



Research Article

Why a Round Table on Professors Emeriti

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We are now starting one of the most meaningful parts of the scientific program, a session strongly supported by the organizing committee: the round table on the role of emeritus professors in different universities, not only European. In fact, we are also joined by colleagues from overseas.

Let me explain right away: we truly believe this round table does not have any ulterior motives. We are not here to make requests, nor to request any academic roles. We do not want to interfere with active university staff, full professors, associate professors, researchers, or Ph.D. students.

We know that there are many different situations in the world. In some universities, emeritus professors continue to teach and do research, but in other places this is not the case. So, the goal of this session is to analyze and compare these different situations in Italy and abroad, and to share experiences. But we want to be very clear: Emeritus professors are not seeking for privileges or roles of power. Instead we believe we can still help the academic community thanks to our wisdom, experience and balance. We don't have any career ambitions, but we feel we can still contribute to universities, to younger generations, to science and society.

The role of professor's emeriti in their universities has been continually investigated and debated at the European Association of Professors Emeriti. Over the years the idea was nurtured that they, if in good health, should be allowed to continue to be archive part of their academic community [1-10].

Initially retired professor in USA appeared luckier than European [11] since in that country the age-based rule for retirement was abolished and retirement turned into a personal decision [12, 13]. However, recently has become evident that there is a need to reinvent retirement even in Canada and in USA [14, 15].

A final consideration. Worldwide, retirement has been used as a way to make place for the new generations. This has been thought a valid approach at every workplace. However, in the day this material is emailed to the publisher of the International Journal of Gerontology and Geriatrics serious doubts are cast on its validity in the academy. In Nature January 27 forced retirement reduced enrolment of younger academicians [16].

I take the pride of the contents in the first report from the 2025 EAPE Pozzuoli Conference and thank all those who convened to Naples in that occasion.

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