



The untimely demise of Ada Hajdu came as a severe shock to the NEC community. A dear and most valued colleague and friend, Ada has been part of this community for quite a while. This started early on, in the 2000s, when she was an eager participant in the events organized in the successive editions of the Ge-NEC program; it continued with a *Europa* Fellowship at the NEC in 2007-2008, and went farther recently, in 2018, when she was the winner of an ERC Starting Grant we have been proud and happy to host at the New Europe College. In the meantime, Ada defended her PhD, took part in conferences and in projects in Romania and abroad, published a number of very well received papers – in a word, she became over these years an accomplished scholar, whose excellence was being increasingly recognized by her peers. She shared her time and efforts between her work as a scholar, her teaching, and (especially over the last few years) her responsibilities as coordinator of the Department of History and Theory of Art at the National University of Arts, bringing to all these activities the same unswerving dedication. The project she was leading at the NEC, *Art Historiographies in Central and Eastern Europe. An Inquiry from the Perspective of Entangled Histories*, gave shape to concerns that had been occupying her as an art historian for quite some time, and which she has been addressing in various ways in her academic contributions, as well as in her teaching. It is a project with high stakes, which looks at art historiographies in the region in novel ways, in taking into account not only the dialogue between local historiographies and their Western models, but also – and more importantly – their reciprocal entanglements, which have rarely been (if ever) the focus of so comprehensive an undertaking. Together with her team she worked on it with total commitment, and it started developing beautifully; in November last year, the team organized its first international conference under this project, “Questions of Periodisation in the Art Historiographies of Central and Eastern Europe”, which brought together a large number of young as well as established scholars and was the occasion of valuable contributions and lively exchanges. Alongside her colleagues Ada was in the process of preparing its proceedings for publication.

The deep sense of loss we all feel can only be alleviated by our efforts to continue this legacy.