

# VSTIM NEWS

COLLEGE OF TOURISM AND MANAGEMENT  
KONJIC

VSTIM – OUR  
AREA OF  
INTEREST

- Education policies
- Bologna process
- Equality in education
- Flexible education
- Individual development
- Geotourism

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## The first international conference “Implementation of Bologna process in Southeastern Europe”

The first International conference “Implementation of Bologna process in Southeastern Europe” was held in Konjic, in period 24-26 September 2015. This is the first time since Bologna declaration was signed, that in the region of former Yugoslavia this kind of conference gathers prominent professors and experts in higher education field and it was done in organization of College for tourism and management Konjic. The speakers of the Conference were: dr. Pavel Zgaga, who signed the Bologna declaration for Slovenia in 1999. as a Minister of education, and now a director of Centre for educational policy studies (CEPS– University of Ljubljana); dr. Pero Lučin rector of University of Rijeka, who led negotiations with EU in higher education sector; dr Dejan

Popović, the president of National council for higher education in Government of Republic of Serbia and dr. Refik Šćebić, founder of College



**Opening of International conference “Implementation of Bologna process in Southeastern Europe”**

of tourism and management Konjic, former assistant of Minister in dr. Zoran Đinđić Government and one of the founders of Belgrade Open School. Conference participants were as well: representative of Federal Ministry of

education and science (B&H), Mr. Jasmin Branković, representative of Ministry of education and sport in Government of Montenegro, Ms Biljana Mišović, the expert for higher education of Albania Mr. Arjan Shahini, dr. Zamir Dika rector of Sout East European University; dr. Katerina Todoroska Institute of National history, dr Admir Muratović Faculty of Islamic Studies in Novi Pazar, dr. Suad Bećirović, rector of International University in Novi Pazar, dr Marijana Šćebić, dean of College for tourism and management Konjic, and other prominent guests.

## How we came up with the idea to organize Conference?

College of tourism and management Konjic through its higher education researches that were carried out within College Institute of social sciences and having in mind the lack of knowledge regarding Bologna declaration, started a major project , organizing

International conference “Implementation of Bologna process in Southeastern Europe”. We wanted to assist in finding answers when we talk about significant number of problems that our region has been facing in teaching process, together with other ex-

perts in the field. It is our obligation to meet public with the true and make learning more intriguing for students.

“ W e n e e d k n o w l e d g e , w e n e e d r e s e a r c h e r s “

“Bologna” is a good framework that took place in higher education, but unfortunately not well interpreted, opinions professor Lučin. The Bologna process is not a framework that took place in Brussels, as public speaks, but it was created by experts in education. It is impossible to implement not only the Bologna process, but all reforms without investment in people. Professor Lučin said that the academic community should make a

part of the mission which relates to the community- "knowledge that we acquire through research, should be made available to the community. The community is not awakened, we are too closed". Professor Lučin says, one of our biggest problems is connecting brains, knowledge, ideas and communication. General confusion in the society appeared with the fall of the system value. Professor advocates for

establishment of the Learning centre and the Centre for research in higher education. Permanent wandering in educational reforms, creates serious problems. Higher education reform is a priority in order to initiate reforms at lower levels. Firstly, people need to be educated and then introduced into reforms. National culture changes are necessary. Changes should go much faster!



Dr. Pero Lučin rector of University of Rijeka

**“Reform at Bologna principles is not in itself a goal. It should help faster integration into the European family“  
dr.Dejan Popović**

“ Q u a l i t y m u s t b e c r i t e r i a “

Dr. Dejan Popović spoke about the European aspect of higher education and made a comparison of the Bologna process with the fall of Berlin Wall to explain the demolition of boundaries. "With the fall of Berlin Wall, in Europe began a new process called transition. European Community of this period was the motive for creation of the EU. The Balkan countries have

seen the signing of Bologna Declaration as an easier way to enter the EU which was not true. Nevertheless, the idea of creating a single area of higher education brought Serbia a significant change in the last nine years. We have to admit that very few changes have been in the Humboldt process. What Balkan states should use as their advantage is primarily a unique language space. Lan-

guage is a very good media of understanding and communication and it is very important to put the component of ethnicity into the background. Private and public universities must work together, which has been overcome in Europe through a common framework for quality assurance. The accreditation process has to carry out a single entity.”

“ E d u c a t i o n i s a r e f l e c t i o n o f s o c i e t y “

Dr. Pavel Zgaga reminded us of the 60's of last century (it is our recent history), when the university had the key word in the society and today it is politics. The university has for years lost its strength and importance and today it is only a reflection of the society in which we live. Professor Zgaga reminded us on Plato "Education is changing

the society". There exist two theories - first, without education there is no progress and second - education is a reflection of society and school is the ideological reflection of the state. Both of them have a strong argument, because it is required of education institutions to do something that is more a desire than the estab-

lished needs, says professor Zgaga. Special attention should be paid to the academic freedom of critical thinking. "Science is a battle, but a battle based on facts." You have to accept the fact that education is a factor that is changing society for the better.



Dr. Pavel Zgaga University of Ljubljana

## F l e x i b l e   l a b o r   m a r k e t   r e q u i r e s   f l e x i b l e e d u c a t i o n

Dr. Refik Šećibović, who is dedicated



**dr. Refik Šećibović**  
Founder of College of tourism and  
management

to researches of relations between labor market and education, during the conference emphasized that the new technologies will affect transformation of education institutions in a way that it will draw in more forms of informal education in order to respond to the accelerated changes that we witness in labor market. "Bologna process actually puts the individual under the spotlight, unlike earlier stages, when it was the case with institutions. This is the fact which was conditioned by the new

flexibility of the market. Major num-

ber of innovations is based on the fact that flexible labor market requires flexible education," emphasizes dr. Šećibović. One of our big issues is the fact that the high educated youth has been leaving our country, because they are not accepted in their own country, and European countries provide them shelter. This is why we need discussions, in order to face the problems and and try to find answers on how to keep youth in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

“ C h a n g e s   m u s t   o c c u r   s i g n i f i c a n t l y  
f a s t e r ”

*“The concept of Conference aimed to gather all experts who are dedicated to education research. This is the first time that we talk Bologna process after a decade of signing the Declaration. This means that in whole region, nobody spoke in period of ten years and we are aware of the problems that we are facing in higher education, starting with diplomas, which can be quite questioned. There is a problem of recognition of qualifications in differ-*

*ent cantons, mobility of students in our region, and former republics is questionable as well,” emphasized dr. Marijana Šećibović.*

*“It is the first time for countries of the region to meet at this level and exchange experiences. Bologna process in its ten years secured creation of unique European academic area and now in its second decade of implementation there are new qualities and*

*new goals to be achieved. Western Balkan countries, due to their nature and the fact that they have become parties of Bologna declaration later, have somewhat complicated task in how to ensure it. And the real goal of this Conference is to review those tasks,” said dr. Dejan Popović*

*“Our countries haven't decided to invest enough in changes, and the train of changes and concept of development is moving faster each day. Dr. Pero Lučin*

T h e   i m p o r t a n c e   o f   t h e   t o p i c  
h a s   b e e n   r e c o g n i z e d   b y   . . .

First International conference "Implementation of the Bologna process in Southeastern Europe" was supported by: Embassy of the Republic Croatia in B&H, Embassy of the Republic Serbia in B&H, Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Sarajevo, the Serbian Orthodox Church and the Catholic Church, Federal Ministry of education of Bosnia and Herzegovina, defense industry

"Igman" d.d. Konjic, the Municipality of Konjic, Radio Konjic, FTV1, Paneuropean Union, "Bujice" d.o.o. Konjic, Office of the President of HDZ B&H, HDZ 1990, as well as friends of College of tourism and management Konjic. Our wish was to bring all stakeholders together in order to bring the topic of Bologna process closer to the public, of which is recently spoken a lot, but also

little known.

There is a lot of wandering, ignorance, manipulation by the academic community and unfortunately the academic community of Bosnia and Herzegovina didn't even attend at the Conference. This raises the question do we have in the academic community persons who have something to say, or is it just the actors who are waiting for something called "Bologna" to pass ?





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College of tourism and management Konjic in Konjic, was established in 2012. It is one of the main pillars of education and culture not only in Konjic, but in the entire academic community of Bosnia and Herzegovina. College of tourism and management Konjic in Konjic is the first higher education institution in Bosnia and Herzegovina specialized in tourism. It's department of Geotourism is unique in Southeastern Europe and department Communication and Tourism is unique in Bosnia and Herzegovina. College educates students in undergraduate cycle.

At the Institute of social sciences we are dealing with research in the field of higher education, research in geotourism and develop Freire's pedagogy of the oppressed.

We are getting ready for the next  
conference

At the end of the year Institute of social sciences at College of tourism and management Konjic will publish the Proceedings of Conference, which will be available to the academic community in former Yugoslavia. All interested parties can purchase the Proceedings via email: [info@vstim-konjic.ba](mailto:info@vstim-konjic.ba).

At the end of the year we will send an official invitation to the academic community in the region to participate in the next conference which will be held in the last week of September.

In the following period we will form the Centre for policy research in higher education and report the public regularly about our activities.

Conference that was held obliges, just as the spoken words. We are proud and happy to spread the voice of Konjic along of our beautiful country.

Konjic is not only a passing place on the way to the Adriatic coast, it has become a significant center of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which has to offer a lot to youth and old - from education to tourism adventure and real pleasure for nature lovers.

And for the end, wonderful words of Darwin:

*"It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is most adaptable to change".*



Participants of International conference  
"Implementation of Bologna process in  
Southeastern Europe"