

THE UNIVERSITY OF ZAGREB

THE INTERNATIONAL MISSION AND POLICY

- *Recognizing the international advancement and dissemination of knowledge and ideas, as well as promoting transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches as the vital power and generating force for socio-cultural and economic development in Europe*
- *taking into account the integrative and harmonizing processes in the European higher education area which imposes and demands unified standards of practice to preserve and enhance the national cultural values as well as the culture of peace*
- *being convinced that higher education and scientific research have the most powerful anticipatory function for sustainable economic and social development as well as for democracy*
- *acknowledging the benefits of mobility and partnership of students and scholars as well as institutions from various parts of the world which is based on mutual respect and credibility in their service to public good*
- *emphasizing the quality and relevance of knowledge transfer and technological achievements, including interactive information technology which enables new forms of creativity and critical thought*
- *being aware of the importance of development and promoting international university dimension of diverse culture for academic creativity, success and imaginative ways of creating high quality standards of performance*

the Senate of the University of Zagreb has adopted the following strategic guidelines of the international policy:

I. A. STUDENTS - CROATIAN CITIZENS

According to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) principles, the University of Zagreb will facilitate processes to enable exchange semesters and courses. Bilateral and multilateral University partnerships will be developed in order to reach 500 individual student exchanges by the year 2006. In order to support those activities the assistance and/or access to the European mobility funds like Socrates, Tempus and other programs will be requested.

The University curricula of postgraduate education (master, doctoral studies) will be merged with counterparts as a joint program. This applies to curricula co-ordination, training course exchanges, as well as scientific research training. By the year 2006, the University of Zagreb would like to reach 100 year /subject/ course activities.

Student summer school of elective/facultative subjects with credit earnings will be facilitated in the Centre of Advanced Academic Studies (CAAS) - Dubrovnik and in Zagreb, Varaždin and Sisak facilities.

The University of Zagreb recognizes the importance of second foreign language communication skills in the European framework. Two language laboratories with the capacity of 20 students at a time will be established by 2006. Laboratories will be opened 14 hours a day including weekends.

I. B. STUDENTS FROM CROATIAN DIASPORA

Croatian diaspora students (including Croatian students who are autochthonous in other countries, like Bosnia and Herzegovina, etc.) will be offered special Croatian language, culture and history courses.

I. C. STUDENTS - FOREIGN CITIZENS

The University of Zagreb will progressively increase the number of foreign students (with a tentative goal of 10% of foreign students by the year 2020). This applies to undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate degrees and professional training.

The University of Zagreb will procure funds for the limited number of scholarships for the incoming foreign students.

I. D. STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The University of Zagreb will encourage international activities of student organizations, exchanges and participation at various academic and related meetings.

II. TEACHING STAFF

The University of Zagreb will encourage mobility of teaching staff with regard to their international activities (like sabbaticals, short study exchanges, establishing thematic networks, conference participation.)

Strategic framework and various modes of involvement will be made to recruit high quality professionals with internationally established reputation for the undergraduate and postgraduate teaching process.

III. INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS OF TEACHING/LEARNING/COACHING/ TRAINING

The study programme will adopt basic European principles regarding the contents and the context (Bologna process, minimal accreditation standards and others) in order to increase compatibility, competitiveness and flexibility of the University.

The University of Zagreb will facilitate, whenever possible, the parallel study program in English as the teaching language.

University partnerships (both bilateral and multilateral) will be encouraged, especially those aimed at fostering the activities and students exchanges according to the ECTS principles.

The University of Zagreb recognizes the importance of interuniversity organizations and conferences (like EUA, IUC, COIMBRA GROUP, UNIVERSITY HERITAGE, SANTANDER, UNICA, DRC, ALPS-ADRIA RECTOR'S CONFERENCE etc.) for the University life and development. Active participation in such forums enables the University to influence and to benefit from the Higher Education area in Europe with regard to policies, ideas, perspectives and strategies.

The upgrading of the university management and implementation of more productive and integrated schemes become the international challenge and effort. The University of Zagreb will continue to contribute to the university reform via positive achievements (like UNESCO Chair in University Governance and Management of Higher Education, external evaluation practice, active influence on legislative procedures, as well as via influences and contributions to international conventions and policies).

IV. SUPPORT SERVICES TO INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Integrated University International Relations Office will be functionally upgraded to provide special services along with the basic duties.

In addition to taking care of both incoming and outgoing students and scholars (visa, working/residence permit, administrative university requirements, stipend/sponsorship administration), the International Relations Office will provide tutorial service for grant/project submission/application. It will organize workshops for specific areas of interest.

The International Relation Office will intensify its efforts to increase University international visibility and presence via information packages, international university fairs and student gatherings as well as via selective international awareness rising and promotions.

The CAAS in Dubrovnik (Poslijediplomsko središte Dubrovnik, PSD) will continue and enrich its service to higher education with special emphasis on degree-aimed, post-first-degree education. Such education is to be organized and targeted as regional international schools of excellence (Masters education).

V. SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS

Scientific research and its international acknowledgement are the real foundation and strength of university life. University efforts will be focused on the promotion and fostering of international scientific projects and programmes.

The University of Zagreb will stimulate its professionals to participate in the international scientific study groups, project evaluation as well as the expert services.

The University of Zagreb will pay special attention to European scientific programmes (like Framework Programmes, COST) and other related academic activities (like Socrates, Leonardo, etc.)

VI. KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER AND TECHNOLOGY

A closer and more direct interaction of the University with economic/social/ implementation processes and direct application within the given environment becomes a real demand of contemporary societies.

Such research/development interaction reveals a unique mobilizing power with the immediate university influence on productive forces in society.

International experiences and models of such university interactions will be critically evaluated in order to preserve the basic mission and university principles.

The University of Zagreb recognizes the Alumni potential (AMAC/AMCA) as a promising university asset and power in building bridges towards society, business life and international entities of interest.

VII. UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE CENTRE

The University of Zagreb recognizes the importance of a meeting place suitable to accommodate medium size conferences, conventions and other meetings.

Firstly, the CAAS facilities in Dubrovnik will be enriched with a multi-purpose conference hall (1500 seats) and necessary concomitant lecture rooms and facilities located next to the principal CAAS building.

Secondly, the University of Zagreb will establish a University Conference Centre in Zagreb with the capacity of 2000 seats and appropriate additional congress capacities and facilities.

In order to achieve the Conference centre goals, the University will consider shared investments with other university financial partners.

VIII. INTEGRATION INTO EUROPEAN ACADEMIC AREA

The University of Zagreb recognizes the integrative European process as a priority University agenda (among other priorities). The provisions specified in the items I – VII of this University document express the attitude of openness and promote potential interactions of interest, European dimension of cultural heterogeneity and new interactive creativity.

Following these strategic guidelines the University of Zagreb will make a specific action plan within the University budget frame, as well as related strategic decisions and documents.

The synchronization, synergy and more effective usage of resources are hidden powers, which are expected to increase and complement other resources for international activities to benefit the University.

Zagreb, July 10, 2002

Rector
Professor Helena Jasna Mencer,
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