

International Relations Office (IRO) of the Faculty of Textile Technology



Prof. **Ana Marija Grancarić**, Ph.D.
Head of the International Relations Office
University of Zagreb, Faculty of Textile Technology
Zagreb, Croatia
e-mail: amgranca@ttf.hr

Survey

By involving Croatia into European integration processes the University of Zagreb has aimed plenty of its activities at encouraging international exchange programs. Systematic inclusion of scientists and teachers and implementation of the Bologna process in higher education are possible if the organizational units of the University establish an international relations office.

To establish international cooperation related to the Bologna process and scientist exchange with related institutions of Europe, the Faculty of Textile Technology founded the International Relations Office (IRO).

The task of the IRO is to help intensify the existing good cooperation of the Faculty of Textile Technology with international institutions in Europe and over the world to exchange students and professors, in a very important segment of searching all available European and other projects with ensured funds. European projects of the Framework Programme 7 - FP7, lasting from 2007 to 2013, have been placed in the foreground.

IRO intensified international relations, setting itself a task to facilitate international student and teacher exchange with cooperation in three major fields: education, research and relationships with the European industry.

To realize this cooperation, the IRO is active at

- networking with universities in Europe and over the world
- creating networks with foreign companies
- looking for possibilities to get financial funds for bilateral, European and other projects, thesis of student and teacher mobility
- establishing relationships with research laboratories and
- conducting and coordinating projects.

It should be emphasized that the IRO will coordinate the cooperation of the textile industry in Croatia, Europe and throughout the world for the purposes of lifelong learning. Since 2005 the Faculty has been conducting the coordination through seminars in Ghent and Zagreb within the framework of Project T2Net. Soon a tripartite project MUDRA will be initiated, in which Faculty of Textile Technology, University of Maribor, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering - Department of Textiles, Ghent University - Department of Textiles and Maribor, Varaždin and Ghent Chambers of Commerce will take part.

At the very beginning of its work the IRO is active at preparations for the implementation of the European Master Programme in Textile Engineering (E-TEAM) at the Faculty of Textile Technology of the University of Zagreb. This is the first postgraduate study under coordination of the University of Za-

greb. The coordinator of the winter semester of the academic year 2007/2009 is Prof. Ana Marija Grancarić, Ph.D., while the other two semesters will take place in Ghent and Terrassa (Spain). Two students of the Faculty of Textile Technology will participate in this postgraduate study.

The Faculty of Textile Technology has been maintaining successful international cooperation up to now and is recognizable in Europe and worldwide. It is a member of many professional and other associations and has patron status for some. The teaching staff of the Faculty of Textile Technology has been collaborating individually with various world scientists, they are members of European and international associations, they are also members of organizing and other committees of international conferences, and they publish their papers in international journals. The Faculty signed several bilateral projects with the Universities of Maribor, Ljubljana, Vienna, Leicester and Ghent. It is a partner in several EUREKA projects, and it has registered European projects.

The Faculty of Textile Technology maintains a noticeable international cooperation with scientific and professional associations and institutions and is a member of AUTEX, ITA, DAAAM, the Textile Institute, CEEPUS, IFKT, SDC and AATCC. **AUTEX** is the Association of Universities for Textiles of Europe with

the purpose of realizing scientific programs of special interest for the development of faculties of textile technology and industry in Europe. This Association plays a key role in European programs because it proposes programs and coordinates with the European Committee, and it organizes the E-TEAM programme, an Advanced Master programme in Textiles.

ITA (International Textile Academia) is the world organization bringing interaction between the various Textile Institutes at the global level to promote scientific and professional work and global education, standardization and international education of textile workers with the possibility of using libraries, teaching aids as well as expert and teacher exchanges.

DAAAM International (The Danube Adria Association for Automation & Manufacturing) deals with scientific problems in the fields of automation, process control and cybernetics and is a forum for the exchange of scientific and professional opinions and innovation solutions. The Faculty of Textile Technology is also a member and one of the founders of DAAAM International Network for Advanced Technologies. Since 1990 DAAAM International Vienna has been the organizer of DAAAM International Symposium which takes place in significant scientific member centers every year. Within DAAAM International special textile clothing section is active. Our Faculty was awarded the highest recognition by DAAAM International - Gold Medal in 2001 for its longstanding work and significant scientific contributions. The scientists of our Faculty were awarded medals and diplomas for the best papers and their presentations - DAAAM International Award, and young scientists were awarded scholarships for a high scientific level of research and presentation of their papers.

The Textile Institute, Manchester (UK) is the oldest scientific professional association in textiles in Europe and in the world, whose individual and corporate members come from 90 countries. The curricula and programs of our Faculty have been verified by this organization, and the diplomas earned at our Faculty are equally recognized in all European Unity countries, Commonwealth and USA. In the course of obtaining accreditation the reviewers pointed out that our Faculty should act as a faculty model of this profession in transition countries.

CEEPUS (Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies) program supports the exchange of teaching staff and students with the purpose of scientific, professional and teaching improvement with the faculties: Liberec (Czech Republic), Maribor (Slovenia), Bratislava (Slovakia), Lodz (Poland), Budapest (Hungary), Hradec Kralove (Czech Republic). The Faculty of Textile Technology has participated in the CEEPUS program for 12 years. Within the scope of this cooperation a number of young scientists of our Faculty conducted their researches related to writing master and doctoral theses at these institutions. The significance of this CEEPUS program can be seen in a large number of scientific papers which were published in co-authorship as a result of this important international cooperation.

IFKT (International Federation of Knitting Technologists) in Reutlingen, Germany, brings together technicians and knitting specialists from manufacturing, scientific research institutes and faculties. The Croatian section of the IFKT was founded in 1993 and organized the 14th conference of the Federation in October, 2002, in Zagreb.

SDC (Society of Dyers and Colourists), Bradford (UK), founded

in 1884, brings together experts studying the science of colour. They perform all kinds of testing and colour measurements for the needs of industry branches where it is important to observe all colour parameters. The Society publishes books and scientific professional publications relevant for colour phenomenon in all forms. The membership of our Faculty in this Society makes it possible that our students become members of the Society and are entitled to competitions organized by the Society. The students of the last years of undergraduate study and postgraduate study are registered in the book: Book of CV's that is sent to companies and institutions throughout Europe as a recommendation for employment.

AATCC (American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists), Raleigh, NC (USA) is the best known scientific association for the development and application of textile chemistry in technological processes and research. The Association has more than 5000 individual members and 270 member organizations from USA and 65 countries. The basic aim of the Association is education and application of dyestuffs and other finishing agents in the textile industry as well as information transfer in its monthly AATCC Review.

In line with the Bologna process the Faculty of Textile Technology has internationalized the contents of its studies in a certain number of joint study courses with teachers from European universities, and in the courses that will be held in English or other world languages. The teaching staff of the Faculty cooperates with about 30 university centers and scientific institutions in Europe and throughout the world.