



Mednarodna fakulteta
za družbene in poslovne študije
International School
for Social and Business Studies
Celje • Slovenia • Europe

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EDUCATIONAL VISITS TO SUCCESSFUL COMPANIES



In the first trimester of the academic year, as part of the "Strengthening and Formalising Collaboration with the Environment in the Field of Education - ISSBS Network for the Development of Contemporary Studies and Connecting to Practice" project activities, ISSBS students participated in several educational visits. They visited the following successful companies of the Savinjska region: Equestrian centre Celje (**Celesta d.o.o.**), **Ahac d.o.o.**, **Šumer d.o.o.** and **Trade d.o.o. companies**. Such educational visits provide students with insight into practice, expand their knowledge and understanding of the field of study, and enable them to connect with companies from the region.



STRENGTHENING COOPERATION WITH THE ENVIRONMENT

In the first trimester of the academic year 2020/2021, a series of workshops and lectures was organised by eminent experts from practice. In October, **Ms. Tatjana Štinek** (Regional Chamber of Craft and Small Business, Celje) conducted the **I will become an entrepreneur** online workshop. In November, interesting lectures were given by the following guests: **Ms. Zdenka Čemažar** (independent financial advisor), **Ms. Aleksandra Zajc** (Head of Research and Development at Celeia Dairy), and **mag. Alenka Brod** (Director of the Racio development HR&M consulting agency). We ended the trimester with a series of lectures in collaboration with **Vrelec Network business incubator** from Rogaška Slatina.



Through events performed we strengthen cooperation with the local environment and institutions of the business support environment, being well aware that practical knowledge and understanding of the economic situation are important in the labour market.

FOREIGN STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN DOCTORAL STUDIES

In the academic year 2020/2021, the 4th generation of students has already enrolled in the Knowledge Management doctoral programme. As many as 15 students come from different countries of the world, not only from Slovenia, but also from Austria, Albania, Russia, Mexico, Grenada and several African countries.



The entire study programme is implemented and conducted in English and consequently contributes to the greater internationalisation of education at home, which improves the quality of the international dimension of Slovenian higher education. **There is a novelty in this year's implementation; two eminent foreign professors are participating in the doctoral programme** - one of the greatest experts in the field of knowledge management from **the USA, dr. Jay Liebowitz**, and an expert in the field of data science and cyber security, **dr. Moti Zwilling**.



DATA ON ENROLMENT AND GRADUATES

Currently, the **14th generation of students is enrolled at the ISSBS**. We are pleased that a growing trend of enrolment at all three levels of study is recorded in 2020/2021. With as many as 496 students enrolled, more detailed enrolment numbers are given in the table.

Economics in modern society (UN)	76
Business in modern society (HE)	168
Knowledge Management (M)	208
Management and quality in education (M)	26
Knowledge Management (doctoral programme)	18

On 21 January 2021, **13th graduation ceremony for graduates of the previous year 2019/2020 was held at the ISSBS**. This year is different in many ways and due to the already known epidemiological situation, the pedagogical process is carried out in the form of distance education. Therefore, the graduation ceremony was organised virtually as well. The awarding of diplomas took place via Zoom online tool, diplomas were awarded to **103 graduates**.



STUDENT INVOLVEMENT IN ISSBS PROJECTS

ISSBS students have joined the Erasmus+ **JOVITAL project**, with a currently ongoing 5-week training. The students will obtain 2 ECTS on topics of intercultural communication and solving business problems, and lectures shall be conducted in the "Virtual Collaborative Learning" environment, in an international group of 60 students from Jordan, Italy, England, Slovenia, Germany and Georgia. The **DigiVET international project** is joined by students, as well as by ISSBS associates. Within the project, digital teaching aids will be created in selected Slovenian companies. During the introductory training, which will also be attended by business representatives, representatives of the ISSBS and partner organisations from the UK and Germany will demonstrate modern digital learning approaches that enable work and professional development of employees in companies.



COMPLETION OF THE "SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP GRANTING SYSTEMS" TRP

On 31 December 2020, the one-year research project of the Slovenian Research Agency within the Target Research programme (TRP) entitled



"Scholarship awarding systems for special achievements - international comparison and suggestions for improvements for Slovenia" was completed. The project included case studies of promotion of gifted students and students with outstanding achievements in seven selected EU countries, analysing the functioning of the Zois Scholarship System in Slovenia and formulating recommendations for improving the system. The project resulted in a proposal for possible improvements based on a review of perceived shortcomings and comparison with experience from abroad. At the ISSBS, the project was implemented by project leader Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kristijan Breznik, Prof. Dr. Dušan Lesjak, and Asst. Prof. Dr. Maruša Komotar Hauptman as associate. The Re-Forma research organisation, represented by our former collaborator Prof. Dr. Janez Šušteršič, was the external partner of the project.



COMPLETION OF ERASMUS+ INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS "FEEDBACK" AND "EU INTEGRATION: EUROPEAN HIGHER EDUCATION AREA"

In August 2020, two three-year projects were completed at the ISSBS, namely the Erasmus+ project »**FEEDBACK**« and Jean Monnet (JM Chair) project »**EU integration: European Higher Education Area and the labour market (EU: HELM)**«. The basic objective of the FEEDBACK project is the design and use of an online tool to provide feedback to pupils, students and staff by using artistically based content and approaches. The EU: HELM project, coordinated by the ISSBS,

addressed the development of the European Higher Education Area. Project participants gained knowledge about the role of higher education in the EU integration process, as well as skills for better employability in the EU labour market. Within the three academic years of the project duration, EU Integration - Education, Employment and Social Policy, and EU Integration - Higher Education and Research courses were implemented at the ISSBS.



COORDINATION OF THE NEW ERASMUS+ PROJECT »LITTLEBIGENTREPRENEURS«

Among the selected Erasmus+ KA2 projects from the field of strategic partnerships and school education, there is a new project coordinated by the ISSBS, entitled "**LittleBigEntrepreneurs**". Its main objective is to improve key entrepreneurial competencies and develop an entrepreneurial mind-set in children. The project proposes development of a learning computer game that uses the so-called design thinking method to develop entrepreneurial mind-set in children (**Design thinking**). The first meeting with partner



institutions from Portugal, Estonia, Greece and Slovenia was successfully organised in virtual environment; expected results were defined, as well as management and dissemination of project results.

