

JOSIP JURAJ STROSSMAYER UNIVERSITY OF OSIJEK

SELF- EVALUATION REPORT

1. About the University...

Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek is situated in the town of Osijek which is the administrative and the economic centre of Eastern Slavonia, with about 105.000 inhabitants. The town itself, known as Eszek, was mentioned for the first time in 1196. The town was heavily damaged during the Homeland War, 1991-1995.

The University has been established in 1975; it has been named after well known bishop and theologian Josip Juraj Strossmayer, who was also known as the greatest benefactor and promoter of Croatian and European culture.

Today there are 14 units (faculties/departments) within the University of Osijek, shown in Table 1.

Table 1 University units acc. to scientific fields

Scientific field	Units Faculty/Department
NATURAL SCIENCES	Department of Mathematics Department of Physics Department of Biology
TECHNICAL SCIENCES	Faculty of Electrical Engineering Faculty of Civil Engineering Faculty of Mechanical Engineering
BIOMEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES	Faculty of Medicine
BIOTECHNICAL SCIENCES	Faculty of Agriculture Faculty of Food Technology
SOCIAL SCIENCES	Faculty of Economics Faculty of Law
HUMANITIES	Faculty of Philosophy Teacher Training College
ARTS	Academy of Arts

The above mentioned units are located in different parts of the town of Osijek. Till 2010, following the principles of University Development Strategy, a modern European University should be located as follows:

- in Tvrđa /old part of the town
- in the former *Drava* barracks
- in the former *Gaj* barracks
- The Faculty of Mechanical Engineering in the town of Slavonski Brod.

On the premises of the former *Drava* barracks a new campus is being built (232.048,00 m²).

The Faculty of Agriculture, The Students' Centre and the Dormitory will be located there as well. It is important to mention that financial support has been already ensured. Due to significant archeological finds the construction work on future campus is slowed down.

In the academic year 2004/2005 there are 15 464 students at the University of Osijek, shown in Table 2.

In Table 3 one can see the number of teaching and research staff.

Table 2 Number of enroled students(**2004/2005**)

	1st year	2nd year	3rd year	4th year	5th year	6th year	senior students	Σ
University studies	3554	2431	2014	1671	204	59	1284	11.217
Professional Studies	2659	1098	260				412	4429
Total	6213	3529	2274	1671	204	59	1696	15.646

Table 3 Teaching and research staff

Scientific field	Full Professors	Associate Professors	Assistant Professors	Senior Lecturers	Lecturers	College Professors	Language Instructors	Senior Assistants	Assistants	Associates	Total
NATURAL SCIENCES	5	1	14	3	-	-	-	1	6	-	30
TECHNICAL SCIENCES	19	14	23	20	12	2	-	12	16	5	123
BIOMEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES	5	1	41	-	1	-	-	2	5	-	55
BIOTECHNICAL SCIENCES	28	26	23	6	3	-	-	8	26	5	125
SOCIAL SCIENCES	22	14	14	8	2	-	-	4	12	1	77
HUMANITIES	9	7	22	6	6	3	7	6	11	4	81
ARTS	1	-	5	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Total	89	63	142	47	24	5	7	33	76	15	501

At Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek there are 164 young researchers.

2. The implementation of a two cycle system of undergraduate and graduate study programmes; study programmes as an integrative process at the university level

The implementation of new study programmes will ensure a higher level of university integration, as new curricula, that are interdisciplinary and vocationally oriented, will be offered. The possibility of creating its own programmes, choosing the offered subject at the university level, enables stronger link among educational institutions.

In the review procedure there are 121 new study programmes (105 undergraduate and graduate and 16 vocational study programmes).

Table 4 New study programmes acc. to scientific fields

Scientific field	Faculty /Department	Study programmes	
		Univ. (undrg.+grad)	Vocational
Natural Sciences	Department of Mathematics	3+11	-
	Department of Physics		
	Department of Biology		
Technical Sciences	Faculty of Electrical Engineering	7+12	5
	Faculty of Civil Engineering		
	Faculty of Mechanical Engineering		
Biomedicine and Health Sciences	Faculty of Medicine	1+0	3
Biotechnical Sciences	Faculty of Agriculture	5+8	4
	Faculty of Food Technology		
Social Sciences	Faculty of Economics	8+7	3
	Faculty of Law		
Humanities	Faculty of Philosophy	14+14	1
	Teacher Training College		
Arts	Academy of Arts	8+7	-
	- Music		
	- FineArts		
	- Drama		
Total		46+59	16

The university study includes undergraduate and graduate study programmes. Upon graduation at undergraduate level each student can either continue the study at graduate level or start his/her professional career. All vocational studies are meant for professional education of students (ex. Accountancy for SMEs).

These are basic criteria of distinguishing between university and vocational studies:

- vocational study is oriented towards practical skills and professional education, including practical professional education as obligatory
- vocational study is oriented towards acquiring the final knowledge, and the undergraduate university study – towards continuation of study
- course contents of the vocational study are based on the newest knowledge of the profession without significant scientifically oriented approach, as is the case in undergraduate study
- after graduated from the vocational study, the student is referred to the labour market, and after graduated from the university study, the student is referred to the continuation of study.

3. Programme harmonisation within the university curriculum, especially regarding the horizontal student mobility

Newly proposed study programmes in the University system are completely harmonised in reference to horizontal student mobility. Undergraduate studies basically form a study nucleus, where the students are being prepared for profiling in the graduate studies. Specific profiling of students already at undergraduate studies provides the opportunity for:

- easier inclusion of students in the labour market, as well as
- easier choice of graduate study.

Right on horizontal mobility gives a student the opportunity for acquiring knowledge from a desired field. In that way, for example, the students in technical professions can acquire knowledge at another high education institution in the field of new computer science tools, business science, environment protection, communication-information competence/skills, arts etc. Students of social, humanistic and art studies have the opportunity to acquire additional specific knowledge in information technology, mathematics, design etc. The possibilities of horizontal mobility are almost unlimited. The selection of courses the student wants to take is possible with the help of the mentor at the parent faculty, at other faculties within the parent University, or at any other Croatian or European university. Such possibility significantly contributes to achieving and raising the quality of acquired knowledge.

Table 5 Structure of undergraduate study according to scientific fields in line with the Bologna Declaration

Scientific field	Unit (Faculty/Department)	Structure of undergraduate study	Vocational study
NATURAL SCIENCES	Department of Mathematics Department of Physics Department of Biology	3+2	NO
TECHNICAL SCIENCES	Faculty of Electrical Engineering Faculty of Civil Engineering Faculty of Mechanical Engineering	3+2 3+2 3,5+1,5	YES
BIOMEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES	Faculty of Medicine	6+0	YES

BIOTECHNICAL SCIENCES	Faculty of Agriculture Faculty of Food Technology	3+2	YES NO
SOCIAL SCIENCES	Faculty of Economics Faculty of Law	3+2 5+0	YES
HUMANITIES	Faculty of Philosophy Teacher Training College	3+2 4+1	NO YES
ARTS	Academy of Arts - Music - Fine Arts - Drama	4+1 3+2 4+1	NO

Student mobility within the University is made possible by stressing *the significance of interdisciplinarity*. According to his/her wishes and ambitions, each student can collect a specific number of credits (ECTS) in the study programme outside his/her parent institution. Within the study programmes, a list of contents offered to the students from other institutions is being presented.

Further on, in almost all fields mobility has been agreed on at the national level based on the agreed study length. In case of non-existence of such an agreement, mobility would be aggravated (Faculty of Economics). For that reason, this problem is still being discussed at the professional level.

Europeisation of newly proposed programmes is a foundation for sequence of stipulated partner agreements on mobility of our students towards European countries, but also vice-versa.

According to primary experiences in implementation of new programmes it could be concluded that the introduction of one-semester-courses, continuous monitoring of student work through home-works, seminar papers and preliminary examinations contributes to significantly larger number of passed examinations – contributes to higher vertical passability.

4. Contemporary situation with the teaching staff available for programme realisation at the university level, as well as at the national level

In the field of social sciences the teaching staff can carry out the newly suggested programmes. At the faculties of technical and natural sciences, a special attention should be paid to monitoring and stimulation of advancement of high quality teaching staff. Executability of the study programme with the teaching staff available varies from 70 to 100%, on the average it is 80%.

One part of teaching at Faculties is performed by separately founded departments: Department of Mathematics, Department of Physics and Department of Biology, thus increasing the programme coverage by university teaching staff.

By introducing new programmes, a special attention should be paid to establishment of coherent management system.

Table 6 Teaching staff coverage of the newly proposed programmes

Scientific field	Unit (Faculty/Department)	Coverage by the current teaching staff
NATURAL SCIENCES	Department of Mathematics Department of Physics Department of Biology	80 %
TECHNICAL SCIENCES	Faculty of Electrical Engineering Faculty of Civil Engineering Faculty of Mechanical Engineering	95 %
BIOMEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES	Faculty of Medicine	85 %
BIOTECHNICAL SCIENCES	Faculty of Agriculture Faculty of Food Technology	90 %
SOCIAL SCIENCES	Faculty of Economics (100 %) Faculty of Law	95 %
HUMANITIES	Faculty of Philosophy Teacher Training College	85 %
ARTS	Academy of Arts - Music - Fine Arts - Drama	80 %

5. Financing

The financing strategy of graduate and postgraduate studies has not yet been defined at the national level. However, according to general opinion at the University, the existing financing system cannot cover expenses of the reformed programmes in full for several reasons:

- due to increased number of courses, the expenses of programme performing increase. Conversion to the so-called „Lump Sum“ mode of financing will provide easier finance management at the university level, but this is not possible without additional assistance of the Ministry.
- bearing in mind „the Europeisation“, it is necessary to upgrade the teaching staff, equipment and premises.

Financing strategy of the entire higher education system will provide rational exploitation of funds from several sources – Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, tuitions, professional projects etc.