

Report of the training „Quality Assurance of Doctoral Studies“ in Maribor, Slovenia 6.11.2019 - 8.11.2019

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PROJECT: MARDS - Reforming doctoral studies in Montenegro and Albania – good practice paradigm

Document title:	Report on the training in Maribor, Slovenia
Partner:	University of Maribor, Slovenia
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Executive summary

At the University of Maribor, Maribor, Slovenia, a training course was conducted for management staff titled “Quality Assurance of Doctoral Studies”. As part of this training, the University of Maribor engaged key personnel, who were responsible for the development and quality assurance of doctoral studies at the University of Maribor. On the first day, characteristics and methods on how to properly develop PhD study programs were presented. The lectures included practical experience of University of Maribor, while other lecturers discussed the importance of partnership between doctoral candidates, mentors and Universities. The last lecture covered systemic measures of quality assurance at doctoral studies. The first day was closed with a workshop where doctoral students and moderator discussed open questions on development of doctoral school. The financial aspects of the development and implementation of the doctoral study program were also discussed. On the second day, lecturers covered the importance of soft skills for the development of quality doctoral school. Following lectures covered development of doctoral schools at Faculty of agriculture at University of Maribor and use of digital technologies. The day was closed with a workshop and final discussion on open issues. The three-day training was attended by 32 participants, of which 7 were lecturers.

1 Participants

1. Prof. dr Radovan Stojanović, **University of Montenegro**
2. Prof. dr Predrag Miranović, University of Montenegro
3. Prof. dr Biljana Šćepanović, University of Montenegro
4. Doc. dr Goran Popivoda, University of Montenegro
5. Mag. dr Christian Kolowrat, **University of Vienna**
6. Prof. dr Olivera Injac, **University of Donja Gorica**
7. Mrs. Marija Radunović, University of Donja Gorica
8. Prof. dr Arjeta Troshani, **University of Shkodra “Luigj Gurakuqi”**
9. Mrs. Brilanda Bushati, University of Shkodra “Luigj Gurakuqi”
10. Assoc. Prof. Ardita Borici, University of Shkodra “Luigj Gurakuqi”
11. Prof. dr Elidiana Bashi, University of Shkodra “Luigj Gurakuqi”
12. Gjergji Islami, PhD, Polytechnic **University of Tirana**
13. Assoc.prof. Neritan Shkodrani, Polytechnic University of Tirana
14. Prof. dr Kristofor Lapa, **University of Vlora**
15. Dr Zamira Alimema, University of Vlora
16. Prof. dr Betim Cico, **Metropolitan University of Tirana**
17. Prof. Nikolla Civici, Metropolitan University of Tirana
18. Erdal Emre Cecen, PhD, Metropolitan University of Tirana
19. Prof. dr. Zoran Ren, **University of Maribor**
20. Prof. dr. Matjaž Debevc, University of Maribor
21. Prof. dr. Nataša Vaupotič, University of Maribor
22. Prof. dr. Damijan Mumel, University of Maribor
23. Prof. dr. Črtomir Rozman, University of Maribor
24. Prof. dr. Denis Stajnko, University of Maribor
25. Prof. dr. Andrej Škraba, University of Maribor
26. Prof. dr. Jernej Turk, University of Maribor
27. Irena Lovrenčič Držanič, University of Maribor
28. Nejc Novak, PhD student, University of Maribor
29. Anja Mauko, PhD student, University of Maribor
30. Karolina Bucka Kustec, University of Maribor
31. Olga Pregl, University of Maribor
32. Prof. dr. Karmen Pažek, University of Maribor

2 Agenda

Wednesday, 6 November 2019

18:00-20:00 Introduction to the concept of training
(Elaborating summary of the previous Workshop and clarifying expectations of Maribor's workshop)

Thursday, 7 November 2019

08:30-09:00 Registration

09:00-09:05 Welcoming at the University of Maribor
(*Vice-rector for science and research, Prof. Dr. Zoran Ren*)

09:05-09:15 Introduction to the training
(*Assoc. Prof. Dr. Debevc*)

09:15-10:30 Modern structure of doctoral programmes and experience at University of Maribor
(*Prof. Dr. Zoran Ren*)

10:30-11:00 *Coffee break*

11:00-12:00 Importance and establishment of partnership PhD candidate - mentor(s) – University
(*Prof. Dr. Damijan Mumel*)

12:00-13:00 Systemic quality assurance of doctoral studies
(*Prof. Dr. Nataša Vaupotič*)

13:00-14:30 *Lunch break*

14:30-15:30 Doctoral student's experience

15:30-16:30 Workshop – Discussion & Questions
– *moderated by Prof. Dr. Zoran Ren and doctoral student*

16:30-17:00 *Coffee break*

17:00–17:30 Summarizing Day 1

Friday, 8 November 2019

- 09:00-10:00** Development of doctoral programmes in agriculture and agricultural economics
(*Prof. Dr. Črtomir Rozman*)
- 10:00-11:00** Use of modern digital technologies in agriculture in Slovenia
(*Prof. Dr. Denis Stajnko*)
- 11:00-11:30** *Coffee break*
- 11:30-12:00** Increasing employability of doctorates in emerging sectors with soft skills training
(*Irena Lovrenčič Držanič*)
- 12:00-14:00** Workshop and summarizing Day 2, final discussion

3 Venue

Name: University of Maribor
Address: Slomškov trg 15, 2000 Maribor, Slovenia
Room: Trstenjakova dvorana
Contacts: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Matjaž Debevc (matjaz.debevc@um.si, +386 2 220 7105 (WP5 leader))
URL: <https://um.si/>

4 Purpose of the training

The purpose of the training was to:

- Transfer the skills and experiences at development of PhD programmes at the University of Maribor to the training staff from Montenegro and Albania.
- Improve quality assurance at the PhD study in Montenegro and Albania with ideas from PhD study coordinators from University of Maribor.
- Improve capability of staff, professionals, administrative to implement new policy and Joint Programmes on PhD study
- Increase the familiarity with the project objectives on PhD Quality assurance.

5 Short abstracts

Modern structure of doctoral programmes and experience at University of Maribor

(Prof. Dr. Zoran Ren)

Modern doctoral programs are focused on the comprehensive process of training young doctoral candidates to realize their potentials to become highly proficient researchers in their chosen field. Individuality, internationalization, interdisciplinarity and intersectoral impacts of their research are foremost orientations of modern doctoral training. To realize this the candidates, have to be properly supervised by scientifically active senior researchers and through the training process equipped both by comprehensive scientific and transferrable skills. A university has to provide appropriate environment and mechanisms to observe and evaluate the training process of each doctoral candidate to assure timely and successful completion of their training. The experiences and observations in changing doctoral studies at the University of Maribor has been shared and discussed in the workshop.

Importance and establishment of partnership doctoral candidate - mentor(s) – University

(Prof. Dr. Damijan Mumel)

Interpersonal relationships are an essential dimension of our lives. It is the same in doctoral mentor - doctoral student relationship. In the workshop a discussion of the importance and different dimensions of this relationship has been made.

Systemic quality assurance of doctoral studies

(Prof. Dr. Nataša Vaupotič)

The lecturer presented the formal requirements for the PhD study programmes at the University of Maribor to be approved, the requirements for PhD supervisors, the obligations and rights of PhD candidates and supervisors and the procedures for the thesis approval, its evaluation and defence.

Development of doctoral programmes in agriculture and agricultural economics

(Prof. Dr. Črtomir Rozman)

Historical development, current state of affairs and potential in the field of doctoral study programs of agriculture and agricultural economics has been presented. The basic concepts of studies and related changes with implementation of Bologna reforms have been presented. The emphasis has been put on the interrelation of PhD study programs and regular research work, project activities, profile and employment opportunities of PhD students. Successful case studies have been presented.

Use of modern digital technologies in agriculture in Slovenia

(Prof. Dr. Denis Stajanko)

The presentation summarized the researches carried out at the Faculty of Agriculture and Life Sciences in the field of use of modern digital technologies in precision agriculture such as the application of image analysis for fruit yield estimation.

Increasing employability of doctorates in emerging sectors with soft skills training

(Irena Lovrenčić Držanič)

This lecture covered the research results of a study, recently completed in several European countries. The main findings presented will be the identification of a set of soft skills that employers demand from doctorates, perceived level of these skills and discrepancies between demanded and perceived skills. Additional discussed topics covered reasons for insufficient employment of doctorates and employers' intention to hire doctorates in future.

6 Photos



Figure 1: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Matjaž Debevc opened the training in Maribor



Figure 2: Vice-rector, Prof. Dr. Zoran Ren welcomed the participants



Figure 3: Prof. Dr. Nataša Vaupotič explained the core of the quality assurance at the University of Maribor



Figure 4: Participants listening to the presenters



Figure 5: Group photo in front of the Rectorship of University of Maribor, Maribor Slovenia