

Prof. dr. Nives Kovač, UP PEF

Dr. Nives Kovač je zaključila srednješolsko izobraževanje na Srednji matematični šoli v Kopru, pedagoške naravoslovne smeri. Šolanje je nadaljevala na Pedagoški akademiji Univerze Edvarda Kardelja v Ljubljani, kjer je leta 1987 po končanem višješolskem študiju pridobila strokovni naziv "predmetna učiteljica biologije in kemije", po zaključku visokošolskega študija pedagoške smeri biologija – kemija na oddelku Kemijsko izobraževanje in informatika leta 1990 pa strokovni naziv "profesor kemije - biologije".

Septembra 1990 se je kot mlada raziskovalka zaposlila na oddelku Nacionalnega inštituta za biologijo na Morski biološki postaji Piran (NIB MBP) in se hkrati vpisala na podiplomski študij na Fakulteti za naravoslovje in tehnologijo Univerze v Ljubljani, oddelek Kemija in kemijska tehnologija. Decembra 1994 je zaključila študij in pridobila naziv magistra kemije. Nato se je vpisala na doktorski študij in leta 1999 na Fakulteti za kemijo in kemijsko tehnologijo Univerze v Ljubljani uspešno zagovarjala doktorsko nalogo z naslovom "Fotokemične pretvorbe izbranih polisaharidov in modelnih substratov v vodnih medijih".

Od leta 1990 do januarja 2024 je kot raziskovalka aktivno sodelovala v raziskovalnih dejavnostih Nacionalnega inštituta za biologijo na Morski biološki postaji Piran, kjer je bila vključena v program "Raziskave obalnega morja" (ARRS, danes ARIS). Poleg tega je občasno prevzela vlogo vodje ali aktivne sodelavke tudi v drugih domačih in mednarodnih raziskovalnih ter aplikativnih projektih. Ima več kot 33 let izkušenj na področju osnovnih in aplikativnih raziskav morja, s posebnim poudarkom na kroženju, sestavi in pretvorbah organske snovi v morju, onesnaževanju morja ter raziskavah sedimentov in procesov hiperslanih območij, kot so Sečoveljske soline.

Poleg raziskovalne dejavnosti je ves čas aktivno delovala tudi na pedagoškem področju. Poučevala je na osnovni in srednji šoli ter v okviru strokovnega izpopolnjevanju pedagoških delavcev. V letih od 2001 do 2011 je sodelovala tudi v dodiplomskem pedagoškem delu na Fakulteti za pomorstvo in promet Univerze v Ljubljani v Piranu. Od leta 2011 pa je redno zaposlena na Pedagoški fakulteti Univerze na Primorskem, kjer je nosilka in izvajalka različnih predmetov s področja naravoslovja. Zaradi tega se raziskovalno posveča tudi področju naravoslovnega izobraževanja.

V času zaposlitve na Nacionalnem inštitutu in Univerzi na Primorskem je pridobila dodatna znanja in izkušnje v tujini, ki jih uspešno uporablja pri svojem raziskovalnem in pedagoškem delu. Kot mentorica in somentorica je vodila diplomante, magistrante in doktorante. Sodelovala je pri oblikovanju številnih študijskih programov, učnih načrtov ter izobraževalnih gradiv. Občasno je bila vključena tudi v pedagoške procese na drugih univerzah ter aktivno sodelovala pri izvedbi različnih izobraževalnih dogodkov, kot so dan odprtih vrat, strokovna izobraževanja, poletne šole, izpopolnjevanje učiteljev ter izobraževalne dejavnosti za člane Univerze za 3. življenjsko obdobje. Redno se aktivno udeležuje tako

mednarodnih kot domačih konferenc in simpozijev, sodeluje pa tudi pri organizaciji konferenc in znanstvenih srečanj.

V okviru svojega pedagoškega dela je kot soavtorica sodelovala pri nastanku visokošolskega učbenika z recenzijo in številnih učnih gradiv. Poleg poučevanja pa je opravljala tudi recenzentsko in uredniško delo. Prejela je tudi priznanje Odlični v znanosti 2018 ter Prometejevo nagrado. Rezultate svojih raziskav je v soavtorstvu objavila v znanstvenih revijah, vključno s tistimi, zajetimi v Web of Science.

ANGLEŠKI PREVOD

Dr. Nives Kovač completed her secondary education at the Secondary Mathematics School in Koper, majoring in natural sciences. She then continued her education at the Academy of Pedagogy (Edvard Kardelj University in Ljubljana), where in 1987, after completing her post-secondary studies, she obtained the professional title of "subject teacher of biology and chemistry". She continued her studies at the same faculty, where she completed her higher education studies in the pedagogical field of biology - chemistry, at the department: Chemical Education and Informatics. She graduated in 1990 and obtained the professional title of "professor of chemistry - biology".

In September 1990, she began working as a young researcher at the Department of the National Institute of Biology, at the Marine Biological Station Piran (NIB MBP), while simultaneously enrolling in postgraduate studies at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Engineering, University of Ljubljana (Department: Chemistry and Chemical Engineering). She completed her studies in December 1994, earning the title of Master of Chemistry. She then enrolled in a doctoral program and in 1999 successfully defended her doctoral thesis titled "Photochemical transformations of selected polysaccharides and model substrates in aqueous media" at the Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, University of Ljubljana.

From 1990 to January 2024, she actively participated in the research activities of the NIB MBP as a researcher, where she was involved in the "Coastal Sea Research" program (ARRS, now ARIS). In addition, she occasionally took on the role of leader or active collaborator in other domestic and international research and applied projects. She has over 33 years of experience in basic and applied marine research, with a particular focus on the cycling, composition, and transformation of organic matter in the sea, marine pollution, and the study of sediments and processes in hypersaline environments, such as the Sečovlje salt pans.

In addition to her research activities, she has also been actively involved in the field of education. She has taught at both primary and secondary schools, as well as in the framework of professional development for educators. From 2001 to 2011, she also participated in undergraduate teaching at the Faculty of Maritime Studies and Transport of the University of Ljubljana. Since 2011, she has been employed full-time at the Faculty of Education of the University of Primorska, where she leads and teaches various courses in the field of natural sciences. As a result, her research is also focused on the area of science education.

During her employment at the National Institute of Biology and the University of Primorska, she gained additional knowledge and experience abroad, which she successfully applies in her research and teaching work. As a mentor and co-mentor, she has supervised undergraduate, master's, and doctoral



students. She has contributed to the development of numerous study programs, curricula, and educational materials. Occasionally, she has been involved in teaching processes at other universities and has actively participated in organizing various educational events, such as open days, professional training, summer schools, teacher development programs, and educational activities for members of the Third Age University. She regularly participates in both international and domestic conferences and symposia and also contributes to the organization of conferences and scientific meetings.

In her pedagogical work, she has co-authored a higher education textbook with a review and numerous teaching materials. In addition to teaching, she has also performed reviewing and editorial work. She received the Excellence in Science Award in 2018 and the Prometheus Award. The results of her research have been published in scientific journals, including those indexed in the Web of Science, as co-author.

