

## **STRATEGY OF THE FACULTY OF ENGINEERING UNIVERSITY OF RIJEKA FOR THE PERIOD FROM 2007 TO 2013**

At the meeting, held at the end of November of the year 2007, the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Engineering University in Rijeka accepted the Strategy of the Faculty for the period from 2007 to 2013.

Within the framework of defining the University of Rijeka in all its segments of life and work, being stimulated by:

- the process of accelerated approach to the European Union (especially by adapting to the goals defined by Lisbon strategy from the year 2000),
- integration into the European Research Area (ERA) and Higher School Education Area (EHEA),
- implementation of the Bologna process,
- adaptation to the European qualification framework,
- the necessity for program development of lifelong education and mobility program,
- the outstanding emphasis on establishing the integrated quality assurance system,
- the necessity for structuring consistent doctoral studies,
- coherent establishment of national, scientific-research and higher educational policy,
- the necessary increasing of science allocations (particularly in the economic sector) and
- buildup of the university campus in Trsat,

the Senate of the University of Rijeka approved its Strategy for the same period, also confirmed by the University Council, in April of this year.

Based on the high school tradition in Rijeka dating back to 1627, and more recently on the university foundation in 1973, as well as on the technical achievements of our city and surroundings like the torpedo invention (1866), the world's first photographs of the flying bullet (1886), the birth and the first scientific achievements of the world-renowned seismologist and meteorologist Andrija Mohorovičić, on the development of some key elements in the shipbuilding and engineering industry as well as in energetics, and based on a 47 year-long history of work and development, the Faculty of Engineering University in Rijeka is nowadays, along with its 10 departments, 34 chairs, 46 laboratories, computing centre and in-house library, a modern higher school and scientific institution—competitive on the European and world's knowledge market.

The Faculty performs university and vocational undergraduate and university graduate study programs in the field of mechanical engineering, naval architecture and electrical engineering as well as the third cycle of the three year studies after which one can gain a doctorate degree in science, in the field of engineering sciences, mechanical engineering, naval architecture and other fundamental engineering sciences. Approximately 2600 ranked engineers and more than 1400 engineers have graduated from the Rijeka Faculty, thus contributing directly not only to local but also to Croatian and European economic development. The Master's of Science degree has been conferred to 92 Faculty members

whereas the Doctor's of Science degree has been conferred to 76 Faculty members, who have significantly contributed to the scientific potential of our country. The Faculty of Engineering regularly publishes the scientific journal—Engineering Review, and likewise faculty members have published numerous books and textbooks. Developing a scientific-research and teaching portfolio has made it possible for the Faculty of Engineering to comply its activity with the EU streamlined Lisbon strategy and the Bologna process, thus coordinating the Faculty with national and EU priorities and initiating the process of integration into the European scientific and higher education area.

The Faculty of Engineering in Rijeka with all its 175 employees (123 of this number being employees in scientific-teaching, teaching and related associate professions) and with about 1,350 undergraduate, graduate and post graduate students, represents one of the central components of the University in Rijeka. The Faculty is not only a continuous source of scientific and teaching activities but also of innovative products, technologies and services indispensable to national and international economic sectors. The Faculty collaborates with approximately 30 international institutions abroad and 15 Croatian academic institutions and it is a part of the Central European Exchange Program for University Studies (CEEPUS).

Dynamic activity unfolding at the Faculty is made entirely evident by the approximately 100 scientific-research projects of relevant ministries, and from more than a dozen projects, in which the Faculty has participated and still participates, and which were financed by the local government and economy.

It follows from the aforesaid that through its own Strategy, the Faculty of Engineering has coordinated its objectives and standards, on which the mid-term developmental plan is based, with those of the University in Rijeka, and the Faculty has pointed out clearly that it is ready for the active implementation of these objectives and criteria.

Aiming for the implementation of the strategy of the University in Rijeka, the Faculty of Engineering in Rijeka also acknowledges all particularities and specifics of the Faculty of Engineering and foresees special assignments and measures not being comprised with the strategy of the University in Rijeka but which are about to be implemented by the Faculty of Engineering in a given period.

Within the Strategy of the Faculty of Engineering, the following issues are defined:

- (com)mission and vision envisaged by the Faculty of Engineering,
- strategic objectives and assignments defined by the Faculty of Engineering,
- monitoring and advancement measures evaluated by the Strategy of the Faculty of Engineering,

- persons and bodies necessary for implementing the Strategy at the Faculty of Engineering in Rijeka,
- holders of corresponding office – persons responsible for performance indicator monitoring via defined assignments and termini;
- documents which will be adopted by the Faculty of Engineering aiming at implementation of the Strategy,
- flow-chart of Strategy activities.

The mission of our institution, as defined by our Strategy, is to implement scientific as well as developing and professional research, especially programs of strategic interest for both the region in which the Faculty functions and for the Republic of Croatia in general; and with the undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate education being based on these strategic programs. In this regard, the Faculty of Engineering will actively collaborate with academic (scientific and higher educational) partners as well as with business partners at home and abroad and will provide for the internal and external mobility opportunities of our students and teachers, for the rational employment of human and material resources, for the development of multidisciplinary scientific-teaching activities, for the monitoring and continuous growth of quality improvement, competitiveness as well for the international competitiveness of teaching, scientific and professional work.

That is how the Faculty of Engineering in Rijeka will realize its vision as a scientific and research center for excellence in the field of engineering sciences; with a clear-cut researcher's profile focused on sustainable development, which will carry out qualitative and efficient education based on learning outcomes and (conception of) lifelong education. Collaborating actively with the economy, with partnerships for community development, with independent and intermediate (through the University of Rijeka) integration into the European Research Area and the European Area of Higher Education, and with the highest possible organization level and responsibility, the Faculty of Engineering will display its public responsibility and contribute to the transition to a society of knowledge. Thus, the Faculty of Engineering will be a dynamic institution which creates incentives for both the mobility and the development of research careers systematically and organizationally, enabling research accomplishments and creating the enterprising energy of each individual (teacher, assistant, administrator and student).

In view of this mission and vision, the strategy of the Faculty of Engineering is to define five strategic objectives referring to:

- studies and students,
- scientific work and innovation,
- human, financial and material capacities,
- connection with the community and the economy as well as adaptation to community needs, and,
- integration into the EU, openness to the world and mobility.

These objectives will be realized, provided that the 67 assignments, appointed as the Strategy of the Faculty of Engineering University in Rijeka have been performed. Commitments will be monitored by 82 measuring benchmark indicators of which 10 are so-called "benchmark" performance indicators by which the Faculty can monitor its achievements (internal benchmarking) and compare them not only with the other components of the University in Rijeka but also with other higher education institutions at home and abroad (external benchmarking).

It is especially important to notice some assignments and measures relating to:

- establishing of the new computer engineering study at the Faculty of Engineering,
- measures to improve study program quality and life in general at the Faculty, as well as accreditation of administrative services at the Faculty by quality system ISO 9000,
- student pass rate improvement,
- enhancement of e-learning,
- life-long education and innovation system development,
- further development of doctoral studies,
- collaboration with the economy and local community, and
- collaboration and mobility programs in Europe and abroad.

With such an ambitious and a not at all easily achievable activity plan, the Faculty of Engineering will continue to develop its strategic profile in which all the members (scientific-teaching staff, associate staff and also administrative staff members) as well as all the students of the Faculty have the opportunity and possibility to develop all of their accomplishments and potentials so as to actively contribute to the comprehensive development of Croatian science and economy.

*Assoc. Prof. D. Sc. Saša Zelenika  
(Dean's Assistant of the Faculty of Engineering  
University in Rijeka)*