

mr. ek.
**Damir
Pavlović**

**KOLEGIJ PRIMJENA
INFORMACIJSKIH TEHNOLOGIJA U
TURIZMU I HOTELIJERSTVU U
STUDIJU TURISTIČKOG I
HOTELSKOG MENADŽMENTA**

**THE COURSE ON THE
APPLICATION OF INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGIES IN THE TOURISM
AND HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY AS
PART OF THE STUDY OF TOURISM
AND HOTEL MANAGEMENT**

SAŽETAK: Smisao i svrha uvrštavanja kolegija Primjena informacijskih tehnologija u turizmu i hotelijerstvu u studij turističkog i hotelskog menadžmenta definitivno su neupitni s obzirom na kvalitetu studija u cjelini i zahtjeve u oblikovanju i kompletnosti profila suvremenog menadžera u turizmu i hotelijerstvu. U svemu tomu važno je razlučiti, s jedne strane, uvrštavanje danog kolegija u završnu fazu studija glede nastavnog programa te, s druge strane, dobro koncipiranim nastavnim planom i programom samog kolegija isti metodološki prezentirati studentima, polaznicima studija. Kroz ovaj kolegij studenti zaokružuju svoja znanja iz više drugih kolegija koja su mu prethodila u programu studija a koja su u međuvremenu apsolvirali. To u biti znači da se u predmetnom kolegiju studenti upoznaju s alatima i načinom njihova korištenja, koji im pomažu da najefikasnije primijene sva znanja važna za uspješnu ulogu budućeg menadžera u turizmu i hotelijerstvu.

KLJUČNE RIJEČI: informacijske tehnologije, studij turističkog i hotelskog menadžmenta, kolegij, aplikacija, *software*

ABSTRACT: The reason for making the course Application of Information Technologies in the Tourism and Hospitality Industry part of the study of tourism and hotel management is certainly clear, taking into account the quality of the entire study and the requirements of shaping a complete and modern tourism and hotel manager profile. In addition, it is important to include the course in question in the final stage of the study within the entire teaching curriculum, as well as to present the course itself to students taking part in the study through a well-elaborated methodology and a well-conceived course syllabus. The course also helps students complement their knowledge from a number of other courses that preceded it in the study curriculum, and that they have completed in the meantime. This actually means that the course in question acquaints students with IT tools and the manner of using them as efficiently as possible in order to help them apply all the knowledge that is important for being a successful manager in the tourism and hospitality industry.

KEY WORDS: information technologies, study of tourism and hotel management, course, application, software

UVOD

Nije rijedak slučaj susresti se s oglasima za upražnjene menadžerske pozicije u raznim tvrtkama u kojima je naglašena važnost posjedovanja ne samo osnovnih stručnih već i dodatnih vještina i sposobnosti kandidata (znanje stranih jezika, dodatna informatička znanja¹ i sl.). Za kvalificiranog menadžera u turizmu i hotelijerstvu neophodna je kompetentnost u domeni planiranja, organiziranja, kadroviranja, vođenja i kontrole unutar svojeg poduzeća. Ti segmenti upravljanja, prije svega, zahtijevaju međusobnu usklađenost zbog njihovih uzročno-posljedničkih povezanosti. Praćenje svega toga omogućeno je jedino kroz pravilno strukturiranje, sistematiziranje, procesuiranje i izvršenje svih neophodnih podataka i informacija važnih za poslovni proces u poduzeću. Osim toga, uspješan menadžer mora posjedovati polivalentna znanja, relevantna i specifična za pojedine odjele u svom poduzeću (marketing, računovodstvo, ljudski resursi, tehnologija hrane i pića i dr.).

Shodno tome, studenti, polaznici studija hotelskog i turističkog menadžmenta, usvajaju potrebna znanja i vještine u sklopu nastavnog plana kroz više kolegija. Iako smisleno i sinkronizirano raspoređeni po godinama studija, kolegiji se slušaju i polažu odvojeno te privlače pozornost i usredotočenost studenata samo u realnom vremenu, dok ih pripremaju i uspješno polažu svaki pojedinačno. Nakon toga pažnja i interes prelazi im na sljedeći kolegij, slikovito rečeno, prepreku koju moraju svladati kako bi popunili indeksnu knjižicu. Logična posljedica toga je i određeno gubljenje prethodno usvojenih znanja iz memorije nakon uspješnog polaganja danog ispita. Postavlja se pitanje: je li moguće prije završetka studija ponovno se vratiti na nastavnu građu više pojedinih kolegija? Ili još bolje, je li moguće napraviti to u sklopu jednog kolegija u zadnjem semestru studija, gdje bi se kroz praktične primjere primijenila sublimirana

INTRODUCTION

It is not rare to come across vacancy announcements for managerial positions in various companies which highlight the importance of candidates having, not only basic professional knowledge, but also additional skills and competences (knowledge of foreign languages, additional IT skills,¹ etc.). A qualified tourism and hotel manager must be competent in the domain of planning, organising, staffing, and leadership and control within his or her company. Since all these aspects of management are all interconnected, the primary requirement is to harmonise them, and monitoring it all is only possible by correctly structuring, systematising, processing and implementing all the necessary data and information important for the company's business process. In addition, a successful manager must possess the polyvalent knowledge relevant and specific for particular departments in his or her company (marketing, accounting, HR, food and drinks technologies, etc.).

In line with this, students attending the Hotel and Tourism Management study acquire the necessary knowledge and skills as part of the curriculum through several courses. Although sensibly distributed and synchronised through the years of study, the courses are attended and examined separately, and attract the attention and focus of students only in real time, while they prepare for and successfully take each exam. After that, attention and interest is channelled to the next course, or to the next obstacle they must overcome to fill their transcript record book. The natural result is also a certain loss of previously acquired knowledge after successfully passing the exam. Therefore, the following question is raised: is it possible to revise the subject matter of several individual courses before the end of the studies? Or even better, is it possible to do this within a course in the last semester of studies, where the sublimated knowledge from a great number of courses that the students have attended and

znanja iz najvećeg broja kolegija koji su se pohađali i polagali tijekom cijelog studija? Primjena informacijskih tehnologija u turizmu i hotelijerstvu u biti je brža manipulacija podacima, koja se zasniva na određenim znanjima i saznanjima iz struke. Isti kolegij možda je prigoda za studente da sublimiraju i sinkroniziraju ta znanja.

CILJEVI KOLEGIJA

S obzirom na vrlo široko područje primjene informacijskih tehnologija u turizmu i hotelijerstvu, a shodno tome i velik broj praktičnih aplikacija, odnosno *softwarea* koji su trenutačno u praktičnoj primjeni, nameće se opravdano pitanje kako koncipirati nastavni plan i program koji bi što više obuhvatio upoznavanje studenata s predmetnim područjem. Logično je da u strukturi nastavnog plana najvećim djelom mora biti zastupljena praktična nastava, tijekom koje se studenti uživo susreću s aplikacijama i *softwareima* koji su u praktičnoj primjeni u hotelskim i turističkim poduzećima.

Samim time nameće se i osnovni cilj kolegija, a to je obučiti i upoznati studente s onime s čime će se suočiti odmah po završetku studija, odnosno na početku karijere, u nekom od turističkih ili hotelskih poduzeća. Dosadašnja praksa u tim poduzećima kod prijema pripravnika s tek završenim studijem podrazumijevala je utrošak određenog vremena za njihovu obuku i trening, kako bi se mogli uključiti u redovan radni proces. Ne treba posebno napominjati da takva praksa dodatno troškovno opterećuje poduzeće. Dolazak kandidata s potrebnim predznanjem korištenja određenog *softwarea*, pored spomenutog benefita za poduzeće, i njemu samom daje inicijalnu prednost i kvalificiranost da zadobije toliko potrebno povjerenje i već u startu napravi odlučujući pomak u liniji karijere.

Budući da se danas svako poduzeće susreće s primjenom informatike u bilo kojem obliku i na

completed during the entire study may be applied in case studies? The course on the Application of Information Technologies in the Tourism and Hospitality Industry in fact allows for the faster handling of data based on certain professional knowledge and understanding. The course is perhaps an opportunity for students to sublimate and synchronise these understandings.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Taking into account the very broad area of applying IT in the tourism and hospitality industry, and the related number of practical computer programs, or software, which are currently being used, it is justified to ask how to conceive a course syllabus to cover all this in order to acquaint students as far as possible with the subject area. Logically, the plan of the course must be structured in such a way that practical exercises take a major role, giving students hands-on experience of the applications and software most frequently used by hotel and tourism companies.

This shows the main goal of the course, which is to train students and to acquaint them with something that they are going to have to use immediately after graduation, or at the very beginning of their careers in a tourism or hotel company. The practice of recruiting novices in these companies up to now has implied spending a certain amount of time on training them in order to introduce them to regular work process. It does not have to be said that such practice incurs additional costs for the company. The arrival of candidates who already possess the necessary skills of using particular software, besides the mentioned benefit for the company, gives the person himself or herself an initial advantage to win the trust that is so much needed, and to make a decisive step at the very start of his or her career.

Since every company today is faced with applying IT in all its forms and at all levels of complexity, it is a challenge for every manager to optimise the

bilo kojoj razini složenosti, izazov je svakog menadžera optimizirati potrebe poduzeća u tom pogledu. Svako ozbiljnije poduzeće zapošljava barem po jednog sistem administratora², čovjeka koji vodi brigu o održavanju računalne opreme i osnovnih operativnih sustava (npr. Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 2007 i dr.) ili operativnih programa (npr. MS Office i sl.). Složenije aplikacije, poput npr. hotelskog *softwarea*, aplikacija u sklopu tzv. e-marketinga³, *web developmenta*⁴, zahtijevaju vanjski servis dobavljača koji realiziraju dane potrebe. U svezi jednog i drugog, vjerodostojnost izvršitelja nije sama po sebi neupitna.

Shodno tome, cilj je obučiti i osposobiti studente – buduće menadžere za racionalno strukturiranje i optimiziranje uvođenja i primjene informatike u poduzeću, kao i okvirnu procjenu i poznavanje složenosti pojedinih informatičkih rješenja, kako bi ih mogli i primjereno platiti i spriječiti nepotrebne troškove.

Svaka aplikacija koja se koristi u hotelskom i turističkom poduzeću u svojoj je biti modularno⁵ postavljena, odnosno u svojim postavkama nije krajnje definirana, prvenstveno iz razloga postojanja različitih profila objekata i poduzeća. Stoga se i sastoji iz dva osnovna djela: prvog, koji predstavlja parametre koji se unose prema profilu objekta ili poduzeća i drugog, operativnog, koji tek nakon unesenih parametara služi za praktičnu operativnost u realnom vremenu. U slučaju hotela, u parametre aplikacije najprije se unosi profil hotela, koji se sastoji od broja i tipova soba, sadržaja hotela, načina prodaje, tipova rezervacija, marketinških profila gostiju itd., odnosno, jednostavnije rečeno, ponude i sadržaja hotela s poslovnim konceptom. Nakon tih postavki ili tzv. punjenja može se pristupiti samoj operativnosti u realnom vremenu, prema poslovnim događajima u hotelu.

Slijedom toga nameće se vrlo važan metodološki cilj same nastave, da studenti kroz praktične vježbe primjenjuju sve prethodno usvojeno znanje iz većeg broja kolegija pohađanih tijekom studija.

resources of the company to meet these needs. Every serious company employs at least one systems administrator,² a person who takes care of maintaining computer equipment and basic operating systems (for example, Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 2007, etc.) or software programs (such as MS Office, etc.). More complex applications, such as hotel software, e-marketing,³ or web development⁴ programs require external servicing by the supplier. The service provided in both cases cannot be taken for granted.

It is therefore important to educate and train students – future managers – to rationalise the structure and optimise the introduction and application of IT in a company, and to equip them with the capacity of broadly assessing the complexity of individual IT solutions in order to cost them adequately and avoid unnecessary expense.

Every software application for use in a hotel or tourism company has been set up in a modular⁵ way. In other words, it has not been definitively defined, so that it can be adapted to the different profiles of various companies and facilities. This is why it consists of two basic parts: one which represents the parameters that are defined and entered according to the profile of the company or facilities, and another operating part, which is used only after these parameters have been entered, to perform practical operations in real time. In the case of a hotel, it is necessary to define the program parameters by first entering the profile of the hotel, consisting of the number and types of rooms, the hotel facilities, the sales method, booking types, guest profiles for marketing purposes, etc., or, put in another way, what the hotel offers, including its business concept. After these settings are defined, the system can operate in real time following the business events in the hotel.

All this leads to a very important methodological teaching objective: through practical exercises, students apply all the knowledge they have previously acquired in a number of courses during their studies.

VIRTUALNI HOTEL UTILUS – UČEĆI POSLOVNI SUSTAV

Praktični dio nastave iz kolegija Primjena informacijskih tehnologija u turizmu i hotelijerstvu studenti pohađaju u informatičkom kabinetu, u kojem su instalirana umrežena računala hijerarhijski podređena tzv. profesorskom računalu, preko kojeg profesor koordinira potrebne vježbe. Na računalima je instaliran jedan od hotelskih *softwarea*, raširen u praksi kod većeg broja hotela. Postavljanje parametara u sklopu istog zapravo predstavlja unos podataka i formiranje profila nekog zamišljenog poslovnog hotela u Zagrebu, koji je u svrhu praktične vježbe i simulacije poslovnih procesa i događaja popularno nazvan – Hotel Utilus. Naravno, profil zamišljenog hotela postavlja se prema konceptu koji, u trenutnom poslovnom okružju, treba omogućiti pozitivno poslovanje.

Studenti najprije pristupaju unošenju broja i kategorije soba u sustav, uključujući i njihovu konkretnu numeraciju po katovima, pri čemu neizostavno koriste usvojena znanja iz kolegija Planiranje i dizajniranje turističkih i hotelskih objekata. Nakon toga pristupaju unosu svih potrebnih sadržaja s kompletnom ponudom hotela, uz pridodane kategorije i tarife cijena, pri čemu koriste znanja iz marketinga, istraživanja tržišta, ekonomike poduzeća, upravljanja hotelom i sl. (Prikaz 1).

Osim navedenih postavki *front office*⁶ studenti pristupaju unošenju postavki *back office*⁷, koje se odnose na načine izvještavanja, marketinških i knjigovodstvenih procesuiranja itd. Ovaj dio posla obavezno mora biti usklađen s već unesenim postavkama. Pritom studenti primjenjuju znanja iz kolegija Računovodstvo u turističkim i hotelskim poduzećima.

Završetkom unosa svih spomenutih parametara i podataka studenti su osvježili i utvrdili dio znanja iz više prethodno pohađanih i položenih kolegija na vrlo praktičan i njima interesantan način.

UTILUS VIRTUAL HOTEL – A LEARNING BUSINESS SYSTEM

The practical part of the course on the Application of Information Technologies in the Tourism and Hospitality Industry takes place in the IT room which is equipped with networked computers hierarchically linked to the so-called teacher's computer, through which the instructor coordinates the needs of the practicum. One type of hotel software, which is commonly used in a large number of hotels, is installed on the computers. The setting of the parameters for this software actually represents the entry of data and information pertaining to the profile of an imaginary hotel in Zagreb, which, for the needs of the practical exercises and the simulation of business processes and events, was popularly named – Hotel Utilus. Naturally, the profile of the imaginary hotel is set according to a concept which should allow for positive business performance in the current business environment.

The students first enter the number and categories of the hotel rooms, including the concrete numbering of rooms per floor, where they have to apply knowledge acquired in the course Planning and Designing Tourism and Hotel Facilities. Then, they enter all the necessary facilities, including the complete hotel offer, adding price categories and tariffs, where they apply their knowledge of marketing, market research, corporate economics, hotel management, etc. (Figure 1).

In addition to the mentioned *front office*⁶ settings, students also enter *back office*⁷ settings concerning the manner of reporting, marketing and bookkeeping, etc. This part of the job must be aligned with the earlier entered settings. This is where students apply their knowledge acquired in the course Bookkeeping in Tourism and Hotel Companies.

When all these parameters and data are entered, students have refreshed and consolidated part of

PRIKAZ 1. PRIMJER SUČELJA ZA UNOS PODATAKA KOD KREIRANJA JEDNOG TIPA HOTELSKE SOBE U PARAMETRIMA HOTELSKOG SOFTWAREA

FIGURE 1. EXAMPLE OF AN INTERFACE FOR ENTERING DATA RELATED TO THE CREATION OF A ROOM TYPE WITHIN THE PARAMETERS OF THE HOTEL SOFTWARE

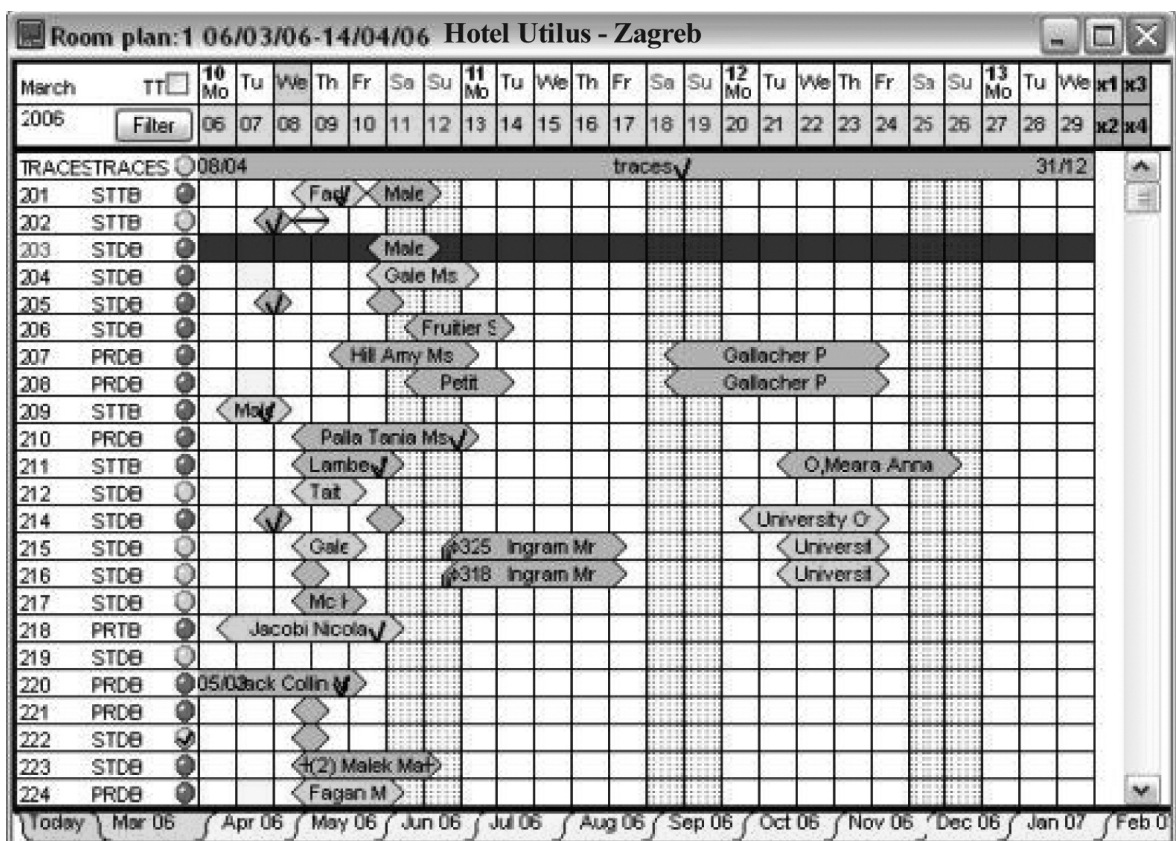
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Izvor: hotelski *software* "protel", instaliran za potrebe praktičnih vježbi u sklopu nastavnog programa Visoke poslovne škole Utilus, Zagreb / Source: "protel" hotel software installed for the needs of the practical exercises that are part of the curriculum of the Utilus Business School, Zagreb

Upotpunjenje spomenutog znanja događa se nakon simulacije stvarnih poslovnih procesa u sklopu drugog, operativnog dijela hotelskog *softwarea*, koji se najčešće zove – *Front office*, zbog toga što se najvećim dijelom radi o poslovnim procesima vezanima za kontakte s gostima. To se prije svega odnosi na prodaju kapaciteta, rezervacije gostiju u svim vidovima, prijave i odjave gostiju, poslovne

the knowledge acquired in several previously attended and completed courses in a manner that is very practical and interesting for them. This knowledge is consolidated through a simulation of real business processes, which constitutes part of the second, operational part of the hotel software which is usually called front office, since it mostly deals with business processes related to contacts

PRIKAZ 2. PRIMJER SUČELJA OPERATIVNE APLIKACIJE PLANA SOBA U HOTELU ZA ODREĐENO RAZDOBLJE
FIGURE 2. EXAMPLE OF THE INTERFACE OF THE OPERATING SOFTWARE FOR A HOTEL ROOM PLAN FOR A DEFINED PERIOD



Izvor: hotelski *software* "protel", instaliran za potrebe praktičnih vježbi u sklopu nastavnog programa Visoke poslovne škole Utilus, Zagreb / Source: "protel" hotel software installed for the needs of the practical exercises that are part of the curriculum of the Utilus Business School, Zagreb

dogadaje prigodom njihova boravka te na kraju na operativne kontakte između samih hotelskih odjela u smislu naloga i izvještavanja jednih prema drugima. Zanimljivost navedenih praktičnih vježbi doseže vrhunac kod aktiviranja završnih izvještaja financijskog i statističkog (može se reći i marketinškog) karaktera među kojima je najpoznatiji – OKD (obrada kraja dana)⁸ (Prikaz 2).

with guests. This primarily concerns the selling of the capacities, all aspects of guest booking, registration and cancellations, business events during their stay, and, finally, operational contacts between hotel departments in terms of reciprocal orders and reporting. Interest in these practical exercises peaks when the final financial and statistical reports are activated (the marketing

U prethodnom prikazu zorno je vidljiv status soba u pogledu zauzetosti i rezervacija u sklopu sučelja plana soba u hotelu na kojem studenti provode praktične vježbe.

Osim hotelskog *softwarea*, u sklopu praktičnih vježbi predmetnog kolegija studenti se susreću i upoznaju s web aplikacijama, na način da sami nauče kreirati jednostavniju vlastitu web stranicu (osobnu ili nekog zamišljenog hotelskog objekta) koju mogu testirati na lokalnom računalnom poslužitelju⁹ pomoću alata Dreamweaver MX¹⁰. U sklopu ovih vježbi studenti moraju primijeniti posebno marketinška znanja da bi uz naučenu tehniku pozicioniranja i optimizacije web stranice na internetskim tražilicama (Google, Yahoo i dr.) kao budući menadžeri mogli osigurati potrebnu prisutnost svog poslovnog subjekta na svjetskom tržištu. U tom smislu, kao budući menadžeri, oni u praktičnim vježbama ne teže dosljednom stručnom ovladavanju u tzv. web razvoju, ali svakako dolaze do potrebne razine razumijevanja prirode i kompleksnosti u pristupu istom, što je neophodno za njihovu menadžersku poziciju.

PREUVJETI USPJEŠNOSTI KOLEGIJA

Prethodno poglavlje pokušalo je dati odgovor na pitanje što bi studenti turističkog i hotelskog menadžmenta, budući menadžeri, trebali svladati u ovom kolegiju i na koji način, dok će se u dijelu koji slijedi razmotriti neki osnovni preuvjeti koji garantiraju uspješnost usvajanja potrebnih znanja. Pritom se misli na samu organizaciju aktivnosti unutar i izvan kolegija, kao i na potrebna tehnička pomagala kod provođenja nastavnog programa.

Satnica

Postupnost u usvajanju i svladavanju nastavne materije je osnovni princip koji se mora poštovati u nastavnom procesu. Tomu je prilagođen i nastavni plan kolegija, koji je sastavljen u kontinuitetu prema drugim kolegijima kao i unutar sebe samog. Budući da je zastupljenost

report), the most well-known being the so-called OKD (end-of-day processing) report⁸ (Figure 2).

The status of rooms in terms of their occupancy and booking is clearly visible on the hotel room plan interface, with which the students have practice.

Besides the hotel software, as part of the course's practical exercises, students are acquainted with web applications and are taught to create a simple web page (personal or one of an imaginary hotel) which they can test on the local computer server⁹ with the assistance of the Dreamweaver MX¹⁰ tool. As part of these practical exercises, students must apply specific marketing knowledge in order to ensure, as future managers, the presence of their business entity in the global market with the learnt technique of positioning and optimising the web page on Internet search engines (Google, Yahoo!, etc.). The practical exercises do not strive to make professional web developers of the students, but attempt to provide them with the necessary understanding and approach which will be essential for them as managers.

CONDITIONS FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE COURSE

The previous section of this paper attempted to provide an answer to what students of tourism and hotel management, future managers, should learn on this course and how they should learn, while what follows will consider some basic preconditions for success in acquiring the necessary knowledge. This concerns the organisation of activities in and outside the course, and the technical equipment needed to implement the teaching programme.

Timetable

The gradual acquisition and learning of the subject matter of the course is the basic principle that must be followed in the teaching process. The course syllabus is adapted to this principle, and has been developed in such a way that, besides dealing

praktičnih vježbi u pohađanju kolegija posebno naglašena, važno ih je sinkronizirati s teoretskim dijelom nastave odgovarajućim vremenskim i količinskim rasporedom satnice prema tematskim cjelinama. U konkretnom slučaju, radi se o 60 sati aktivne nastave u jednom semestru, od čega na praktične vježbe otpada oko 40 sati. Prigodom odvijanja praktičnih vježbi u informatičkom kabinetu studenti su raspoređeni u grupe po dvoje na jednu radnu stanicu (računalo).

Literatura

Način korištenja literature u svladavanju gradiva je još jedna specifičnost ovog kolegija. Postoji nekoliko udžbenika u domaćoj i stranoj literaturi koji obrađuju predmetnu tematiku, među kojima ni jedan nije sveobuhvatan i dominantan u pokrivanju nastavne građe. No, ako pođemo već od činjenice da informatika kao disciplina ima vrlo dinamičan razvoj, koji podliježe stalnom unaprjeđenju i promjenama, pitanje je koliko pisana literatura u formi udžbenika to može pratiti. Zbog te činjenice, kao i zbog poslovnog karaktera visoke škole na kojoj se izučava ovaj kolegij, potrebno je osmisliti alternativnu literaturu koja studentima omogućava držanje koraka s vremenom i trenutnim zahtjevima suvremenog poslovanja. To zahtijeva djelomično osvježavanje nastavnog programa kolegija svake godine, uz potrebnu inovativnost i kreativnost predavača i studenata prigodom svladavanja gradiva.

Ipak, od pisane literature, najkorisnijima su se pokazali razni praktični priručnici (*manuali*) koji opisuju način izvršavanja pojedinih funkcija programa i *softwarea* koji su instalirani na računalima kojima se studenti služe na praktičnim vježbama. Znanje o tomu kako menadžeri u turizmu i hotelijerstvu trebaju generalno najprije procijeniti potrebu, a onda i koncipirati primjenu informacijskih tehnologija u poduzeću, studenti dijelom mogu usvojiti sublimiranjem informacija iz pisane i elektronske literature. Značajniji dio znanja u tom pogledu studenti će ipak usvojiti analizom konkretnih

with the course content, it also follows on from other courses. Since practical exercises are the main focus, it is important to synchronise them with the theoretical part of the syllabus through a suitable timetable divided into thematic units. In this specific case, there are 60 hours of active classes within a semester, 40 of which are practical exercises. When the practical exercises are carried out in the IT room, students are divided into pairs sharing one workstation (computer).

Literature

The manner of using literature in covering the material is another specific feature of this course. There are several domestic and foreign coursebooks covering this topic, but none of them gives comprehensive and dominant coverage of the course material. However, if we take as the starting point the fact that computer science as a discipline develops very dynamically and is subject to constant improvements and changes, it is questionable how much written literature in the form of a coursebook would be able to keep up with such development. Given this, and due to the business character of the higher education institution where this course is conducted, alternative literature must be found to allow students to keep up with the times and with the current requirements of modern business. This requires the partial refreshment of the course syllabus each year, and the introduction of necessary innovations involving the creativity of lecturers and of the students in mastering this material.

Nevertheless, the most useful written literature has proved to be in the form of various practical manuals which describe how to perform the particular functions of the programs and software installed on the computers used by the students in the practical exercises. Knowledge of how managers in the tourism and hotel industry must generally first assess the need and conceptualise the application of IT in the company can be acquired by compiling information from both traditional and electronic literature. Students will

slučajeva (*case studyja*), gdje je odlučujuća kreativnost i iskustvo predavača.

Ostali faktori uspješnosti kolegija

Dolaskom na studij turističkog i hotelskog menadžmenta, studenti sa sobom donose određenu razinu predznanja, koje se manje-više odnosi na osnovnu operativnost na računalu u okviru *MS Officea*¹, kao i na snalaženje i pretraživanje na internetu. Iako je uglavnom samo načelno, to znanje je dovoljan preduvjet za aktivan pristup u razumijevanju i svladavanju znanja koja se odnose na konkretne poslovne aplikacije, web razvoj te u sklopu toga i principe e-marketinga.

No najvažniji je preduvjet opremljenost kabineta praktične nastave potrebnim brojem računala umreženih s centralnim poslužiteljskim računalom, koje se još popularno naziva – profesorsko računalo. Svako računalo treba imati minimum 256 MB radne memorije i brzinu od 1 GHz, dok poslužiteljsko računalo, koje im je hijerarhijski nadređeno, mora imati minimum 512 MB radne memorije uz brzinu od 1 GHz. Sva računala trebaju imati širokopojasni pristup internetu. U istom kabinetu poželjna je instalacija jednog projektora s projekcijskim platnom, povezanog s poslužiteljskim računalom.

Budući da se znanje iz kolegija svladava sukcesivno i u kontinuitetu, redovan dolazak studenata na predavanje jedina je garancija uspješnog polaganja ispita.

ZAKLJUČAK

Primjena informacijskih tehnologija u turizmu i hotelijerstvu je kolegij koji ima nekoliko ciljeva u oblikovanju modernog menadžera u turizmu i hotelijerstvu, a koji bi se mogli sublimirati u jedan skupni cilj: osposobiti studente za što bezbolniji prijelaz “s faksa na posao” (iz teorije u praksu). Studenti se tijekom pohađanja kolegija susreću većim djelom sa stvarnom poslovnom praksom kroz

acquire an important part of this kind of knowledge by analysing case studies, where the creativity and experience of the lecturer are the determining factors.

Other factors for the success of the course

When they start their studies at the Business School for Tourism and Hotel Management, students usually have a certain degree of previous knowledge, which more or less consists of basic operational computer skills, mostly concerning MS Office,¹¹ and using and searching the Internet. Although only general, this knowledge is a sufficient basis for an active approach to understanding and mastering the skills related to specific business applications, web applications, web development and, inherent in this, the principles of e-marketing.

However, the most important precondition is the equipment of the IT room for practical exercises with computers networked to the central server computer which is also known as the teacher’s computer. Each computer must have a minimum of 256 MB of working memory and a speed of 1 GHz, while the server computer which is superior in hierarchy, must have a minimum of 512 MB of working memory and a speed of 1 GHz. All computers must have broadband Internet access. It is also desirable to have a projector installed in the room with a projection screen, which is linked to the server computer.

Since knowledge in the course is acquired successively and continuously, regular student attendance is the only guarantee to pass the exam.

CONCLUSION

The Application of Information Technologies in the Tourism and Hospitality Industry is a course with several objectives focused on shaping a modern tourism and hotel manager, which can be sublimated into a collective goal – to train students for the seamless transfer from university

simulacije poslovnih procesa i događaja u okviru instaliranih aplikacija i *softwarea* na računalima u informatičkom kabinetu. To mogu provesti samo uz posjedovanje sintetiziranog znanja iz većeg broja kolegija i disciplina koje su prethodno pohađali i položili. Informatika kao materija i disciplina koju izučava kolegij podložna je vrlo dinamičnim promjenama u smislu tehnološkog unaprjeđenja. Stoga studenti ne samo da svladavaju aktualnu materiju već i usvajaju sposobnost nadograđivanja znanja u korak s vremenom. Konačno, kao budući menadžeri, studenti će na ovaj način biti sposobni racionalno procijeniti i optimizirati primjenu informacijskih tehnologija u svom poduzeću, bez obzira na kompleksnost pojedinih tehnoloških rješenja na tom području.

BILJEŠKE

¹ Pod tim se ne podrazumjeva samo poznavanje *MS Officea* već i praktičnih aplikacija hotelskog i agencijskog *softwarea*.

² Namještenik u poduzeću koji se brine samo za održavanje računalnog sustava (bez ikakvih dodatnih programiranja) te posreduje između uprave poduzeća i profesionalnih dobavljača *hardwarea* i *softwarea*.

³ Pojam je aktualan zadnjih 10 godina, a odnosi se na korištenje interneta kao najraširenijeg komunikacijskog medija u marketinške svrhe.

⁴ Pojam označava kreiranje i razvoj web stranice kroz dizajn, sadržaj i pozicioniranje na internetu.

⁵ Aplikacija ili *software* koji je bazično postavljen tako se može dograđivati i prilagođavati profilima i posebnim potrebama naručitelja.

⁶ Odjel u hotelu u kojem se odvija poslovni proces koji se odnosi na kontakte s gostima (prodaja, rezervacije, smještaj i sl.).

⁷ Odjel u hotelu u kojem se odvijaju procesuiranje i evidencija poslovnih događaja mimo kontakta s gostima hotela (obračunska služba, knjigovodstvo i sl.).

⁸ Izvještaj koji se još popularno zove noćna knjiga ili hotelski žurnal, a koji se aktivira na kraju dana (obično između ponoći i 6 sati ujutro) i predstavlja sistematiziranu kompilaciju, prema odjelima i gostima, svih poslovnih događanja i utržaka u hotelu prethodnog dana izraženih u

to work (from theory to practice). During the course, students take part in real business practice by performing simulations of work processes and events on the applications and software installed on the computers in the IT room. This can only be implemented if they already have knowledge synthesised from a large number of courses and disciplines which they have previously attended and completed. Computer science as a subject and discipline in this course is liable to very dynamic changes in terms of technological improvements. Therefore, students not only acquire the current subject matter, but also the skill of building on their knowledge to keep up with the times. Finally, as future managers, students will be able to rationally assess and optimise the application of IT in their company regardless of the complexity of particular technological solutions in this field.

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¹ This not only implies knowing how to use MS Office, but also hotel and agency software programs.

² An employee who takes care of computer maintenance (without any additional programming) and acts as an intermediary between a company's management and the professional hardware and software suppliers.

³ The term has become popular in the last 10 years and relates to the use of the Internet as the most widespread communication medium for marketing purposes.

⁴ This term describes the creation and development of websites and may include design, content development and search engine positioning of the website on the Internet.

⁵ An application or set-up so as to allow upgrading and tailoring to suit the profiles and specific needs of the client.

⁶ A hotel department where the business process related to contacts with guests is carried out (sales, bookings, rooming, etc.).

⁷ A hotel department where the processing and recording of business events not related to contacts with guests is carried out (accounting service, bookkeeping, etc.).

⁸ A report which has also been popularly named "the night book" or "hotel journal", and which is activated at the end of the day (usually between midnight and 6 a.m.) and

brojčanom obliku i evidencijsku sliku gostiju na prijelazu u sljedeći dan.

⁹ Poslužitelj na osobnom računalu koji nije u funkciji interneta, budući da služi samo za isprobavanje kreirane web stranice prije njenog prebacivanja (*uploadinga*) na udaljeni poslužitelj, čime postaje aktivna na internetu.

¹⁰ Jedan od najčešćih alata – programa pomoću kojeg se kreiraju jednostavne, uglavnom statične web stranice.

¹¹ *MS Office* sadrži paket programa, od kojih su najvažniji *MS Word*, *MS Excell*, *MS PowerPoint*, *MS Outlook* i dr.

represents a systematised compilation of all business events and revenues in a hotel by departments and guests of the previous day, expressed in figures and a record of guests through to the following day.

⁹ A server on a PC which is not used for the Internet, but only for testing the created website before uploading it to a distant server, which then activates it on the Internet.

¹⁰ One of the most frequent tools – programs used to create simple, mostly static, websites.

¹¹ MS Office contains a program package, including as most important MS Word, MS Excel, MS PowerPoint, MS Outlook, etc.

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