

BRATISLAV FILIPOVIĆ

FOUNDER OF ACADEMY FILIPOVIĆ

Knowledge Is More Important Than Diplomas

Potential employers around the world no longer ask for your average grades during your schooling, but rather what you know and how well you're able to do the job that your degree prepared you for. All of this imposes a need for non-formal education, so-called life-long learning.

When we launched our mission with the organising of English language courses and IT training, we didn't even dream that we would, in just 15 years, become a leader in non-formal education. At that time, in 2003, when the 'Filipović' Education Agency was founded, non-formal education was almost a taboo topic. We knew that

education is among the most important pillars on which every society relies, viewed globally and based on the whole world, and that without it there can be no social progress. However, back then we had no clue how much our team and our institution would contribute to improving the literacy of education employees, in pre-school institutions, primary and secondary schools, and colleges in Serbia.

Unlike the developed world, where the importance of non-formal education is understood, many in Serbia still underrate it, not realising that it is, in part, more important than formal education. The modern age has imposed on us a need for life-long learning, such that university degrees have today been converted into ordinary entrance tickets for securing some job.

We at Academy 'Filipović' realised many years ago that learning is a process that must never stop, which is why we today participate actively in the educating of professionals employed in education in all scientific fields. The

large number of associates of various education profiles that we have from various cities in Serbia ensures that our Academy is a serious institution that's leading the way in non-formal education.

In cooperation with professional association Open Education Initiative (OPI), and together with members of associations that have accredited their seminars via other institutions or associations, Academy 'Filipović' gained accreditation for 13 seminars for the 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21 academic years, which confirms our leadership position in non-formal education.

In previous years, our seminars in various fields – such as informatics, inclusion, creative teaching, work with children, support for family education – have been implemented in several hundred schools throughout Serbia, with many thousands of education workers having passed through them. We have, in this way, provided support to schools in long-term plans for their professional work and development, all with the goal of shaping modern education as the only measure of success.

Improving the quality of education and the raising of children in Serbia today is one of the main priorities of the state and contemporary society, and is simultaneously the mission of Academy 'Filipović'. This strategy implies a future for Serbia based on the knowledge economy, faster social and economic integration, development based on new technologies and competitiveness, and improved opportunities for all. Sustainable development and improved living standards are unimaginable without additional, non-formal education and a society that constantly learns, to which we will contribute even more in the coming years.

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Academy Filipović has advanced a long way from being a computer school to occupying the leading position in the field of non-formal education. It has been involved for the last 15 years in introducing modern IT equipment to schools and organising accredited programmes that have been traversed by over 30,000 teachers. For this academic year, the Academy has prepared 13 new seminars

