

Higher Education Cooperation Possibilities with the EU's Neighboring Area and Pre-Accession Countries

case of the *UNIVERSITY OF NOVI SAD*
Republic of Serbia

Finnish International Educators' Day
Levi , 20-22 May, 2013

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УНИВЕРЗИТЕТ
У НОВОМ САДУ
UNIVERSITY OF
NOVI SAD

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- Internationalisation of Serbian universities & its impact
 - Participation in EHEA
 - Law on Higher Education
 - Future strategies and standards at national and institutional level
 - New university services, structures and processes
 - Synergy of academic and administrative staff working across faculties & pooling of resources
- TO DO LIST for the Serbian HEIs & challenges ahead



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NOVI SAD

Autonomous Province of Vojvodina (name means duchy)

3 parts (Bačka, Banat and Srem)

6 official languages

27 nations and cultures

around **2 000 000** inhabitants

Administrative centre of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina

Around 350,000 inhabitants

Located on the River Danube

Centre of culture and education



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UNIVERSITY OF
NOVI SAD

University of Novi Sad (UNS): facts & figures

- ✓ Total number of students
(3 levels of study) => **47,810**
- ✓ Total number of staff
(academic and administrative) => **4,887**
- ✓ Total number of study programmes => **353**
- ✓ Study programs and research activities => **5** fields
 - Sciences and Mathematics (*Faculty of Sciences*)
 - Technical and Technological Sciences
 - Humanities
 - Medical Sciences
 - Arts



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FACULTIES

In 4 towns of Vojvodina: regional character

NOVI SAD

- Faculty of Philosophy
- Faculty of Agriculture
- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Technology
- Faculty of Technical Sciences
- Faculty of Medicine
- Faculty of Sciences
- Academy of Arts
- Faculty of Sport and Physical Education

SUBOTICA

- Faculty of Economics
- Faculty of Civil Engineering
- Teachers' Training Faculty in Hungarian

ZRENJANIN

- "Mihajlo Pupin" Technical Faculty

SOMBOR

- Faculty of Education



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NOVI SAD INSTITUTES

- Institute of Food Technology
- Institute of Lowland Forestry
- Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops



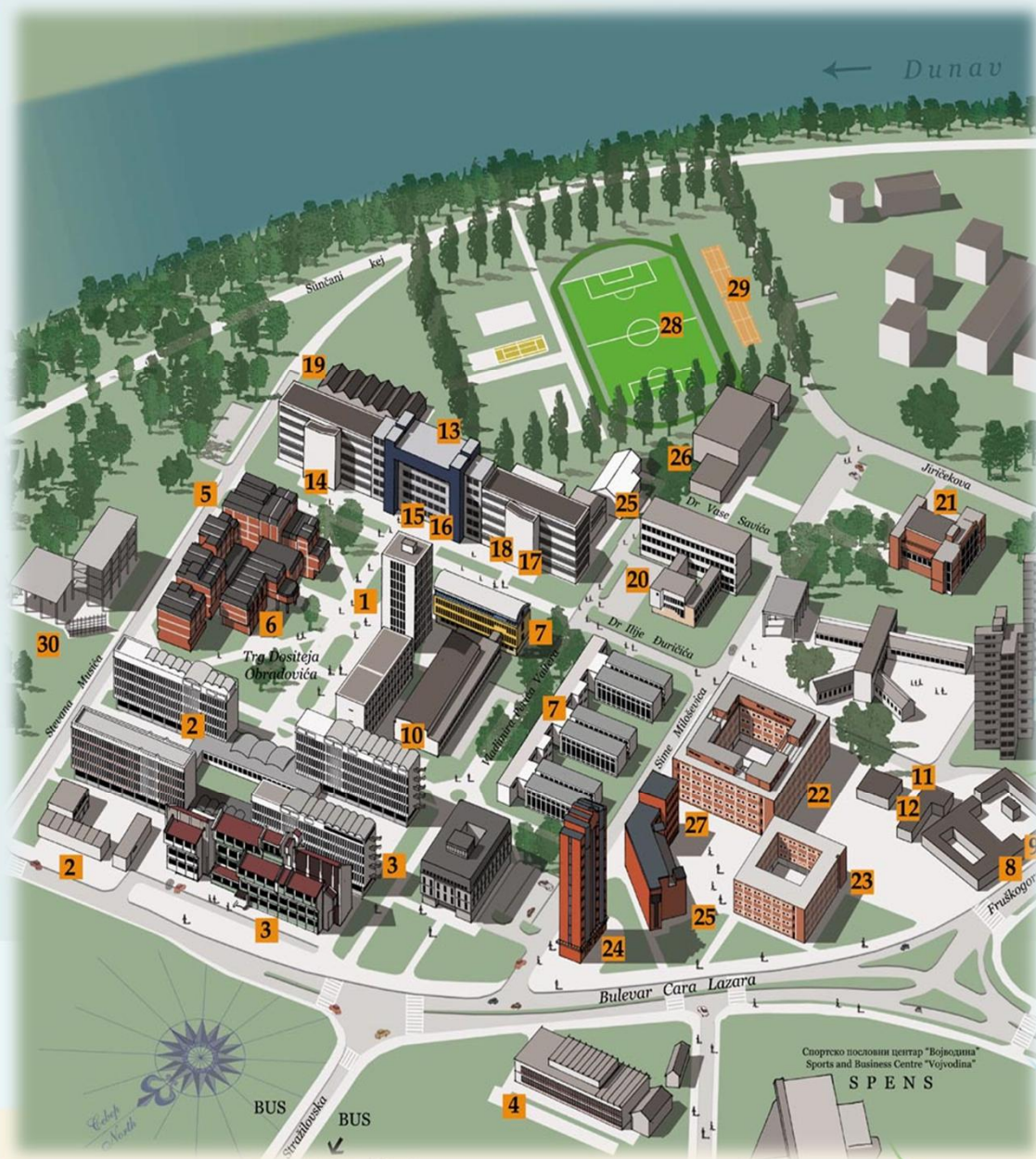
Dobrodošli na
Univerzitet u Novom Sadu



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UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

(9 faculties, dorms,
student health center,
sport facilities)



Internationalisation of Serbian universities

- ✓ INTERNATIONALIZATION AT UNIVERSITIES
 - Priority of university leaderships since 2000
 - Beginning of HE reforms in Serbia following European trends
 - Establishment of IROs at state universities (in 2001 at UNS)
 - ✓ SERBIA
 - As a Bologna signatory since 2003
 - Reforms being intensified through increased participation in the Tempus projects and first mobility schemes
 - ✓ NEW LAW ON HIGHER EDUCATION
 - As a new legal framework since 2005 - internationalisation as a university integrative function
 - Significant structural and procedural changes taking place - Harmonization with developments in the EHEA
 - ✓ SERBIAN EDUCATIONAL STRATEGY 2020 (in 2012)
 - At least 38,5% of university graduates between 30 and 34 years
 - Internationalization as a priority of further HE development, international mobility will be required so as to reach 20% mobile students by 2020 (10% of foreign);
- International visibility and promotion of Serbian research & universities

What needs to be introduced in the next stage?

- ✓ Strategies and Action Plans for Internationalization of Higher Education and Research
- ✓ National standards for the accreditation of joint and double degrees



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Ongoing process of internationalisation at UNS,
growing possibilities for collaboration:

MOBILITY PROGRAMMES

Campus Europae – first EU mobility window for a non-EU university

- Ongoing since the academic 2004/2005 when mobilities started
- International mobility programme for BA and MA students coordinated by the European University Foundation (Luxembourg) & Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
- Network of 18 universities covering all fields of studies
- UNS is the only university from Serbia participating in this mobility programme which taught us practical implementation of the Bologna: L.A., Transcript of Records, ECTS recognition...

Erasmus Mundus Action 2

Ongoing since the academic 2008/2009; Participation in all available networks for WB

- BASILEUS coordinated by Ghent University, BE *Active*
- JOIN EU-SEE coordinated by University of Graz, AT *Active*
- SIGMA coordinated by University of Warsaw, PL *Active*
- ERAWEB coordinated by Erasmus University Medical Center Rotterdam, NL
- EM2-STEM coordinated by City University London, UK

University of Novi Sad is currently co-coordinating BASILEUS IV.



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Ongoing process of internationalisation at UNS:

MOBILITY PROGRAMMES

CEEPUS

Ongoing in Serbia since the academic 2005

Central European exchange programme for students and teaching staff (Vienna)

Network of 14 member states



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OTHER MOBILITY SCHEMES:

- MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE, scholarship holders
- FORECAST (now Ugrad) exchange program with USA
- VISEGRAD Scholarship Program
- ERASMUS MUNDUS Master Programs
- DAAD scholarships
- CHEVENING scholarships for UK
- Mobility through university BILATERAL agreements (e.g. Thailand)

EM JoinEUSee success at UNS:

JOIN EU-SEE coordinated by the University of Graz, AT *Active*

Most successful among all WBC projects (Basileus, STEM, ERAWEB, SIGMA)

- ✓ UNS is always 1st in number of outgoing students
- ✓ UNS is always 1st in number of students selected
- ✓ After UBG in number of applications
- ✓ Since 2009 there has been 4 iterations of the project and hopefully the 5th one
- ✓ Attracted large number of students at undergraduate studies (55% of budget)
- ✓ Excellent organization of the budget contributed to savings which resulted in reallocating the resources to scholarships (e.g. 313 instead of 270 for JoinEUSee III, and extending the mobility periods from 6 to 10 months)
- ✓ Excellent and functional, user-friendly web site

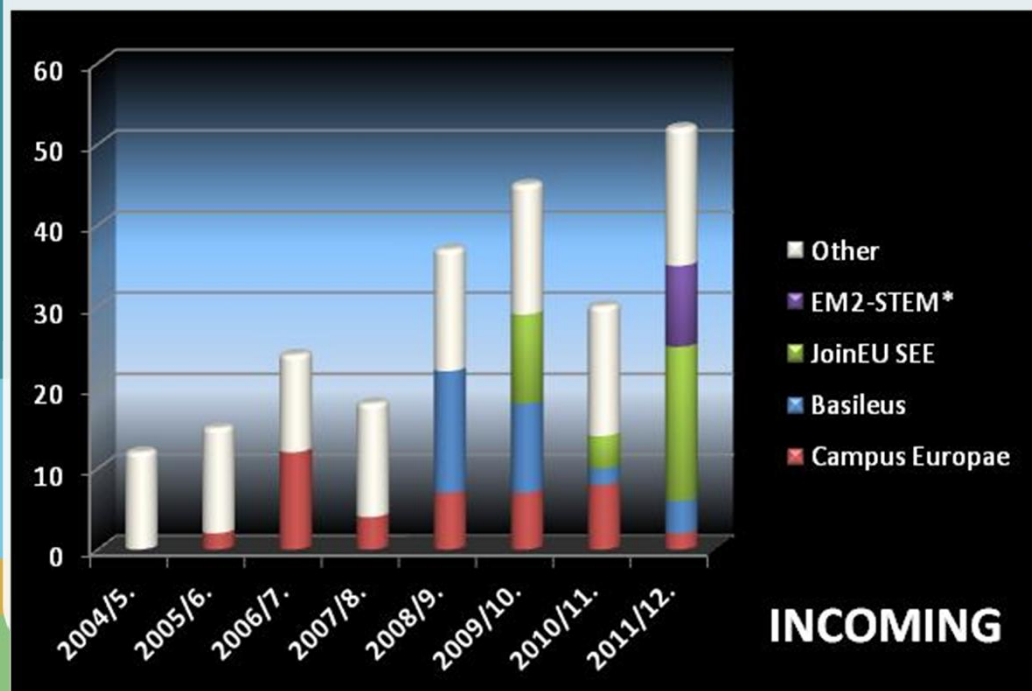
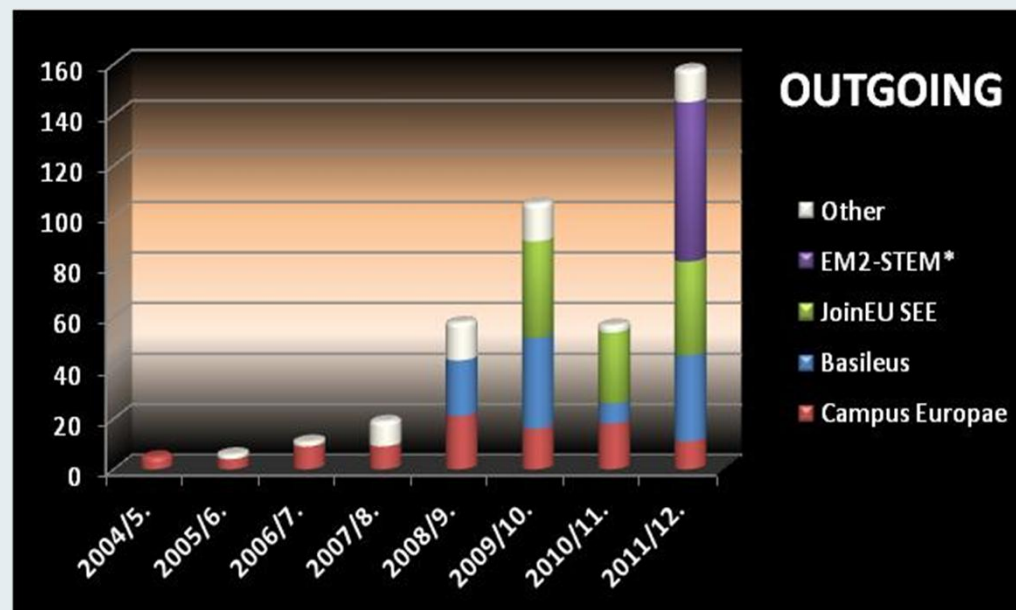
Mobility programmes, EM A2 in particular, brought us exactly the qualitative leap we needed within the framework of the new Bologna-oriented national legislation adopted in 2005 and profound impact on the quality of internal institutional functions and integration of the university.



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University of Novi Sad Student mobility



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INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH PROJECTS AT UNS:

TEMPUS

Ongoing: 32 projects

Altogether implemented: 106 projects

FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

Ongoing: 12 FP7 projects

Altogether implemented: 23 FP7 and 7 FP6 projects

OTHER:

- ✓ Cross-border cooperation (IPA)
- ✓ SEE Transnational Cooperation Programme (RS funded through IPA)
- ✓ COST
- ✓ EUREKA
- ✓ WUS Austria
- ✓ NATO (Science for Peace)
- ✓ Bilateral and multilateral projects within university networks (e.g. DRC, BUN)
- ✓ Projects funded by embassies, foundations, companies, etc.



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International Relations & Project Offices at UNS:

Started from 2001 and on, employing professionals of different profiles, providing services in:

- Implementing mobility programmes and lately taking more active part in policy making
- Provision of information to the academic community on new calls for proposals and other *international opportunities*
- Consultancy services for staff at UNS referring to all aspects of project management (procedures, documentation, legal and financial aspects)
- Drafting applications and writing project proposals
- Managing, implementing and monitoring of international projects (TEMPUS, FP, IPA, etc.)
- Updating of the databases
- External networking and contribution to university profiling and branding
- Internal links to other offices (accounting units, legal office, other international offices)
- Some IROs are home to NCPs
- Buddy Network – local students (volunteers) who provide support to international students

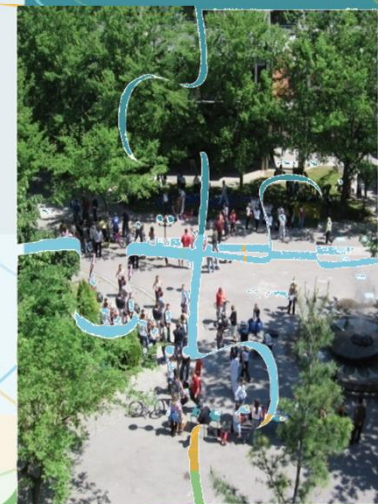
Central IRO and Project Management Office are a good
example of the concept of functional integration

Impact of internationalisation:

- A specific feature of universities in Serbia (and other former Yugoslav Republics) is the legacy of a **disintegrated or fragmented university**, the one in which its constituent parts (faculties) function with a great deal of operational and financial autonomy.
- However, there are significant examples of functional integration that enable universities to act as coherent and effective systems and, as such, increase their accountability both to national stakeholders and international partners.
- One of them is the **PROCESS OF INTERNATIONALISATION** through its impact on the processes of internal university reforms.



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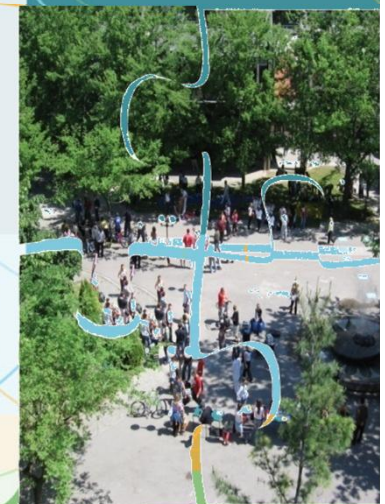


Impact of internationalisation: concept of functional integration via internal consensus

- ✓ WORKING ON THE COMMON GOAL OF POSITIONING SERBIAN HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH WITHIN EHEA & ERA
- ✓ INCREASED VISIBILITY OF THE UNIVERSITY'S MISSION, IDENTITY AND ROLE
- ✓ EFFICIENT POOLING OF RESOURCES SPREAD ACROSS FACULTIES
- ✓ UNIVERSITY AND FACULTY ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF WORKING IN SYNERGY (UNS has IRO officers at the majority of its faculties)
- ✓ ACADEMICS AND RESEARCHERS COORDINATING THEIR ACTIVITIES ACROSS DISCIPLINES AND FIELDS (University Board for science & international collaboration)
- ✓ NEW UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS: e.g. 'Regulations on Student Mobility and Academic Recognition of Mobility Periods Abroad' (2011)
- ✓ NEW UNIVERSITY SERVICES: e.g. Project Management Office (2012)



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Some of the challenges that need to be tackled:

INTERNATIONALISATION

- Insufficient international exposure of Serbian HE
- More joint and double degrees with foreign partners (clear national standards)
- More study programmes taught in foreign languages (e.g. English)
- Balance of incoming and outgoing student and staff mobility: *brain circulation*
- Facilitating the procedures of academic recognition and recognition of degrees
- Increasing foreign language competence of academic and research staff
- Better housing opportunities and administrative procedures for foreign students
- More strategic partnership with foreign HEIs worldwide



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Future:

- Serbia anticipates its new position with regards to EU membership negotiation phase (June 2013?).
- At the same time, its new position within the 'Erasmus for All' (EU Programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport), which is due to start in 2014.
- Serbian universities are taking stock of their internationalization processes and implementation of the Bologna-related reforms against the background of ambitious goals set in the *new Serbian Educational Strategy 2020*, getting ready for a potentially sharp increase in international collaboration.
- Strengthening the central role of the Serbian universities (university integrative function)
- This new Serbian Educational Strategy (2012) emphasizes the economic rationale behind internationalization and new mobility programmes – increasing graduates' employability, raising international competencies of Serbian students and scholars.



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1. TO DO LIST for the Serbian HEIs ... with a little help from our friends...

- Professionalization of staff at all levels & investing into human resources development (in line with Erasmus for All and Key Action 1: Learning mobility of Individuals);
- Developing new and advancing existing policies, capacities and measures in order to be ready to effectively manage and embed international dimension in the provision of education, research, mobility and services and embrace the change of HE scenery in the near future (taking into account wider institutional and societal context);
- Together with our EU partners, removing & reducing obstacles for the free movement of researchers, teachers, students across Europe;
- Together with our EU partners, establishment of the sufficiently common elements that can enable comparison, recognition and certification of work across the European community;
- Strengthening ties with industry (link between raising employability of graduates and internationalization, transfer of know-how);



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2. TO DO LIST for the Serbian HEIs ... with a little help from our friends...

- Linguistic and intercultural preparation thus abandoning “insular, ethnocentric and unknowledgeable” attitude about the world beyond their immediate borders, as it is the case with much of Serbia’s youth...
- Building on the success of Erasmus Mundus, use Erasmus for All to strengthen the support for degree mobility and build joint degrees and Erasmus Masters, implemented by EU and non-EU universities.
- Use Erasmus for All to build large scale partnerships between education establishments and business in the form of *Knowledge Alliances* and *Sector Skill Alliances*, utilizing the mighty IT platforms .
- Becoming part of the EU wide networks.

MUCH HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE THROUGH THE PREVIOUS COMMUNITY SUPPORT, BUT A REAL QUALITATIVE LEAP REQUIRES A SYNERGY OF STATE AND UNIVERSITY ACTIONS TOGETHER WITH THE TRANSFER OF KNOW-HOW, EXPERTISE AND BEST PRACTICES FROM THE EU PARTNERS.



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



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