

FACULTY OF FOOD TECHNOLOGY OSIJEK ANNIVERSARY

Dear reader,

With this issue the *Croatian Journal of Food Science and Technology* celebrates the 40th anniversary of the *Faculty of Food Technology Osijek* and the 45th anniversary of the 1970 founding of the *Food Technology Study*. The Faculty is ready to celebrate its vibrant present and promising future.

To mark this anniversary, the Faculty begins the celebration of its anniversary with the ceremony of the Faculty session. The anniversary also includes a program with outstanding guests, colleagues, friends, students and all employees.

A brief history of the Faculty of Food Technology Osijek

The Faculty of Food Technology Osijek is the institution of higher education in the Republic of Croatia established (founded) in 1976 by the decision of the Croatian Parliament. That same year the University of Osijek was established. It was approved by the Decision of the Croatian Parliament in March 1975, when the Agreement on the Establishment of the Osijek University was signed by eight institutions, on May 31, 1975.

The study of food technology started in 1970 at the Faculty of Agriculture Osijek, as a Department for Food Technology, on the initiative of several professors from the Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology in Zagreb. The Faculty was founded with an aim to educate highly qualified engineers, who could meet the needs of food industry in the Slavonia-Baranja region.

The main goal of the study of food technology, in this region, was, and still is, based on the scientific knowledge in the field of natural, social, technical and biotechnical sciences, to help students acquire professional and technical knowledge during the study, to study types and means for processing raw materials into semi-finished and finished products, and to learn about methods for their short or long term preservation, to transfer the knowledge to facilities where food is produced, which has a great economic and strategic importance in the development of Croatia.

The development of the Department of Food Technology, as a part of the Faculty of Agriculture and Food Technology, started in 1970/1971, with the first academic year of food technology when better work conditions were created as a prerequisite for the establishment of the Faculty of Food Technology Osijek, as an independent unit at the University of Osijek, since 1976, within the RO Biotechnology scientific and educational center.

At the same time the building of a new, modern scientific complex on the Tenja road started. After completion of the first phase of construction of a new building, the Faculty began its relocation to the Tenja road bb in 1980 and moved into a building with many classrooms, and facilities for the dean's office. In 1986 it was placed in a new building with modern students' and research laboratories. At that time the Faculty had 6500 m² in total at its disposal and it also adopted the policy for a significant improvement of personnel qualifications.

Since the Faculty was located on the Tenja road, during the war in 1991 and 1992 it suffered great destruction. However, despite this and the fact that the part of the employees left the Faculty, it remained active even during those most difficult days. With the help of the Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology in Zagreb, parts of the activities were transferred to Zagreb, where students could attend classes as guest-students. In addition, some of the students and the Faculty staff were actively involved in the defense of Croatia against aggression.

Despite all the war dangers, the employees, who remained at the Faculty, managed to save most of the equipment from the Tenja road, literally during the shelling. In December 1991 capital equipment was transferred to Zagreb. Due to this and the subsequent rescue of the furniture from the same location, the Faculty of Food Technology Osijek had equipped its laboratories and classrooms.

We owe special thanks to all those individuals and institutions that have helped us in the most difficult period/years of the Faculty.

During the war and in the post war years classes and other activities of the Faculty took place at several locations in the city of Osijek. Finally, in 1995 the Faculty was moved to its present location in Tvrđa.

Under the leadership of several Deans, Tomislav Lovrić, Predrag Novaković, Nikola Faller, Ludvig Purkat, Andrija Pozderović, Vlasta Piližota, Srećko Tomas and Drago Šubarić, the Faculty developed rapidly since its establishment.

Over the past 40 years the Faculty of Food Technology Osijek has produced a talented series of graduates and postgraduates who have gone on to excel in their varied careers – as respected leaders of different corporations/industries and businesses, institutes, academic institutions, agencies and ministries, and as teachers of various courses in secondary schools.

The Faculty of Food Technology Osijek has received numerous awards for its work: The coat of arms of the city of Osijek for the contribution to the development of education, the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek Charter, the Charter of the Croatian Academy of Engineering, Award of the Croatian Chamber of Commerce, Award of the Croatian Society of Chemical Engineers, as well as numerous other awards which have been awarded to individual employees and students.

Faculty today

Today, the Faculty of Food Technology Osijek is a modern institution which currently has 803 students, whose study programs are harmonized with programs of related studies in Europe, and in the World.

Since 1976 the Faculty of Food Technology Osijek, has been educating engineers of food technology, and since 1997 postgraduate study masters (study of Food Engineering), and since 2002 PhD (study of Food Engineering) students.

In accordance with the similar studies in Europe the Faculty of Food Technology Osijek has successfully implemented the Bologna process in its programs. Since the academic year 2005/2006 the following programs have been carried out: an undergraduate study (Food Technology), three graduate studies (Food Engineering, Food Science and Nutrition and Process Engineering), a three-year PhD degree program in bio-technical sciences, scientific field of Food Engineering, and postgraduate specialist studies in Food Safety and Quality, Technology of Traditional Meat Products and Nutrition. The proposal for a new program of postgraduate (PhD) study in Food Technology and Nutrition is under the reviewing process.

The Faculty also performs a variety of educational programs within the concept of lifelong learning, which on the whole incorporate all components of the Bologna process. With successful implementation of these educational programs, the Faculty of Food Technology Osijek has further strengthened its position as a public educational and scientific institution as well as its relationships with the business environment.

The Faculty currently employs 105 staff, out of which 67 in the scientific, educational and associate professions (13 full professors, 16 associate professors, 14 assistant professors, 1 foreign researcher, 1 senior lecturer, 1 lecturer, 5 senior assistants, 11 assistants and 5 expert assistants).

All activities take place at the Faculty addresses Franje Kuhača 18 and 20, and in the Rector's building of the Osijek University (Trg Svetog Trojstva 3), where the Faculty has 5 625 m² of space, which includes 8 modern, fully equipped classrooms, a computer room for students, 20 research laboratories, 13 laboratories for students and others, Library with a reading space (room), the space required for the activities of the Faculty.

Every academic year the Dean of the Faculty issues an announcement, for the Dean's Award for the undergraduate and graduate students and the best achieved success in the academic year. Students are also awarded by the Rector's award each year. Furthermore, every year the Dean rewards top performers/employees for their achievements in the past year.

The Faculty of Food Technology Osijek Library includes 6509 units (out of which are 4337 books and 1307 university textbooks), manuals, text books, printed magazines: a total of 145 out of which 96 international titles and 53 national titles.

By sharing the magazine *Croatian Journal of Food Science and Technology*, published by the University, the library receives a total of 30 journals out of which 15 domestic and 15 foreign. The Library has also an access to many e-journals.

40 years of research at the Faculty of Food Technology Osijek

Today the Faculty has a very rich scientific and professional activity. Seven research projects, two international projects and professional projects are carried out at the moment.

From its very beginning the Faculty has conducted various scientific researches, based on new scientific methods, whose results were presented at national and international conferences and published in many journals.

The Faculty is a successful organizer of international scientific and professional conferences, *Flour-Bread*, *Ružička days*, *Water for all*, *With Food to Health*, and numerous professional conferences and seminars.

The Faculty of Food Technology Osijek supports professional development and lifelong learning of its staff in various ways: by attending pedagogical-psychological-methodological and didactic educational courses for teachers; seminars for technical personnel etc. The Faculty covers costs of doctoral studies at other universities, supports the organization of scientific conferences and allows the use of sabbatical, etc.

The Faculty of Food Technology Osijek especially encourages scientific staff to travel abroad to obtain knowledge about new scientific developments, allowing the staff, at the same time, to be free from the Faculty obligations. Also it connects them with the institutions with which it has signed agreements on cooperation, and it informs them about potential funding.

Croatian Journal of Food Science and Technology

The Croatian Journal of Food Science and Technology is an international scientific-professional journal, which has been published since 2009 by the Faculty of Food Technology Osijek. The Journal publishes original scientific papers, preliminary communications, scientific notes, reviews, professional papers and conference papers. The journal also publishes announcements of events (organization of conferences, meetings), as well as reports from the major conferences. In addition, the journal promotes the books of domestic and foreign authors related to the profession. Scientific papers (original scientific papers, preliminary communications, scientific notes and reviews) started to be published in English from the second volume number four. Two reviewers, at least, are planned for each article. The journal is published twice a year.

So far 15 issues of the journal have been published (7 complete volumes of the journal and the first number of the eighth volume) containing 92 works, out of which 78 in English.

The Journal's main list of reviewers includes 90 reviewers, and so far a total of 201 reviewers from 36 countries were actively involved in reviewing papers of the journal.

The Faculty of Food Technology Osijek is also a co-publisher of the journal *Food in Health and Disease* which is an international scientific-professional journal of nutrition and dietetics, published by the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Tuzla (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

Professional activity at the Faculty of Food Technology Osijek

Professional activity at the Faculty of Food Technology Osijek is reflected through collaboration with economic subjects, with the active projects with the food and chemical industry. Research and teaching activities are realized through cooperation with universities and research institutes, as evidenced by the signed cooperation agreements with many universities, research institutes and institutions and companies in food and chemical industries.

Association of former students and friends of the Faculty of Food Technology Osijek – TehnOS

The Association of former students and friends of the Food Technology Osijek was founded at the University (on 25 March 2011) which aims at improving the quality of studying, improving the scientific and professional work, assisting the current students in the performance of professional practice and employment.

The framework of the activities of the Association includes a number of different events, promotion of the books, lectures of guest-lecturers from Croatia and abroad, different workshop for students, etc.

International Cooperation

All these years the Faculty had a significant international cooperation, including both the scientific and educational programs. In the recent academic years international (institutions in European countries and USA) connections of the Faculty were achieved through the implementation of numerous international projects. The students have stayed at the European universities but teachers and associates of the Faculty of Food Technology Osijek have also stayed at several universities with which the Faculty has cooperation.

Cooperation, with regard to the curriculum, was reflected primarily through the participation of the Faculty teachers in running the undergraduate and postgraduate courses at the universities in Slovenia (Ljubljana) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (Tuzla, Sarajevo, Mostar and Bihac).

Besides, Faculty of Food Technology Osijek has a rich cooperation with scientific/professional institutions in the country and abroad. International cooperation is mainly realized through international projects, membership in international organizations, CEEPUS and ERASMUS mobility programs.

The Faculty is a member of the following international associations:

- *International Association for Cereal Science and Technology (ICC).*
- *The International Honey Commission (IHC).*
- *ISEKI Food Association (IFA)*
- *European Hygienic Engineering & Design Group (EHEDG)*

The future of the Faculty

As the present and the future depend on the past, so it is with the Faculty of Food Technology Osijek.

As demonstrated in this volume, 45 years of the *Faculty of Food Technology Study* have produced many research successes and inspired generations of research scientists who were taught as an undergraduate or trained as master students or postdocs here in Osijek.

The Faculty of Food Technology Osijek will in the coming period be aimed at strengthening the position of one of the leading teaching and research institutions of this Croatian part of the region, aimed at the implementation of internationally recognized research, development and technical research from the field of biotechnological, technical and natural sciences. The Faculty will continue to educate internationally recognized experts and be a reliable partner of the economy, domestic and foreign scientific and educational institutions and students. Special attention will be dedicated to monitoring market needs, and accordingly, the introduction of new study programs, primarily interdisciplinary in cooperation with other components of the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, as well as short-term courses within the concept of lifelong learning.

Furthermore, in the next academic year, the Faculty intends to complete all activities on forming a new graduate university studies in Food Technology and Nutrition.

The study will be structured in line with the latest scientific knowledge and based on the skills and will be comparable to the programs in the countries of the European Union. The curriculum will include topics covering the latest developments in food technology and nutrition. In addition to traditional, direct forms of teaching, the study will largely rely on the system of evaluation and recognition of the learning outcomes acquired in extra-curricular forms of learning. Curricula will contain a detailed breakdown of all extracurricular activities and teaching methods.

The Faculty will continue to take care of student standards and will encourage and help the extracurricular activities of students.

The Faculty will encourage outgoing and incoming mobility of teachers and students and assist assistants and junior researchers in participating at international conferences and writing their doctoral dissertations.

The Faculty will use its own resources for the purposes of teaching and scientific research investing in equipment, upgrading and maintaining the equipment.

It will intensify the connection with other universities and scientific institutions, and encourage inter-institutional and inter-disciplinary research.

As before, all activities at the Faculty of Food Technology Osijek will continue to be directed towards the achievement of the strategic objectives defined by the Development Strategy of the Faculty of Food Technology Osijek.

Vlasta Piližota, Full Professor