

## Summer School

### *Challenges in Public Administration – Transformation for the Future*

UDK 35.071.2(047)

Intensive programme/summer school *Challenges in Public Administration – Transformation for the Future* was organised at the Faculty of Administration, University of Ljubljana from 16<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> August 2015, with the active involvement of seven universities: University of Iceland (Iceland), Lillehammer University College (Norway), Matej Bel University (Slovakia), University of Zagreb (Croatia), Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (Lithuania), Tallinn University of Technology (Estonia) and University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Administration (Slovenia) acting as a project promoter. The delivery of the programme was co-financed by EEA & Norway Grants project SI04-0038 *Challenges in Public Administration – Transformation for the Future*. This was the third edition of the intensive programme series titled *Challenges in Public Administration*, while the first two editions (2013 and 2014), titled *Challenges in Public Administration in the EU* were co-financed by the Erasmus Lifelong Learning Programme.

The programme lasted for ten days and it involved 32 students and 17 teachers from eight different countries. The teaching language was English. The main objective of the programme was to discuss topics on current and future challenges of public administration with particular stress on the small-country perspective in the process of public administration transformation. The programme included five modules: English for Academic Purposes; Public Administration and Public Services: Modernization & Challenges; Public Administration and Crisis: Institutions & Policies; Creativity and Innovations in Public Administration; and Trends in Public Management and Organization. Participants' evaluations revealed

that they particularly liked the topics on how to be creative and ensure innovations, on managerial and ethical challenges in public administration, on cutbacks and current administrative reorganizations as well as on current issues in public sector budgeting.

Furthermore, the program included two study visits. The first one was the visit to the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, where participants acquainted the knowledge on sustainable development and environmental policies at the EU and national levels. The second study visit involved visiting the City of Ljubljana, where green policies of the city and Green Capital 2016 project were presented to participants. The organisation of the whole programme was environmentally friendly, participants as well as lecturers took active part in an “eco-friendly” initiative through actions such as “no paper policy” and only e-study materials, mobile applications, e-exam etc. were utilised in the classroom: The participants were encouraged to consider using alternative transportation modes as much as possible (e.g., using bicycle sharing system), etc. This was considered a first step for the Faculty of Administration to become the organization certified with the Green Office.

The programme finished with the closing conference where participants presented their seminar papers and the head of the programme summed up the programme, delivered conclusions, and evaluated impressions. The added value of the programme was the knowledge transfer, since public administration programmes often tend to be “small-scale niche programmes”. Consequently, in order to ensure the programme quality and enable sufficient accumulation and transfer of knowledge, a consortium included seven partner universities, each with specific competitive advantage. Furthermore, all partner universities came from small countries in order to show this perspective clearly.

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