

## ***In memoriam, Prof. Ph.D. Rajko Odobaša (1960-2025)***

On December 25, 2025, Prof. Dr. Sc. Rajko Odobaša, a university professor at the Faculty of Law in Osijek, left us. With the departure of Prof. Dr. Sc. Rajko Odobaša, the Faculty of Law in Osijek lost a professor with a broad range of thought, and his fellow professors lost a wonderful collaborator and friend. Simple, non-conflict, respectful, conciliatory, well-intentioned; these are just some of the descriptions that suited his character. Humanity above all, many would agree, was the most important characteristic in his work and actions.

Prof. dr. sc. Odobaša was born on November 26, 1960, in Osijek. In 1984, he graduated from the Faculty of Law in Osijek, and in 1989, he received his master's degree from the Faculty of Law in Zagreb on the topic of his master's thesis, "Changes in the structure of governance of capitalist society and the influence of the scientific and technological revolution." He continued his education at the Faculty of Economics in Osijek and, in 2005, he defended his doctoral thesis titled "*Sustainable development of Croatia in the conditions of globalization of economic processes, with special emphasis on the sustainable development of Slavonia and Baranja*". He has been working as a lecturer at the Faculty of Law in Osijek, Department of Economic Sciences, since 2000, and held the aforementioned position until 2006, when he became a senior lecturer. He was appointed to the title of assistant professor in 2008, and in 2013, he became an associate professor. He was appointed to the title of full professor at the Faculty of Law in Osijek in 2019. For many years, and since 2016, he has been the President of the Department of Economic Sciences, while the Vice-Dean for Teaching and Students at the Faculty of Law Osijek has been in office since 2017. He has also been the head of the Green Law Clinic of the Faculty of Law Osijek since its founding in 2021, and, in his capacity as president, he has also led the Department of Commercial Law and Economic Sciences since its founding.

He was a member of the editorial board of the legal and social sciences journal *Pravni vjesnik* since 2015, and a member of the organizing committee of the 1st International Students' *Green Conference* in 2018. Also, he was a member of the Croatian Institute for Local Self-Government (HILS) and the Independent Union of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Croatia. In addition, Prof. Dr. Sc. Odobaša was a long-time union representative at the Faculty of Law in Osijek. As a member of the Union's Governing Council, he participated in the Union's business decisions, the construction of the Union House, and was elected a member of the Grand Council on several occasions. As stated on the official website of the Independent Union of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Croatia: "*Rajko's social and trade union considerations and democratic orientation contributed to the conduct of authentic and consistently independent trade union policy in protecting the interests of our union members, as well as improving the system of higher education and science. With his*

*professional knowledge, he helped the Union understand many social phenomena, and he also wrote the foreword to the Union's book *The Politics of Cutting Consumption*, authored by the world-renowned American-Scottish political economist Mark Blyth."*

As a full professor at the Faculty of Law in Osijek, employed at the Department of Economic Sciences, he taught across all study programs and at all levels, from undergraduate to doctoral studies. Among the different levels are several areas and courses - at the Professional undergraduate study of Administrative Studies, courses *Political Economy, Economic Policy, Environmental Law, Office Management*; at the University Integrated Undergraduate and Graduate Study of Law, courses *Political Economy, Economic Policy, Environment and Sustainable Development*; at the University Graduate Study of Social Work, courses *The Right to Food and The Right to a Healthy Environment and Social Justice*; and at the University Specialist Study of 'Human Rights' courses *The Problem of Poverty and Human Rights and Human Rights and Globalization*, while at the Doctoral Study of Law he was the holder of the courses *Legal Aspects of Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development - Legal Aspects*. He is the author of more than 30 different scientific articles, some of which have been presented at national and international conferences.

Colleagues remember him as a calm, non-conflict and respectful collaborator, inclined to dialogue and finding balanced solutions. In the academic community, he was recognized for encouraging cooperation, fostering collegiality, and contributing to a stimulating working environment. At the Department of Economic Sciences, he left a lasting and recognizable mark by developing interdisciplinary teaching content and topics. His relationship with students and associates was characterized by accessibility, consistency, and a willingness to support, qualities the students themselves often recognized and appreciated during their studies. His contribution to scientific and teaching activities, as well as his personal integrity and humanity, will be permanently remembered by colleagues, students, and everyone who collaborated with Prof. Dr. Sc. Rajko Odoabaša in any capacity.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sc. Katarina Marošević

In Osijek, March 29, 2026