



МАКЕДОНСКАТА АКАДЕМИЈА
НА НАУКИТЕ И УМЕТНОСТИТЕ

има чест да Ве покани
на пристапното предавање

на

д-р Андраж Чарни, научен советник
избран за член на МАНУ надвор од работниот состав

на тема:

**ЛИСТОПАДНИТЕ ШУМИ
НА БАЛКАНСКИОТ ПОЛУОСТРОВ**

Воведна реч на **академик Дончо Димовски**

За научниот придонес на проф. д-р Андраж Чарни
ќе зборува **академик Владо Матевски**



**МАНУ, 5 мај 2016 година (четврток),
12,00 часот**

Andraž Čarni – a new member of the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts



The electoral assembly of the Macedonian Academy of Science and Arts held on 17 June 2015 in Skopje elected Andraž Čarni as its foreign member. Andraž has been active in vegetation research of Macedonia for more than two decades. He was a (co)author of several papers and books and made a large contribution to the knowledge of the vegetation of the region. At the same time, he also contributed to the development of vegetation research in the region as a researcher, project leader, adviser and member of editorial boards and various committees.

Andraž was born in Ljubljana in 1962 where he finished his education and got his PhD from the Biotechnical Faculty, University of Ljubljana, in 1994. He has been employed at the Institute of Biology at the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (ZRC SAZU) since 1988. He gives lectures on botany and vegetation ecology at the Universities of Ljubljana, Maribor and Nova Gorica.

He began his research career in the eighties of the 20th century, in the times when numerical analysis became widely used in vegetation science and the first large-scale databases were formed. After longer study stays with Jean-Marie Géhu at the Station Internationale de Phy-

tosociologie in Bailleul (France) and Ladislav Mucina at the University of Vienna (Austria), he devoted his research career to the vegetation of southeastern Europe.

At the beginning, he worked mainly in his homeland, Slovenia. He prepared his PhD about the vegetation of forest edges under supervision of Mitja Zupančič and Andrej Martinčič. Vegetation became his main research interest that has so far remained his favorite research topic. With his research team he also elaborated on other types of vegetation from weed and ruderal communities and grasslands to forests and prepared several synthetic works, such as bibliographic overview, vegetation map of forest communities or overview of vegetation syntaxa.

In the following years he expanded his interest to the vegetation of the Balkan Peninsula with its rich and diverse plant life, endemism and many unanswered questions that has become challenges for his research activities. In particular, he focused on the vegetation in the transitional zone between two large biomes, temperate and Mediterranean. He studied plant communities, their ecological plasticity and changes in their floristic composition, structure and chorology as well as adaptations to the changing environment. He has built a close collaboration with the group of Vlado Matevski from St. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje where he has been a welcome guest over many years. They worked together in the field, elaboration of data and writing papers. During the first years, they prepared surveys of individual vegetation types in the region, but later they widened their scope and prepared several large scale studies.

The large scale studies prepared across Europe have encouraged group of researchers guided by Ladislav Mucina with a view to producing an overview of European vegetation, list of alliances in the area from the Canary Islands to the Ural Mountains. Based on his experience Andraž became one of the key experts in the vegetation of southeastern Europe. This overview of vegetation provided a basis for the preparation of a list of endangered habitats in Europe. In this project which is supported by the European Commission, Andraž participates as an expert and evaluator.

He was among those who had a clear vision of the further development of vegetation science when in 2002, the journal *Hacquetia* was founded. He was its first editor. *Hacquetia* is today one of the well established journals in the field of vegetation science in Europe and is indexed in many international databases.

At the break of centuries, Andraž was elected president of the Eastern Alpine and Dinaric Society for Vegetation Ecology. With his great sense of organisation, he, in collaboration with many researchers from Central Europe and the Balkans, succeeded in strengthening and even extending the activities of this society. He was one of the organisers of the Society's 30th symposium in Otočec (2003) and 35th symposium in Ohrid (2013).

Andraž is active in the International Association for Vegetation Science (IAVS) where he is a member of its Council and nomenclature commission. The nomenclature commission prepares a new edition of the International Code of Phytosociological Nomenclature that will regulate contemporary approaches to the nomenclature. He also takes

an active part in the IAVS Working Group for the European Vegetation Survey. He organised its 23rd workshop in Ljubljana (2014). Additionally, he provides data for the European Vegetation Archive.

Further, he participated in the organisation of science in Slovenia. He was a head of the Institute of Biology ZRC SAZU, coordinator of researches in the field of biology at the Ministry of Science and Technology and a representative of Slovenia in the Global Biodiversity Facility (GBIF) in the times when Slovenia became a founding member of this international organisation.

In addition to his current research topics, he is always on the look for new challenges (e.g. modelling, species coexistence) that would enable him to better understand patterns in vegetation.

We congratulate him sincerely and wish him every success in the future!

Urban Šilc