Days of Bioethics were the Croatian Philosophical Society, the Croatian Bioethics Society and the Town of Mali Lošinj, with the Centre of Excellence for Integrative Bioethics being the co-organizer. Apart from the main program, the Lošinj Days of Bioethics also include the Student Bioethics Workshop. This year’s workshop “Bioethics and Religion” was organized by the Students of Philosophy Association at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences from the University of Zagreb and the Department of Philosophy of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb. The patrons of the 15th Lošinj Days of Bioethics were the President of the Republic of Croatia Kolinda Grabar Kitarović, the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia, the Primorje-Gorski Kotar County and the University of Zagreb. The organization Committee of the Lošinj Days of Bioethics included the President Ante Čović (Zagreb), the Chief Secretary Hrvoje Jurić (Zagreb), the Administrative Secretary Mira Matijević (Zagreb), and 62 members from 18 cities, as well as the President Suzana Krčmarek, the Vice Presidents Ivan Bauernfreund and Augustin Kvočić, and the members Nikolina Ćavar, Anja Dorđević, Luka Hrvoj, Marko Kos, Ivana Kovačić, Mirna Petak, Roni Rengel and Luka Šiško of the Organization Committee of Student Bioethics Workshop. Thus, the program included: the international symposium “Integrative Bioethics and the New Epoch” (May 16th – 17th), the Student Bioethics Workshop “Bioethics and Religion” (May 15th – 18th), round tables “Responsibility for the Future: Pope Francis’ Encyclical Laudato si’ and Paris Climate Summit” (May 16th) and “Van Rensselaer Potter and the Birth of Bioethics” (May 17th), followed by an educational bioscope with three films: Van Rensselaer Potter: The Words of Greetings to the “Bioethics and Science in the New Epoch” Symposium (2001, 10’), Van Rensselaer Potter: What Are the Bioethical Issues for the 21st Century? (2001, 15’), and Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time (2011, 57’).
Considered a jubilee, this year's manifestation was held in special regard. At the opening ceremony, Ante Čović spoke in the name of the Organization Committee of the Lošinj Days of Bioethics and the Centre of Excellence for Integrative Bioethics. Zdravko Radman spoke in the name of the Croatian Philosophical Society, Amir Muzur spoke in the name of the Croatian Bioethical Society, and Ružica Baumgarten spoke in the name of the Town of Mali Lošinj. Ivan Bauernfreund presented the Student Bioethics Workshop, and various partners of the Lošinj Days of Bioethics spoke about their enrollment in the broader scope of the project: Stjepan Orešković representing the Dubrovnik International Bioethics Summer School, Walter Schweidler representing the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, Orhan Jašić representing the Bioethics Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Sandra Radenović representing the Bioethics Society of Serbia. After reading greeting letters from the President of Republic of Croatia Kolinda Grabar Kitarović and the Minister of Science, Education and Sports Predrag Šustar, Sanja Trajković Komadina spoke in the name of the Jadranka group for Aurora and Vespera Hotels, as well as Snježana Baljak, the director of the hotel “Aurora”, who also expressed gratitude and offered symbolic gifts to Ante Čović, Hrvoje Jurić and Mira Matijević for their contributions. Afterwards, Ante Čović offered acknowledgments to the editors and journalists of the Croatian Radiotelevision for the following of Lošinj Days of Bioethics from their beginning, most notably Augustin Bašić, Jasna Burić and Blanka Jergović. At the end of the opening ceremony, Hrvoje Jurić held a presentation titled “Fifteen years of Lošinj Days of Bioethics”.

The Lošinj Days of Bioethics should be evaluated according to the highest scale of contribution to the spiritual establishment of the new epoch, developing and intertwining two complementary conceptual processes: a formation of the concept of integrative bioethics and programmatic formulation (“Europeanization of bioethics”) and the actual establishment of the European bioethics. In this context, symposium “Integrative bioethics and the New Epoch” is a standard, central event within the program, dedicated to gathering new findings in the field of a broader concept of integrative bioethics as a scientific, cultural and social project. 65 scientists from all over the world applied for the conference, with 52 papers being accepted from 12 countries: Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Canada, Germany, Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Slovenia, Switzerland and the United States of America. The following papers were presented: Michael George (Canada): Bioethics as Social Discourse; Srećko Gajović (Croatia) et al.: Knowledge Landscapes Geography in the Virtual Realm; Toni Pustovrh (Slovenia): The Hyperconnected Smart Technosociety: What Are Some of the Ethical, Legal and Societal Implications of Increasing Informatization, Automation and Robotization?; Aida Kapo et al. (Bosnia and Herzegovina): The Quality of Life of People with Burns; Mile Marinčić, Mark
et al. (Croatia): Transhuman Being and Its Environment; Marija Selak (Croatia): Genetic Guilt and Genetic Responsibility; Ana Maskalan, Mirjana Adamović (Croatia): Designing the Little Glass Slipper: The New/Old Context of Body Modifications; Eva Jurković (Croatia): Scenarios of the Future; Vanja Borš (Croatia): The True as a Bacchantic Ecstasy: The Role and Importance of Pluriperspectivism in Hegel’s Thought; Marko Kos (Croatia): Crisis of Technology – the Emancipatory Potential of Metaphorical Thinking; Duška Franeta (Serbia): Emotional Integrity as (Bio)Ethical Ideal; Denis Kos (Croatia): theoretical Foundations of Transdisciplinary Knowledge Organization in (Integrative) Bioethics; Luka Perušić (Croatia): Paths and Bypaths of Encyclopedization of Bioethics; Ana Švogor Šipek, Tomislav Krznar (Croatia): Topics of Upbringing and Education at the Lošinj Days of Bioethics; Jasminka Pavelić (Hrvatska): Transsexuality; Danijela Tiosavljević et al. (Serbia): Psychiatry on Prostitution – a Bioethical Aspect; Amer Ovčina et al. (Bosnia and Herzegovina): Child Neglect – Ethical and Moral Dilemmas; Teodora Not, Silvana Karačić (Croatia): Change of Perception of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities in the Community; Gordana Pelčić (Croatia): How Do We Make Conversation with Patients? Vaccination; Lidija Gajski (Croatia): Who Teaches Physicians? Professional Education Growing apart from Credibility; Branišlava Medić et al. (Serbia): Mobbing in Academic Institutions: Should We Have More Debate Regarding This Issue?

During the round table “Responsibility for the Future: Pope Francis’ Encyclical Laudato si’ and Paris Climate Summit” held on May 16th, Hrvoje Jurić held presentation on “Destruction, Obstruction, and Construction: On Social-Ecological Crisis and Ways of Its Resolving” and Šimo Šokčević on “Laudato si’ and Technophilia”, with Ivica Kelam and Katica Knezović as Co-presenters in the discussion. During the round table “Van Rensselaer Potter and the Birth of Bioethics” held on May 17th, Iva Rinčić and Amir Muzur held a presentation on “Who Pushed Potter aside or How Washington and New York ‘Stole’ Bioethics”, and Tijana Trako Poljak discussed “Aldo Leopold’s Land Ethic as an Intellectual Foothold for Van Rensselaer Potter’s Bioethics”. Also, in the evening of the first day, a presentation about recent bioethical publications was held, bringing nine books and eleven journals relevant for integrative bioethics. Alongside the main events, the Student Bioethics Workshop, being a part of a larger yearly program the Bioethical Incubator, is regarded as a very important manifestation contributing to the whole project. This is confirmed by this year’s record: apart from holding a special workshop “Integrative thinking”, it presented 30 papers from 59 participants coming from six cities, that is, four states: Croatia, Macedonia, Serbia and Slovenia, and had students involved in all the events occurring during the main program.

With all things considered, we can fairly firmly confirm that the 15th Lošinj Days of Bioethics, in its jubilee success, only greenlighted the ideas and hard work for the
success yet to be achieved. In this context, it is also noteworthy to mention that, for all the above reasons, a production of documentary film on integrative bioethics has started, with a lot of shots taken during the rich program being carried out on the sunny Croatian days in May.

Luka Perušić