

Univerza v Ljubljani

University of Ljubljana is the oldest and largest higher education and scientific research institution in Slovenia. University with its rich tradition was founded in 1919. It has approximately 41,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students and employs approximately 6,000 higher education teachers, researchers, assistants and administrative staff in 23 faculties and three arts academies. The central building, all three academies and faculties are located in the centre. Some of the most recent and modern buildings were constructed on the outskirts of Ljubljana, giving the university and its students a ubiquitous presence in the city.

The University of Ljubljana is renowned for its quality social and natural sciences and technical study programmes, structured in accordance with the Bologna Declaration. Our projects keep pace with the latest developments in the areas of arts, sciences and technology at home and abroad.

The University of Ljubljana ranks among the top 3% of universities in the world. It has been ranked among the top 600 universities by the prestigious Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU); it is placed 384th in The Center for World University Rankings (CWUR), and listed in the 800-1000 group in the Times Higher Education (THE) ranking.

The University of Ljubljana is the central and largest educational institution in Slovenia. It is also the central and largest research institution in Slovenia with 30 percent of all registered researchers (according to the data from the SICRIS database).

The University takes a central pedagogical position by performing public services in the areas

of special social importance which ensure the preservation of the national identity.

The University of Ljubljana has close ties with Slovenian companies and foreign enterprises. Our partners include multinational corporations and the most successful Slovenian companies. As we are fully aware of the importance of knowledge and skills in obtaining our own financial sources, we are increasingly developing our market oriented activities every year.

UNIVERSITY OF LJUBLJANA MISSION

The University of Ljubljana implements and promotes basic, applied and developmental research and is pursuing excellence and the highest quality as well as the highest ethical criteria in all scientific fields and art. In these areas of national identity the University of Ljubljana specifically develops and promotes Slovenian scientific and professional terminology. Based on its own, Slovenian, and foreign research, the University of Ljubljana (UL) educates critical thinking top scientists, artists and professionals qualified for leading sustainable development, taking into account the tradition of the European Enlightenment and Humanism and with regard to human rights. Special attention is dedicated to developing talents.

The UL encourages interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary study, exchanges results of achievements in science and art with other universities and scientific research institutions, thus contributing to the Slovenian and world knowledge treasury as well contributing to the transfer of these achievements among the students and other users.

The UL cooperates with organizations from economy and service in public and private sector, with state organizations, local communities, and civil society. With this cooperation accelerates the use of own research and educational achievements and contributes to the social development.

UNIVERSITY OF LJUBLJANA VALUES

The University of Ljubljana builds and strengthens the academic union of professors, researchers, students and other associates and aims at the university enforcement at home and in the world. The research, education, professional and public activities, as well as the relations between the community members are based on the:

- academic excellence and the highest possible quality,
- academic freedom of the academic and other staff and students, especially the freedom of creativity,
- autonomy in relation to the state, political parties, corporations and religious communities,
- humanism and human rights including equal possibilities and solidarity,
- ethical and responsible attitude towards the world.

UNIVERSITY OF LJUBLJANA VISION

By 2020, the University of Ljubljana will be recognized as an internationally open and excellent research university, creatively contributing to the quality of life.

The University of Ljubljana increased the volume of research. The UL researchers are included in the 157 national research programmes, 230 basic and 126 applied projects and in 120 targeted research programmes. The project provides a platform for training of 36 post-doctoral researchers registered by the Slovenian Research Agency, 620 young researchers, and 138 young researchers from economy. The UL participates in 818 research programmes of the total value of 25 million EUR outside the national programme and not financed by the EU. The UL conducts around 400 research and development projects financed by the EU – in 2006, there were 234. The total value for the project financing from the 7th Framework programme has increased from 2009 until 2001 - from a little less than 12 million to more than 17.5 million EUR.

The number of scientific publications has risen from 2006 – from 1188 to 1876. The number of citations increased for 14.1%. This shows the growth of quality in research. Nevertheless, the University of Ljubljana lags behind the number of the publications by comparable universities, such as the University of Wien, for more than half.

The University of Ljubljana has reformed the study programmes following the goals and principles of the Bologna process - 157 accredited first cycle, 182 second cycle, and 21 doctoral study programmes. The new generations are enrolled in the reformed programmes, while the pre-reform studies are gradually being omitted. The implementation of the new programmes is still in progress; the ones reformed in 2004 are already being evaluated and re-accredited. The new structure of study enables more, though still insufficient, selection of study contents by the students themselves. A special achievement is the establishment of the Doctoral school, introducing high quality standards and interdisciplinarity. Three doctoral study programmes are being coordinated by the University Rectorate, others by the UL Members. The student numbers of student exchange between the UL Members is gradually increasing. Interdisciplinary study programmes are being accredited.

The number of students, enrolled at the University of Ljubljana is decreasing – from 63.000, the highest number in history, to the present 52.000 with a larger decrease in part-time study. The overall decrease is the result of the unfavourable demographic trends, yet the interest to study at the University of Ljubljana still remains high compared to the other higher education institutions in Slovenia. Smaller numbers of students can also be attributed to better progression rates that are shortening the study time. The improvement is still needed in organization of practical training, learning bases and the mentors of practical training should be better trained. The UL is still not systematically monitoring the employability of the graduates.

The University of Ljubljana international cooperation is strengthening. The volume of international research and its financial value increased and the numbers of international publications and citations are rising. The UL records positive trends in incoming students mobility (more than 1800) and enrolment of foreign students (more than 1500). The UL employs 68 foreign citizens; altogether more than 430 foreign staff are included in research and education. The number of subjects, offered in foreign languages increases and amount to 459 now (more than 5%). The summer schools (31) and international conferences (40) are very well visited. The number of outgoing students in international exchange is significantly lower than incoming (less than 1000). The UL also lags behind in using other, more sophisticated forms of internationalization and offering programmes abroad. There are still possibilities to be explored and exploited in this area.

The knowledge transfer runs through the projects of the University of Ljubljana, conducted together with the users and for the market. There are about 700 projects in the total value of more than 10 million EUR; and does not drop despite the crisis. The new form of cooperation with the economy are publicly funded Competence Centres; the University of Ljubljana participates in all seven. Three UL Members experimentally established institutions for more efficient knowledge transfer to practice and for more encouraging conditions for cooperation at all levels. Their contribution remains to be evaluated. The knowledge transfer office is trying to foster patents, which are still modestly represented. There are more than 630 professionals from practice and 450 researchers included in the implementation of the programmes. The life-long learning programmes attract over 4000 participants, the possibilities of additional qualifications development and offer is underexploited.

The University of Ljubljana established a comprehensive quality assurance system, defined its elements, and formed a set of indicators in yearly planning and reporting. The habilitation system is being improved. The tutoring was developed. Students surveys are being used in order to give feedback to the teachers. The Career centre was formed and is performing activities at all the UL Members. The UL Members are involved in self-evaluation reporting. Individual UL Members have acquired international accreditations of study programmes. Quality assurance committees are active both at the university and at the UL Members. The development of the quality assurance system is geared primarily towards defining some additional elements (monitoring the employability of graduates, employees' satisfaction, development of study programmes' quality assessment) and establishment of the link between the instruments with the decision-making and improvement processes.

Among the extracurricular activities, the central position belongs to sport which in addition to other possibilities offers also developed ECTS credited programmes. Unfortunately, the student's regular sports activity is seen to have been decreasing over the last few years. The UL is also supporting competitive sport, which is included in the activities of the students organizations and Student Councils' activities. Another form of extracurricular activity is caring for students with special needs – there are 289 at the UL.

As shown by the overview of individual university's activities, the UL has achieved a more comprehensive provision of study programmes. The links are provided through common services such as library system, information system, public procurement, and similar systems. There are still other possibilities.