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Re: Professor Laura Gorghiu


It gives me a great pleasure to recommend Professor Laura Gorghiu to the Rector position of Valahia University of Targoviste. I met Laura for the first time at the Kick-off meeting of the PROFILES (Professional Reflection-Oriented Focus on Inquiry-based Learning and Education through Science) project. The project was funded by the FP7 programme of the European Commission, and was a consortium of 21 partner institutions from 19 different countries. It started on December 2010, and ended on November 2014. PROFILES involved the development of teachers on four fronts (teacher as learner, teacher as effective teacher, teacher as reflective practitioner, teacher as leader) consolidating their ownership of society-led, IBSE approaches and incorporating use-inspired research, evaluative methods and stakeholder networking. The project disseminated its innovation with trained lead teachers spearheading further teacher development at pre- and in-service levels and initiating a series of workshops for key stakeholders nationwide. The intended outcome was school science teaching becoming more meaningful, related to 21st century science and incorporating interdisciplinary socio-scientific issues and inquiry-based science education (IBSE) modules, taking particular note of gender factors.

Valahia University of Targoviste was one of Profiles partners. Professor Laura Gorghiu served as one of the excellent leaders of the Romanian team, who developed a few IBSE modules, e.g., *"What are the Uses of Nuclear Power? How Does Nuclear Energy Affect our Environment?"*, or *"Is the plants food natural? What happens to substances dissolved in groundwater?"*. The mod-

ules referred to environmental and sustainable issues, as well as to systems thinking. Each of the modules was translated into English, and was planned for 6-7 periods of teaching and learning. As the coordinator of two work packages of POFILES (Continuous Professional Development, and Development of Teacher Ownership), I learned to know Laura's intellectual abilities and creativity, together with her thoughtful work and knowledge integration activities. She was always highly motivated to enhance her students' attitudes toward chemistry, their perceptions and understanding, and their chemistry literacy.

Last but not least, I was always impressed by the impressive personality of Professor Laura Gorghiu, and her ability to share her ideas with the other partners, and collaborate with them. From all the above, it is clear to me that Professor Laura Gorghiu will be an outstanding rector of Valahia University of Targoviste.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rachel Mamlok-Naaman".

Dr. Rachel Mamlok-Naaman

Head of the National Center for Chemistry Teachers