International Relations Office (IRO)
of the Faculty of Textile Technology

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By involving Croatia into European integration processes the University of Zagreb has aimed plenty of its activities at encouraging international exchange programs. Systematic inclusion of scientists and teachers and implementation of the Bologna process in higher education are possible if the organizational units of the University establish an international relations office.

To establish international cooperation related to the Bologna process and scientist exchange with related institutions of Europe, the Faculty of Textile Technology founded the International Relations Office (IRO).

The task of the IRO is to help intensify the existing good cooperation of the Faculty of Textile Technology with international institutions in Europe and over the world to exchange students and professors, in a very important segment of searching all available European and other projects with ensured funds. European projects of the Framework Programme 7 - FP7, lasting from 2007 to 2013, have been placed in the foreground.

IRO intensified international relations, setting itself a task to facilitate international student and teacher exchange with cooperation in three major fields: education, research and relationships with the European industry.

To realize this cooperation, the IRO is active at

- networking with universities in Europe and over the world
- creating networks with foreign companies
- looking for possibilities to get financial funds for bilateral, European and other projects, thesis of student and teacher mobility
- establishing relationships with research laboratories and
- conducting and coordinating projects.

It should be emphasized that the IRO will coordinate the cooperation of the textile industry in Croatia, Europe and throughout the world for the purposes of lifelong learning. Since 2005 the Faculty has been conducting the coordination through seminars in Ghent and Zagreb within the framework of Project T2Net. Soon a tripartite project MUDRA will be initiated, in which Faculty of Textile Technology, University of Maribor, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering - Department of Textiles, Ghent University - Department of Textiles and Maribor, Varaždin and Ghent Chambers of Commerce will take part.

At the very beginning of its work the IRO is active at preparations for the implementation of the European Master Programme in Textile Engineering (E-TEAM) at the Faculty of Textile Technology of the University of Zagreb. This is the first postgraduate study under coordination of the University of Zagreb. The coordinator of the winter semester of the academic year 2007/2009 is Prof. Ana Marija Grancarić, Ph.D., while the other two semesters will take place in Ghent and Terrassa (Spain). Two students of the Faculty of Textile Technology will participate in this postgraduate study.

The Faculty of Textile Technology has been maintaining successful international cooperation up to now and is recognizable in Europe and worldwide. It is a member of many professional and other associations and has patron status for some. The teaching staff of the Faculty of Textile Technology has been collaborating individually with various world scientists, they are members of European and international associations, they are also members of organizing and other committees of international conferences, and they publish their papers in international journals. The Faculty signed several bilateral projects with the Universities of Maribor, Ljubljana, Vienna, Leicester and Ghent. It is a partner in several EUREKA projects, and it has registered European projects.

The Faculty of Textile Technology maintains a noticeable international cooperation with scientific and professional associations and institutions and is a member of AUTEX, ITA, DAAAM, the Textile Institute, CEEPUS, IFKT, SDC and AATCC. AUTEX is the Association of Universities for Textiles of Europe with
the purpose of realizing scientific programs of special interest for the
development of faculties of textile technology and industry in Europe.
This Association plays a key role in European programs because it pro-
poses programs and coordinates with the European Committee, and
it organizes the E-TEAM pro-
gramme, an Advanced Master pro-
gramme in Textiles.

**ITA** (International Textile
Academia) is the world organiza-
tion bringing interaction between
the various Textile Institutes at the
global level to promote scientific
and professional work and global
education, standardization and in-
ternational education of textile
workers with the possibility of using
libraries, teaching aids as well
as expert and teacher exchanges.

**DAAAM International** (The Da-
ube Adria Association for Automati-
ion & Manufacturing) deals with
scientific problems in the fields of
automation, process control and
cybernetics and is a forum for the
exchange of scientific and profes-
sional opinions and innovation so-
lutions. The Faculty of Textile Tech-
nology is also a member and one of
the founders of DAAAM Interna-
tional Network for Advanced Tech-
nologies. Since 1990 DAAAM In-
ternational Vienna has been the or-
ganizer of DAAAM International
Symposium which takes place in signif-
cant scientific member centers
every year. Within DAAAM Interna-
tional special textile clothing
section is active. Our Faculty was
awarded the highest recognition by
DAAAM International - Gold Me-
dal in 2001 for its longstanding work
and significant scientific contribu-
tions. The scientists of our Faculty
were awarded medals and diplomas
for the best papers and their presen-
tations - DAAAM International
Award, and young scientists were
awarded scholarships for a high
scientific level of research and pre-
sentation of their papers.

**The Textile Institute**, Manchester
(UK) is the oldest scientific profes-
sional association in textiles in Eu-
rope and in the world, whose indi-
vidual and corporate members
come from 90 countries. The cur-
ricula and programs of our Faculty
have been verified by this organiza-
tion, and the diplomas earned at our
Faculty are equally recognized in all
European Unity countries, Com-
monwealth and USA. In the course
of obtaining accreditation the re-
viewers pointed out that our Facul-
ty should act as a faculty model of
this profession in transition coun-
tries.

**CEEPUS** (Central European Ex-
change Programme for University
Studies) program supports the ex-
change of teaching staff and stu-
dents with the purpose of scientific,
professional and teaching im-
provement with the faculties: Lib-
erec (Czech Republic), Maribor
(Slovenia), Bratislava (Slovakia),
Lodz (Poland), Budapest (Hunga-
ry), Hradec Kralove (Czech Repub-
lic). The Faculty of Textile Technol-
gy has participated in the CEEPUS
program for 12 years. Within the
scope of this cooperation a number
of young scientists of our Faculty
conducted their researches related
to writing master and doctoral the-
eses at these institutions. The signif-
ificance of this CEEPUS program
can be seen in a large number of sci-
entific papers which were published
in co-authorship as a result of this
important international coopera-
tion.

**IFKT** (International Federation
of Knitting Technologists) in Reutlin-
gen, Germany, brings together tech-
nicians and knitting specialists from
manufacturing, scientific research
institutes and faculties. The Crotian
section of the IFKT was
founded in 1993 and organized the
14th conference of the Federation in
October, 2002, in Zagreb.

**SDC** (Society of Dyers and Co-
LOURISTS), Bradford (UK), founded
in 1884, brings together experts
studying the science of colour. They
perform all kinds of testing and col-
our measurements for the needs of
industry branches where it is impor-
tant to observe all colour parame-
ters. The Society publishes books and
scientific professional publications
relevant for colour phenomenon in all forms. The membership
of our Faculty in this Society makes
it possible that our students become
members of the Society and are
entitled to competitions organized
by the Society. The students of the
last years of undergraduate study
and postgraduate study are regis-
tered in the book: Book of CV’s that
is sent to companies and institutions
throughout Europe as a recommen-
dation for employment.

**AATCC** (American Association of
Textile Chemists and Colorists),
Raleigh, NC (USA) is the best
known scientific association for the
development and application of tex-
tile chemistry in technological pro-
cesses and research. The Associa-
tion has more than 5000 individual
members and 270 member organi-
izations from USA and 65 countries.
The basic aim of the Association is
education and application of dye-
stuffes and other finishing agents in
the textile industry as well as infor-
mation transfer in its monthly
AATCC Review.

In line with the Bologna process the
Faculty of Textile Technology has
internationalized the contents of its
studies in a certain number of joint
study courses with teachers from
European universities, and in the
courses that will be held in English or
other world languages. The teach-
ing staff of the Faculty coope-
rates with about 30 university cen-
ters and scientific institutions in
Europe and throughout the world.