

A BRIEF HISTORY OF COOPERATION DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN ODESSA STATE ACADEMY OF CIVIL ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURE (UKRAINE) AND UNIVERSITY NORTH (CROATIA)

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Abstract. У статті описується коротка історія розвитку відносин між Університетом Північ (Хорватія) і Одеської державної академії будівництва і архітектури та наведені найбільш важливі результати співпраці.

One of the main directions of the internationalization of universities is the search for and establishment of inter-institutional cooperation. Effective direction of cooperation between universities are the exchange of experience in the field of administrative management and teaching activity, as well as methods of scientific research, which is noted in the strategic documents of both higher education institutions (HEI) [1, 2]. Considering that the University North is a relatively young and developing (established in 2005 as Polytechnics of Varaždin), it became necessary to increase the methodological experience and teaching stuff in the field of civil engineering. Since the Odessa State Academy of Civil Engineering and Architecture has a lot of experience in the training of specialists in the field of civil engineering, thus the cooperation between the University North and the Academy caused interest on both sides.

Cooperation between University North (UNIN) and Odessa State Academy of Civil Engineering and Architecture (OSACEA) has started in 2010, when the delegation of former Polytechnics of Varaždin (now University North) came to Odessa with the purpose of International cooperation. The plan of the visit was to regulate the terms of cooperation and enroll two young assistant – Alexei Aniskin and Matija Orešković on doctoral studies, which was done in February 2012. As a result, Matija Oreskovic defended his dissertation in December of 2015 and Alexei Aniskin in February of 2017.

It is necessary to emphasize the important fact that the diploma of a PhD received at OSACEA was recognized in Croatia in very short time (only two weeks), which further confirms the quality of education in OSACEA which was recognized on national level in Croatia and therefore in the EU.

During doctoral studies, by the guidance of a mentor in OSACEA, were initiated and realized a series of unique scientific mutual research and experiments, which

served as a base for further research in both HEIs. On this basis, two scientific themes in the scientific strategy of UNIN [3] were formed. Those themes will be included in the application for funding under EU programs and programs of the Croatian Ministry of Education and Sports.

In addition, taught by successful experience of the previous two PhD candidates two more candidates from Croatia was enrolled for doctoral studies in OSACEA.

So far, around 30 mutual visits in our cooperation were done and two successful Erasmus+ projects, that are currently in the process of realization was submitted. From May 2016 in the frame of Erasmus+ project, more than 10 lectures was held and renewal of the cooperation agreement for an unlimited period was assigned. In the frame of Erasmus+ in March 2017 two students from OSACEA was arrived in University North on study for one semester, for the first time.

Professors from the University of North actively participated in conferences organized by OSACEA. Furthermore, about 30 joint publication was published in Journal "Tehnički Glasnik" [4], which published by UNIN.

Moreover, initiative to joint publishing of "Tehnički Glasnik" journal and negotiations on a joint master's and doctoral studies in the field of construction was started in 2017.

Conclusions.

It can be said that cooperation between Odessa State Academy of Civil Engineering and Architecture and University North is growing, and it is getting wider in range, extending in different spheres and departments of our universities. As a result bigger and more important projects will be submitted. Which entails international recognition of Odessa State Academy of Civil Engineering and Architecture and University North in EU and wider. As a result of the cooperation of our higher education institutions, more than 10 lecturers received experience in the field of Erasmus+ which has an impact on their teaching competence and on their career development.

References

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4. Tehnički Glasnik (Technical Journal) [Electronic resource] – Mode of access to the resource: <https://tehnickiglasnik.unin.hr/>