



World Academy of Art and Science

FORM FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES
FOR JUNIOR, ASSOCIATE AND FULL FELLOWSHIP
TO BE FILLED IN BY THE NOMINATING FELLOW

Personal Data of the Candidate	
Title (Dr., Prof., Ms., Mr., etc.)	Prof. Dr.
First Name	Ludvik
Middle Name and Surname	Toplak
Gender	Male
Nationality	Slovenian
Address	GOSPOSKA 1, 2000 MARIBOR, SLOVENIA
Phone Number	00386 (0) 59 333 077
E-mail Address	ludvik.toplak@almamater.si
Website	https://en.almamater.si/president-s123
Social Media Handles	
Designation/Job Title	Rector
Institutional Affiliation/Organization	Alma Mater Europaea University
Educational Qualification	PhD, LL.M., Law Degree
Areas of Interest	Law, education, humanitarianism
Nominating WAAS Fellow	Ivo Šlaus
Seconding WAAS Fellow	Aleksander Zidanšek

1. **Relationship:** Describe your relationship to the candidate and how you became aware of their accomplishments and impact. (150-200 words)

Professor Ludvik Toplak was noticed as Rector of the University of Maribor in the 1990's. He was an active Rector who doubled the number of students at the university and added many new faculties thus helping to create a complete university. Ludvik Toplak is an expert and Professor of law, President of Alma Mater Europaea - European Centre in Maribor since its establishment in 2007, Rector of Alma Mater Europaea University since 2024, Member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts since 2000 and member of its Senate 2013-2021. In addition to his outstanding academic achievements, Professor Toplak has also been active in Slovenian and international society. His most prominent role was in the first Slovenian Parliament in 1990, establishing Slovenia as a sovereign and independent country. His impact has been particularly strong recently as Rector of the newly established Alma Mater Europaea University with significant connections with academics and rectors in Europe and worldwide, fostering the development of innovative human-centred study programs.

2. **Reasons for Nomination:** Provide a detailed explanation as to why you are nominating this candidate, what is noteworthy about the nominee, what is significant about their contributions, achievements and impact, and how it is relevant to WAAS. (150-400 words)

The most important reason for the nomination of Professor Ludvik Toplak is his outstanding commitment to academic values, which has also been expressed in cooperation with WAAS. This was particularly important at the joint WAAS and EASA meeting on 21 October 2024 in Maribor, where his leadership brought together many academics from both academies, including both Presidents. In addition, his role was crucial in developing the Global Peace Offensive Vision, which both Presidents signed. Also, Professor Ludvik Toplak actively participated at the 7th

International Conference on Future Education held by Istinye University Faculty of Medicine and the World Academy of Art & Science on 10-12 December 2024 at the Istinye University Congress Center in Istanbul. His commitment to strengthening WAAS and its cooperation with EASA has been unwavering. His support of the Global Peace Offensive has opened new doors to WAAS, which can thus extend its message to a broader audience worldwide.

3. **Distinction or Leadership in their Profession:** List reason(s) why the candidate merits election to WAAS based on their distinction or leadership in their profession. If the candidate is in an organisation they have founded themselves, please explain the importance and impact of the organisation. (150-400 words)

Professor Toplak has also been active in Slovenian and international society. His most prominent role was in the first Slovenian Parliament in 1990, which established Slovenia as a sovereign and independent country. The Parliament was Slovenia's first democratically elected Parliament with three chambers. Professor Toplak was the President of the first chamber of the Parliament, which, after his term, transformed into the legislative chamber called the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia. Professor Toplak returned to the University of Maribor, where he was elected Rector for two terms, from 1993 until 2002. After the second term, he returned to the country's service and spent one term as the Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia to the Holy See from 2002 to 2006. After his term, he responded to a pressing need for education of future-oriented professions by establishing and leading a new higher education organisation in Maribor, Alma Mater Europaea - European Centre. Initially, there was a focus on nursing education, responding to the needs of our aging society. He was also active in the international Alma Mater Europaea University, first as Vice Rector and since 2024 as Rector. As such, Professor Toplak is an outstanding candidate who will significantly benefit WAAS with his rich academic experience, broad international cooperation and unwavering commitment to academic excellence.

4. **Interdisciplinary Accomplishments:** List reason(s) why the candidate merits election to WAAS based on their interdisciplinary accomplishments. Provide evidence or examples. (150-400 words)

In addition to his outstanding work in law and his humanitarian efforts, Professor Ludvik Toplak, after his term as an Ambassador to the Holy See ended, helped society by establishing new opportunities for university-level education. In close cooperation with his friends from the European Academy of Sciences and Arts, he joined forces at Alma Mater Europaea University. He was established in 2007 in Maribor Alma Mater Europaea - European Centre. Under his wise leadership, Alma Mater Europaea in Maribor grew into a full university, of which he has been Rector since its establishment in 2024.

He noticed that in the ageing society of the 21st century, there is a huge lack of trained medical personnel. Therefore, one of the first study programs was nursing. This program became a great success, so that even with a lack of national funding, students were willing to cover the tuition costs, in spite of the fact that many were from low-income families. Among other important needs, his school also addressed the need for education in environmental protection and applied artificial intelligence.

5. **Global Perspective or Commitment to Issues of Global Importance:** List reason(s) why the candidate merits election to WAAS based on their global perspective or commitment to issues of global importance. (150-400 words)

In his significant international academic career, Professor Ludvik Toplak addressed many important issues. Recently, he was instrumental in bringing together EASA in WAAS efforts for global peace by organising a joint meeting on 21 October 2024 in Maribor, where he contributed significant efforts to make the Global Peace Offensive Vision a reality. In the contemporary turbulent world, converting the current climate of war and violence into sustainable peace remains one of the most important grand challenges. Professor Toplak's experience, enthusiasm and commitment to peace present great opportunities for WAAS, which can, with his contribution, make further important steps toward building a more peaceful knowledge society.

In addition, Professor Toplak is well known for his lifelong humanitarian efforts, both public and private, which demonstrate his commitment to the values of WAAS. Education has been another issue of global importance, where Professor Toplak, for example developed ideas for distance education in the early 1990's. These ideas can be made much stronger with the current technology and fit nicely into WAAS efforts to improve global education.

6. **Record of Public Service:** List reason(s) why the candidate merits election to WAAS based on their record of public service. (150-400 words)

Professor Ludvik Toplak has had a habit of contributing to public service since his student years. The pinnacle of his public service was in the first Slovenian Parliament in 1990, which established Slovenia as a sovereign and independent country. The Parliament was Slovenia's first democratically elected Parliament with three chambers. Professor Toplak was the President of the first chamber of the Parliament, which, after his term, transformed into the legislative chamber called the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia. Professor Toplak returned to the University of Maribor, where he was elected Rector for two terms, from 1993 until 2002. After his second term, he returned to the public service of his country. Professor Ludvik Toplak spent one term as the Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia to the Holy See from 2002 to 2006. In this role, the candidate established excellent relations with the diplomatic corps, which can be valuable to WAAS in reaching a wider diplomatic audience.

7. **Commitment:** Describe the candidate's commitment to the values, mission and objectives of WAAS. (150-400 words)

The candidate's commitment to the values, mission and objectives of WAAS is most clearly demonstrated in the activities of the global peace offensive. Professor Toplak contributed significantly to these activities and initiated two significant activities in Maribor. The first one was the workshop on 21 October 2024, when the global peace offensive vision was prepared under the guidance of Professor Toplak. In addition, Professor Toplak contributed significant financial assets to the organisation of that workshop, which further proves his strong commitment to WAAS's values, mission and objectives. On March 14, there was an important session at the conference, It's About People 2025, under the organisation of Professor Toplak, where WAAS played a prominent role. Not only was the WAAS Vice President a plenary speaker, but Professor Toplak also proposed a strong statement on peace, which was signed at the end of this session. Also, for this event, Professor Toplak contributed significant financial support, demonstrating his strong commitment to WAAS's values, mission and objectives.

8. **Prior Participation in WAAS:** List the WAAS activities in which the candidate has already participated and their contributions. (max. 400 words)

Professor Ludvik Toplak participated in three crucial WAAS activities, of which he organised and financed two activities.

The first activity was the workshop he organised in Maribor on 21 October 2024, when the global peace offensive vision was prepared under the guidance of Professor Toplak.

The last activity, on March 14, was the conference It's About People 2025 under Professor Toplak's organisation. At both events, in cooperation with WAAS, there were also essential statements related to the global peace offensive signed by WAAS.

In addition, Professor Ludvik Toplak participated actively at the 7th International Conference on Future Education held by the Istinye University Faculty of Medicine and the World Academy of Art & Science on 10-12 December 2024 at the Istinye University Congress Center in Istanbul.

9. **Other Comments:** Provide any other information or comments in support of this nomination. (optional, max. 400 words)

Professor Ludvik Toplak is an outstanding candidate who will enrich WAAS significantly, so WAAS needs more members like him. In addition, his wealth of experience and great international connections will benefit WAAS significantly and help spread its activities to new organisations and topics.

10. **Responsibility of WAAS Membership:** Has the candidate been informed about the WAAS Bylaws, Code of Ethics, and the requirement of annual membership dues payment? Bylaws and the Code of Ethics are available on the WAAS website. The annual membership dues for Junior Fellows is \$125, dues for Associate Fellows and Fellows is \$225. (Yes/No)

Yes.

11. **Selected Outputs:** List up to 10 of the candidate's major and most recent outputs (knowledge products, publications, artistic outputs etc.) and provide evidence of impact where appropriate.

Selected recent publications

MULEJ, Matjaž, MERHAR, Viljem, ŽAKELJ, Viktor, ZORE, Mira, HRAST, Anita, TOPLAK, Ludvik, SLAPNIK, Tadej, RAŠIČ, Katja, AMBROŽIČ, Borut, MULEJ, Matjaž (Editor, lector), MERHAR, Viljem (Editor), ŽAKELJ, Viktor (Editor). Introduction to the political economy of a socially responsible society / *Uvod v politično ekonomijo družbeno odgovorne družbe : soavtorska monografija*. 1. natis. Maribor: Kulturni center, zavod za umetniško produkcijo in založništvo, 2018. XII, 397 str., ilustr. Frontier, 134. ISBN 978-961-7030-51-8. ISSN 2630-1970

TOPLAK, Ludvik. Foreword. In: TOPLAK, Jurij (Ed.), et al. *It's about people 2024: In Service of Sustainability and Dignity: the 12th Annual Conference of Europe's Sciences and Arts Leaders and Scholars : book of abstracts : Maribor, 8-13 March 2024*. 1st ed. Maribor: AMEU - ECM, Alma Mater Press, 2024. Pages 20-22, illustr. ISBN 978-961-7183-36-8

PIVEC, Gregor, TOPLAK, Ludvik. Establishment of the Faculty of Medicine in Maribor / Ustanovitev Medicinske fakultete v Mariboru : prispevki za kronologijo ustanavljanja Medicinske fakultete Univerze v Mariboru. Pripravljalna faza ustanavljanja MF MB - I. stopnja. V: KRAJNC, Ivan (ur.), PIVEC, Gregor (ur.). *Medicinska fakulteta Univerze v Mariboru : monografija o ustanovitvi*. 1. izd. Maribor: Univerzitetna založba: = University Press, 2022. Str. 200-220, ilustr. ISBN 978-961-286-682-2

TOPLAK, Ludvik, GALIČIČ, Vlado, PLENKOVIČ, Mario. 23. International scientific conference "Society and technology - dr. Juraj Plenković". *Informatologia*. 2016, vol. 49, br. 3/4, str. 243-244. ISSN 1330-0067

TOPLAK, Ludvik. Academician Anton Vratuša - between science and politics. *Pomurska obzorja*. [Tiskana izd.]. 2018, letn. 5, št. 10, str. 6-7. ISSN 2350-6113

Other achievements

- As President of the Danube Rectors' Conference to promote intercultural and scientific cooperation among universities in Europe, especially the inclusion of universities in CSEE (Central South East Europe).
- To promote cooperation in the Alpine area, was a co-founder of the Summer University School Bovec in the trilingual area for intercultural cooperation of younger university staff from Slovenia, Austria, Italy, including Friuli and President of the Alps-Adria Rectors' Conference in 2002.
- For promoting intercultural and scientific cooperation, actively involved in the Alpbach Club, as a member of the international committee for Slovenia.

- Initiator of the project European University Bridges at the Harpist's Table for inter-university cooperation especially with artistic symbols, also President of the executive board.
- As President of AMEU, founder of new study programs in the fields of ecology, social care, health and culture, information technologies with artificial intelligence, management, and ballet.
- Founder of employable and scarce study programs also in underprivileged regions in Slovenia, with units in Maribor, Murska Sobota, Ljubljana, Koper, and Celje.
- As Rector of the University of Maribor, contributed to the development of new academic programs and internationalization of the university
- As a President of AMEU especially promoted intercultural and international cooperation and exchanges of students and teachers. In 2015, founded a permanent department of higher education studies for students from Italy in Koper, developed new academic programs and faculties and upgraded the institution to full university Alma Mater Europaea University.