

IN MEMORIAM OF JANINA

Janina Józwiak left us and I lost a dear friend and an inspiring colleague that I much admired and often took as a reference.

My impression is that we had known each other for ever, frequently meeting at every European or international conference over decades. But the first clear memory of us talking “serious business” was in the memorable EAPS Conference of 2003, in Warsaw, that she had so perfectly organized. Janina was just starting her mandate as President of EAPS and was thinking about the future, and not only the near future. The 2006 European Population Conference had been already scheduled to take place in Liverpool and our President was already thinking about the 2008 EPC, since the periodicity of the meetings was going to be shorter. She asked me to work on a proposal with Barcelona as the seat of the 8th EPC, five years later, and it did not take long for her to convince me as she was indeed very convincing. The Barcelona Conference became a reality, was a great success and it was the opportunity for many local students and young researchers to feel the attraction of demography as a discipline and as a future professional orientation. For us, demographers in Spain, Janina’s presidency was the moment of our expansion and our opening to internationalization, culminating that afternoon in July when a spectacular summer storm subsided the very minute when the open-air closing ceremony at the patio of Hotel Alimara was supposed to begin. Neat images come to my mind of a smiling Janina running in the heavy rain to visit the city with friends, regardless of the weather. She enjoyed life and made life enjoyable for everyone.

In the following years I had many opportunities to meet her when I was a member of the Council of the EAPS and she was its Honorary President. She was not a token Honorary President. She participated as much as she could and was always ready to give advice and even a hand in all kind of tasks and endeavours.

One of the most successful initiatives under the auspices of EAPS has been the European Doctoral School of Demography (EDSD) initiated in 2005 under Professor Józwiak’s presidency. This rotatory school, having deeply changed the training and the professional expectations of more than 200 students from almost any European country, has peregrinated six different countries and offers presently its 12th edition in Rostock and Rome. Janina Józwiak never missed a meeting of the Board and some of her contributions were decisive. I remember her particularly in a meeting at

our Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona in 2012 or 2013, when we were hosting the EDSB. It was January and the sun was shining in our campus. Some of the more northern members of the Board, Janina with them, asked for a recess to walk outside in shirtsleeves. Afterwards, we worked so much better!

Warsaw took the torch of EDSB from the hands of Barcelona in 2013. Six of our doctoral students went there and had all the benefits of this unprecedented Polish experience. Unfortunately, another weather hazard – an ice storm at the Munich airport on my way to the EDSB Board meeting in Warsaw – deprived me of sharing the same experience.

Janina Józwiak kindly accepted to be a member of the Scientific Board of our Centre d'Estudis Demogràfics, and I remember particularly her presence when some important decisions had to be considered during the time of my direction.

Everyone in our Centre knew, respected and appreciated Janina Józwiak and her energetic self. The news of her passing away caused disbelief and saddened all of us deeply. I am sure to talk on behalf of all my colleagues when I say that we will miss her enormously and we will cherish her memory.

Professor Anna Cabré

Centre for Demographic Studies
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona