



Dear readers,

It is my great pleasure to present to you a special edition of *Strojarstvo* the Journal for Theory and Application in Mechanical Engineering Journal that has been published on the occasion of the 35th Anniversary of Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek.

Referring to the historical overview of higher education development in Eastern Croatia, I am especially glad to stress out the fact that the study of Mechanical Engineering in Slavonski Brod was established 48 years ago. Development of the Mechanical Engineering study is of special importance for the University of Osijek, as it was a co-founder of the University and acted as one of signatories of the Act on the foundation of the University of Osijek on May 31, 1975.

Slavonski Brod is the second largest city in Eastern Croatia, and sixth in size in Croatia; it is a seat of the *Brod-Posavina* County that has a population of 176 765 inhabitants, of whom more than 50 000 are youth. Slavonski Brod is also an important economic and cultural centre of the Croatian border region. In the long-term University development plans, as well as within the polycentric higher education development system, the city of Slavonski Brod is foreseen to be a centre of higher education in the *Brod-Posavina* County.

With great pleasure I can point out that, besides its rich cultural and historical tradition, Slavonski Brod is the city of students. There are almost 2 000 students at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and the Polytechnic of Slavonski Brod.

The Faculty of Mechanical Engineering in Slavonski Brod is one of three technical faculties and one of 16 university constituent members. It offers university study programs at undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate level, as well as professional studies. Furthermore, there are other satellite studies carried out in Slavonski Brod. The Faculty of Education organizes the teacher education study program for already 10 years, and early preschool education program since the current academic year. The Polytechnic of Slavonski Brod, existing for 4 years, offers three professional studies in Management, Horticulture and Mechanical Engineering. Worth mentioning is also the Student Centre in Slavonski Brod, which provides accommodation and other services to students for already 15 years and assures high quality student standard. All above mentioned facts are in support of systematic development of higher education in Slavonski Brod, and assure students' equal studying opportunities and status within the University of Osijek academic community.

Strojarstvo the Journal in Mechanical Engineering Journal is of great importance not only for the scientific field of Mechanical Engineering, but also for Technical Sciences in general. Since 1959, the Journal publishes scientific and professional papers that contribute greatly to Mechanical Engineering science and profession, but, at the same time, it represents a great enthusiasm of our scientists.

The University of Osijek takes part in 159 scientific and professional projects from all scientific fields financed by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports. Furthermore, our University strongly supports cooperation and projects realized with the economic sector. In this academic year the University plans to develop the Technopolis project, within which the biggest technology park in Croatia will be established to assure better possibilities for knowledge transfer to economy sector. Synergy among University, local and state government will lead to improvement of economic sector not only in Slavonia, but also in Croatia.

Looking back to 35 years of the University history, we can conclude that our University has become recognized in Croatian and in European academic community.

Finally, I need to stress out that this is the opportunity to remember all scientists, teachers and staff that put part of themselves, their work and knowledge in the development of our University in the past 35 years. I wish to express my deepest gratitude to all members of our academic community because their work has made our University a desirable place for studying.

Yours, Rector

Prof. D. Sc. Dr. h. c. Gordana KRALIK