

PREFACE

To approach the European identity from a Mediterranean perspective means to explore the relationships between the land and the sea by interpreting historical processes and cultural and other influences in a larger regional frame of identification.

The Mediterranean draws attention to the contemporary coexistence of numerous similarities and differences that give the Mediterranean region a specific connotation and make it unique. It is a geographically scattered and fragmented cultural space characterized by cultural diversity, stemming from the evolution of Mediterranean civilizations, which is a result of its centuries-long history of exchange and continuous movements of people as well as of the rich and complex continuous interaction between cultures. The essential and distinctive characteristic of this area is the plurality of cultures and people who greatly differ from one another but are at the same time very similar in their habits and lifestyles. The multicultural dimension of the Mediterranean identity can be used as a living example of “unity in diversity”.

The Mediterranean islands, as realities that are both fragile and persistent, provide an essential key to understanding the Mediterranean world — a world that today faces the challenges of globalisation, migrations and conflicts.

This is the second book on Mediterranean issues and brings together papers presented at the Mediterranean Conference — MIC Vis 2018, held on the Island of Vis, with the intention to offer reflections on specific challenges that the Mediterranean and Mediterranean islands encounter or at least to pose questions that have yet to be answered. The book focuses on a variety of issues facing the region in a transnational, transcultural and global context. The book is organized into two parts: Mediterranean Issues and Other Issues. Mediterranean Issues contains five chapters: Art, Culture, History, Tradition; Economy, Tourism; Sustainable Development, Public Services; Migration, Security, Geography and Communication, Education, Sport. Book II brings together fifty-five papers written by respectable international authors.

As a part of the additional programme of the MIC — Vis 2018 conference, an exhibition called The Mediterranean was organised, showcasing photographs that were selected from the best student photography competition. Among the one hundred submitted photographs, a panel of judges, consisting of Krešimir Mikić, Luka Kedžo and Davor Horvat, chose twelve photographs that were displayed at the exhibition. The first three winners were awarded valuable prizes from EPSON. First place went to Fran Horvat from the Faculty of Graphic Arts for his photograph “Silent sea”; the second place winner was Ljiljana Vukmanović from the School of Dental Medicine for her photograph “Trećina” (One-third); and third place went to Zvonimira Michieli Tomić from VERN’ University for her photograph “S druge strane” (From the other side). The exhibition photographs were used as chapter separators in the book.

Editors