

University of Belgrade (UB)



Strengthening Student Role in Governance and Management at the Universities of Serbia in line with the Bologna Process SIGMUS



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Studentski trg 1, Belgrade, Serbia 00 381 11 32 07 400

www.bg.ac.rs

officebu@rect.bg.ac.rs

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Prof. Radivoje Mitrović

State Secretary Ministry of Education Republic of Serbia

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Prof. Branko Kovačević

Rector University of Belgrade, Belgrade

Student Focused Reform Processes in Higher Education

Prof. Srdjan Stanković

President National Council for Higher Education, Republic of Serbia

Strengthening Student Participation of Applied Studies in Higher Education in Republic of Serbia

Prof. Miroljub Milivojčević National Council for Higher Education, Republic of Serbia







ROLE OF STUDENT ORGANISATIONS IN DECISION MAKING PROCESS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Kristina Davidović, Students' Alliance of Belgrade

Bologna1999-Prague2001-Berlin2003-Bergen2005-London2007

Increasing focus on students

Central stakeholders: universities, **students**, teachers, employers, and society

"the primary responsibility for quality assurance lies with each institution itself and this provides the basis for real accountability of the academic system within the national quality framework." The students are, unarguably, the most important stakeholders of Higher Education systems and also that of quality assurance mechanisms therein. The interest and participation of students at all levels in higher education have to play a central role.

Higher Education Institutions



Any Higher Education Institution needs to ensure that students have voice at all stages of the decision making process, formulating learning and teaching practices, and that views of students are to be considered as the primary evidence on which the quality of teaching and learning is evaluated.

Background

- As a form of student acting, the primary form of academic activism was organizing students through student organizations
- Until presenting of the new law, the relevant student representatives were mostly members of the organization (students with a lot of free time)
- ≻ New law on higher education 2005. (2002.)
- Student parliament constituted
- When the student parliament was about to be formed, student organizations have played a major role



Student organizations

- Student organizations are legal entities with the status of social organizations or associations of citizens registered at the faculty, university or national level, which are primarily concerned with the protection and promotion of the rights of students.
- Law on organizing of Citizens in Associations, Social Organizations and Political Organizations, established for the territory of Socialistic Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in 1990, last up dated 2000, which allows registration of associations of citizens by at least 10 persons with voting rights.

Student parliament



Student organization

- The parliament is the legitimate \succ We still have a representative body of students and their will recognized by the law, which largely deals with the reform of higher education
- Student body constantly changing > Student body permanent
- student organization as an operational team working in the interest of students, mainly in terms of student standard
- Principle of democratic majority >> Principle of colleague agreement

Successful way for further decision making process, and that will also include both of student activism (that are not mutually exclusive), is the symbiosis of the Parliament's work and student organizations

Law references

>"University has university center for student organizations" Statute of University of Belgrade, act 18 Student vice rector coordinates the student organizations" Statute of University of Belgrade, act 35 >"Ministry of education donates student associations certain funds for realization of projects according to previously defined contest...", "Student organizations submit reports annually" Statute of University of Belgrade, act 35

Field of acting

Student organizations are not only focused on issues of teaching-exam process and student welfare.

Representatives of student organizations often carry out actions related to improvement of social and professional lives of students in the form of organizing meetings and conferences, seminars, lectures, concerts, sports events, student parties, humanitarian actions ...

Law on student organizing, act 19

- Students of accredited institutions of HE
- Acting field of organization includes at least one of the following activities (promoting and protecting the students rights, interests and health of students, improving the quality of teaching process, scientific, professional, artistic or other acting field with HE institutions...)
- > Adherence to the ban on political and religious activity
- The name of organization must not include the terms "student parliament" and "student conferences"

As higher education changes so does the view on students.

Students' voices are today being heard loudly and clearly and, ever more often, their views are being taken seriously







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Ružica Maksimović

Grant coordinator University of Belgrde, Belgrade, Serbia

Education



If you plan one year ahead, grow rice;

If you plan ten years ahead, plant a tree;

If you plan hundred years ahead, educate people.

A portrait of Confucius, by Tang Dynasty artist Wu Daozi (680-740)



Higher Education Reform in Serbia



- Universities primarily focused on curricula and university management
- PLACE, ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF STUDENTS HAVE NOT YET CLEARLY DEFINED AND RECOGNISED

Higher Education Reform in Serbia

STUDENTS FACED WITH NUMEROUS PROBLEMS QUESTIONS AND CHALLENGES

- New and more demanding study conditions and financial implications
- Students representatives formally included into decision-making bodies

- No real communication and discussion between students and the teaching staff
- No clear mechanisms and institutional solutions to support and develop this relationship

Higher Education Reform in Serbia

- STUDENTS
- Not adequately informed about possibilities and ways to actively participate
- Do not have skills to transform and improve the system
 - Are not aware of the role and responsibilities that they could and should have
 - Do not have sufficient motivation to participate in student activism



It is currently difficult to integrate students and their needs in order to solve the problems arising during reform implementation
No Law on Student Organizing in Serbia

SIGMUS

January 2008. (SCG)
January 2010. (Prof. Maksimović)
17 partners
09.03.2010. deadline
Project officially approved in jun 2010.
15.10.2010.-14.10.2013.

O B J E C T I V E S

- To improve legal framework for students participation in governance and management at the universities in Serbia and in the HE regulatory bodies
- To strengthen and enhance capacities of student representative bodies in HE issues related to implementation of Bologna action lines
- To establish and develop organized and efficient student services at the Serbian Unversities

WIDER OBJECTIVES

- To promote the reform and modernization of higher education in the partner countries
- To enhance the quality and relevance of higher education in the partner countries
- To build up the capacity of higher education institutions in the partner countries and the EU, in particular for international cooperation and for a permanent modernization process, and to assist them in opening themselves up to society at large
- To enhance networking among higher education institutions and research institutes both in the partner and EU countries
- To enhance mutual understanding between peoples and cultures of the EU and of the partner countries

PARTNERS

- University of Belgrade Serbia (RS)
 Coordinating institution
 Ruzica Maksimović
- University of Novi Sad
 Serbia (RS) Dragan Šešlija
- University of Nis
 Serbia (RS) Vera Marković
- State University of Novi Pazar Serbia (RS) Cemal Dolićanin
- The Assoc. of Directors of Serbian Schools of Applied Studies Serbia (RS) Ivan Milošević
- University "Singidunum" Serbia (RS) Marina Živić
- Student Union of Serbia
 Serbia (RS) Nataša Sajlović
- Ministry of Education of the Republic of Serbia (RS) Radivoje Mitrović

- National Council for Higher Education Serbia (RS) Srdjan Stanković
- University "Megatrend"
 Serbia (RS) Milena Joksimović Pajević
- University of Kragujevac
 Serbia (RS) Radojka Krneta
- Students' Alliance of Belgrade
 Serbia (RS) Kristina Davidović
- Technical University of Crete Greece (EL)
- University of Maribor Slovenia (SI)
- University of Udine Italy (IT)
- Middlesex University United Kingdom (UK)
- Student Union BOKU Austria (AT)

>WP 1 (development)

Evaluation of student participation in the university governance and management and student services in the consortium members

➤University of Niš

>WP 2 (development)

Tuning of the legal framework on student participation in governance and management at the Serbian Universities in line with the EU best practices

>University of Belgrade

>WP 3 (development)

Strengthening of student representative bodies on all level of higher education

Students' Alliance of Belgrade

>WP 4 (development)

Improvement of student participation in the implementation of Bologna Process by promoting European dimension in higher education

University of Novi Sad

WP 5 (development) Establishment and development of student services at Serbian Universities

Student union of Serbia

WP 6 (quality plan) Quality Control and Monitoring of all project activities

>University of Kragujevac

WP 7 (exploitation) Sustainability of all realized project activities

National Council for Higher Education

► WP 8 (dissemination)

Dissemination of all data relevant for the project, predominantly the results of project activities

University of Singidunum

WP 9 (menagement) Management of project activities





http://www.tempus.ac.rs





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> Ružica Maksimović, MD, PhD rmaksimovic@yahoo.com ruzica.maksimovic@med.bg.ac.rs 00 381 63 810 70 29