



STIPULATED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF SCIENTIFIC AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AT SINGIDUNUM UNIVERSITY TO FOSTER THE INCLUSION INTO THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

The advancement of information and communication technologies and dominant prevalence of English language usage have triggered concurrent globalization of science and higher education. Under such circumstances, internalization of scientific and research activities represents a crucial indicator of HEI quality. In Serbia, internationalization of science and higher education is mostly implemented through the process of Europeanization, which is driven by the Bologna Process. In the last decade, the national framework has become too tight for the policies that are negligent towards the international context.

In the absence of state-run initiatives to impose a strategy of internationalization of science and higher education and provide resources for its implementation, higher education institutions are forced to act individually in the international research area and define a strategy that would contribute to the development of research and innovation. Well-defined strategy shall have an impact on students – they will be more motivated by the teaching environment with the prevailing scientific and research activity. The Strategy for Scientific and Technological Development 2010-2015 does not address the internalization of scientific and research activities, it merely states that certain HEI institutions from Serbia have reached an advanced level of scientific and technological cooperation with the international education and research institutions, especially in the European region, through the EU Sixth and Seventh Framework Programme; and that certain HEIs are indulged in COST, EUREKA, NATO, UNESCO projects as well as in multilateral and bilateral cooperation.

Currently, the lack of adequate accommodation facilities for incoming students represents the key factor that infringes the internationalization of most Serbian universities.

Considering the above-mentioned, it can be concluded that the requirements placed before Serbian universities shall be more and more influenced by the demands of the global market. For that reason and with the aim to ensure future advancement and development, the management of Singidunum University shall make its activities more international by participating in the international scientific and research projects and by providing mobilities to its students, teaching and research staff.

Successful internationalization is of vital importance for the university visibility, scientific results and financial gain. The process of integration into the European research area involves a number of activities, including applying for research funded by the European Union and sending experts to be trained at the international scientific and research higher education centres.

Aims for the establishment of scientific and technological cooperation with the international higher education (HE) and research institutions

- Formation of the working group for the establishment of bilateral and multilateral international agreements in the field of research and education;

- Establishment of cooperation agreements with the industries from the EU and other world countries. The main objective of this long-term collaborative program is to support cooperation in the field of science and technology on the basis of parity and mutual interests with respect to institutional priorities;
- Generation of the enlargement plan to enhance the existent span of collaboration with the foreign institutions;
- Establishment of budget funds dedicated for financing the inclusion into the European research area;
- Ratification of the document *Declaration of Commitment by the members of the EURAXESS Service Network*, which is signed by 45 scientific and research institutions from the Republic of Serbia. EURAXESS portal is a unique web service for researchers around the world who want to start or continue their scientific career in European research institutions. As part of a broad European initiative comprising 35 countries, national EURAXESS network is available to domestic and foreign mobile researchers and provides a wide range of information necessary for the development of scientific-research careers in the European Research Area, as well as direct aid in specific cases.
- Hiring foreign teachers, researchers and doctoral students to teach at the university
- Promoting international competences of our teaching staff. Lecturers who teach at Singidunum University must be able to respond properly to the imposed requirements i.e. to have adequate multilingual and intercultural competences besides professional expertise.
- Improvement of capacities necessary for research, primarily through HORIZON 2020.

Indicators of internationalization for scientific-research activities

- The number of papers published in international scientific journals indexed in *Thomson Reuters*,
- The number of published monographs and chapters in monographs published by some of the largest publishing companies,
- Participation of the teaching staff in international scientific conferences,
- Citations of articles written by the teaching staff at the University,
- The number of projects carried out in cooperation with foreign scientific-research and education centers and institutions,
- The number of local and international patent applications submitted by the teaching staff at the University,
- Involvement of the teaching staff in working bodies and organizational boards of international scientific conferences,
- Establishment of the fund for young talents at the University level,
- Involvement of foreign teachers, researchers and PhD students in teaching processes at the University,
- Financial gain from research activities.

When it comes to the procedures for selection of teaching staff, the following criteria should be considered:

- The number of papers published in international scientific journals indexed in *Thomson Reuters*,
- The number of published monographs and chapters in monographs published by some of the largest publishing companies,

- Participation in international scientific conferences,
- Citations of articles published,
- Postdoctoral research at foreign institution,
- Plan of scientific-research activities,
- Involvement in academic mobility.

In cases when foreign teachers, researchers and PhD students are hired at Singidunum University for the purpose of teaching or conducting scientific-research activities, it is necessary to be aware of the appropriate legal framework and act accordingly. The employment of foreign teachers, researchers and PhD students in the Republic of Serbia is thoroughly stipulated by the following legal acts and documents adopted at the national level:

- Law on Higher Education ("Official Gazette of the RS", No. 76/2005, 100/2007 – authentic interpretation 97/2008, 44/2010, 93/2012, 89/2013, 99/2014 and 45/2015-authentic interpretation),
- Law on Scientific-Research Activities ("Official Gazette of the RS ", No. 110/2005, 50/2006 – amended and 18/2010).

Besides the aforementioned, other relevant acts and documents regulating the employment of foreign nationals in the RS are the Law on employment of foreign nationals (" Official Gazette of the RS", No. 128/2014) and the Law on foreigners (" Official Gazette of the RS", No. 97/2008). The Law on employment of foreign nationals is not applicable to foreigners who are staying in the Republic of Serbia without concluding the employment contract, for the purpose of performing certain jobs based on the appropriate contracts or agreements with international organizations, between the authorized institutions in the Republic of Serbia and other states, or within international projects on professional-technical cooperation, education or research. Pursuant to this Law, the complex employment procedure is not applicable to teachers or researchers participating in organized professional gatherings, or those who are publishing publications with the aim to present or perform various scientific and technical achievements, provided that the duration of their stay does not exceed 90 days within a period of six months from the date of first entry in the Republic of Serbia.

A foreign PhD student can be employed as an assistant at Singidunum University, provided that he/she has completed previous studies with the GPA of 8.00 or higher, that he/she has necessary teaching competencies and methodologies, and that he/she meets the general criteria for the employment of foreign nationals. Besides employment opportunities, foreign PhD students can be contractually hired to perform temporary and occasional jobs, if such jobs do not last longer than 120 working days per year, and if those are unemployed individuals or individuals without full-time employment.

In order to promote international openness, the University conducts relevant policies, actions and measures to enhance international competitiveness and achieve favourable results that would contribute to better positioning of the University on the relevant ranking lists, and encourage its further advancement and development of activities through participation in international research projects, mobility of students, teaching and research staff.

Cooperation development and identification of the relationship with international research institutions shall be conducted through advocating an open and transparent approach prescribed by the European Commission (*OpenAIRE 2020*), as the nominated European *Infrastructure Supporting Open Science*. That would enable access to financial sources, exchange of publications, data, sources of data, researchers, organizations, and would enable

openness and transparency in cooperation with international scientific and education institutions.

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Singidunum University
SIPUS Team