Development of study programs in life sciences after Bologna at the Zagreb University: growing through internationalization

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Croatia and Bologna Declaration

• Croatia signed the Bologna Declaration in 2001
• Obligation to harmonize its system of higher education till 2010 achieving its main goals:
  • Promotion of mobility of students, teachers, scientists and administrative staff
  • Accepting of recognizable and comparable system of grades
  • Adoption of a system of easily readable and comparable degrees, also through implementation of the Diploma Supplement,
  • Promotion of the necessary European dimensions in higher education
Steps toward EHEA

- Since then, Croatia works on the adjustment of its higher education system towards the EHEA standards, making effort to:
  - Develop procedures and guidelines for quality assurance
  - Create standards and common criteria and basic principles comparable to other European HE systems... trying to
  - Ensure recognizability of its studies and diplomas... to
  - Make easier the mobility of students and teaching staff by establishing the common European educational area

- The Zagreb University tries to be the leader in starting vivid intellectual and educational activities, encouraging competitive abilities of our students within the European economy

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Bologna at the Faculty of Agriculture

- Started within the framework of Tempus project mostly oriented on development of new study programs
  - Through teachers’ mobility and additional training at the European partner universities
- After we achieved the basic prerequisites (BS and MS level, ECTS), we are continuously working on promotion of students and teachers mobility and international outlook of our study programs
Experiences so far

• No formally recognized study programs that would enable direct continuation and/or completing with similar European study programs, but...

• Numerous positive examples of successful international co-operation in students mobility and internationalization of study programs
BS study of Agricultural Economics

• At the time it was created, the contemporary principles and trends in agricultural economics, policy, sociology, management and rural development have been taken into account.

• As a result of Tempus-AHEAD project, it was improved and upgraded due to suggestions of experts from Wageningen and Debrecen universities.
Growing interest for our study

- Efforts and activities resulted with growing interest of foreign students to take part in our study program... but also...

- Increased possibilities of our students to take similar lectures abroad...

- Learning about foreign cultures without discontinuing their study
How we recognize each other?

- Although formally unrecognized, we still reach results of a common satisfaction:
  
  - If teachers in both universities find out and approve that contents of the similar modules correspond enough (usually in 75% of the content), credits and grades are recognized at domestic university/faculty/study (foreign or Croatian)
Practical results of internationalization

• Since 2003 at the BS study of Agricultural Economics:
  - One-month stay for completing students’ diploma degrees till Bologna 2005/2006 = 4 students
  - One-month stay for completing students’ diploma degrees since Bologna 2005/2006 = 6 students
  - Number of students on one semester study – since Bologna = 5 students pass some examinations
  - Foreign academic staff (visiting professors) - 2 of them till Bologna and 5 after the introducing Bologna process

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We are moving forward...

- At the Faculty of Agriculture, we are now formally offering study courses in English:
  - Post harvest technology
  - Forage conservation
  - Global ecology
  - Limnology and oceanology
  - Ichtiology
  - Microbial ecology
  - Beneficial associations of plants and microorganisms
  - Energetic usability of biomass and biofuel in agriculture
  - Investements and investment projects in agribusiness
  - Design of experiments
  - Wildlife forages
Thank you for your attention

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