Impact of TEMPUS CARDS Project GIST-CroHE on the New MSc in Geoinformatics Curriculum and on the Implementation of Bologna Process at the Faculty of Geodesy, University of Zagreb, Croatia

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SUMMARY

This paper gives a detailed insight on first five years of experience with Bologna process in surveying and geoinformation education in Croatia. There are many open issues which should be discussed at the international level, since all aspects of change were not foreseeable at the moment of implementation. As an independent institution since 1962, Faculty of Geodesy, University of Zagreb had a distinctive role in shaping the role of surveying profession in Croatia. It was always following the latest developments in fields like engineering surveying, photogrammetry, cartography, physical, satellite and marine geodesy. Five years ago, all higher education curricula had to be aligned with the Bologna process. The aim of the process was to establish the European Higher Education Area with comparable and transferable results of education at different universities. The European Credit Transfer System of points awarded for student activities toward passing every module has been adopted. At the Faculty of Geodesy, University of Zagreb, the process has been started with a new definition of competences for graduated engineers. The new definition was based on the FIG definition published in 2004. The new curricula had to equally stress the tradition and importance of surveying and the technological advance in geoinformation science and technology. The old curriculum has not just been splitted into a new three-plus-two model. The leading idea of defining the body of knowledge as a catalogue of skills, a BSc in geodesy and geoinformatics should get during her or his study was accepted and implemented. Due to the lack of time, the curriculum for Master of Science/Engineering has not been compared to available models. In 2006, together with University of Salzburg, Centre of Geoinformatics as a grantholder and Jagiellonian University Krakow as a partner, Faculty of Geodesy as a beneficiary applied for a grant from European Commission through the TEMPUS CARDS programme. The objective of the two-years project "Geoinformation Science and Technology in Croatian Higher Education" was the redesign of not yet implemented curriculum for MSc in Geoinformation, through fostering international exchange of teaching personnel, organization of workshops and conferences on modern teaching methodology based on learning outcomes. Moreover, a mobile GIS Lab on the beneficiary site has been established and the library updated. The participation of students and younger staff was especially valuable.

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