The Faculty of Kinesiology, Croatia, was founded in 1959 as the High School for Physical Culture. In 1967 it became a full member of the University of Zagreb. In the academic year 1973/1974 the name of the institution was changed into the Faculty of Physical Culture, University of Zagreb, and that name remained until the year 2001, when again the name of the Faculty was changed into the Faculty of Kinesiology.

The Faculty of Kinesiology is a scientific and educational public institution which offers university courses for the bachelor, master, and doctoral degrees in kinesiology and develops scientific cognition in kinesiology and adherent scientific disciplines (Faculty of Kinesiology bylaws, 2005). On the 50th anniversary of its foundation, the Faculty of Kinesiology published a comprehensive, richly illustrated monograph which presents a detailed historic overview of the fifty years of the Faculty’s development and also gives an insight into the system of education of kinesiologists in the Republic of Croatia.

The main goal of the monograph was to report on the overall life, scientific and academic work and achievements of the Faculty of Kinesiology University of Zagreb from 1959 till 2009. All major facts and figures about the foundation and activities, contributions, significance and influence of this university education institution on the Croatian society, academic community, sports in general, education and high education systems, physical recreation, “Sport for All” movement and kinesitherapy are meticulously investigated, documented and introduced throughout the eight chapters. The authors and contributors tried to highlight the Faculty’s impact on the immediate and broader milieu in Croatia and the neighbouring countries as well as in the world during its existence and work through the past 50 years. Therefore, the following is presented in the book: events relevant to the life of a university and scientific institution, educational courses curricula with the history of the core subjects, scientific research projects lists, publishing activities and overall scientific work performed at the Faculty or under its auspices. One can also find the lists of employees and graduated students as well as the lists of Masters of Science and Philosophy Doctors – Social Sciences – Kinesiology. The foundation and history of the occupational non-university study course for the education of higher sports coaches in Croatia (at the Higher School for Sport Coaches and, nowadays, Sport Coaches Education and Training Department) is also presented.

The monograph is written in the Croatian language. It satisfies the criteria set up for historically reliable publications since only the verified documents and information have been used to elaborate the Faculty’s history, which is the publication-specific quality distinction. More than 50 co-authors were involved in writing their contributions to this valuable book. One can get acquainted with the contents of more than 30 study core subjects, their history, lecturers, textbooks and research studies published.

Through 584 pages of a large encyclopaedic format 486 photographs and 93 tables can also be browsed. The general concept and final realization of the publication was ensured by Prof. Dragan Milanović, PhD, as the Editor-in-Chief, Zrinko Ćustonja, MagEd, as the Executive Editor, and Prof. Stjepan Heimer, PhD, Prof. Emil Hofman, PhD, Željka Jaklinović, MagA, Prof. Igor Jukić, PhD, Prof. Dinko Vuleta, PhD, as the members of the Editorial Board. The peer review of the monograph was performed by Prof. Milan Blašković, PhD, Vicko Lučić and Prof. Radovan Medved, PhD. The book was pressed in 1000 copies.

Prepared by: Zrinko Ćustonja, MagEd

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