

Title: iSchools as an inspirational movement: Information Science harmonization issues

Organizer(s): EINFOSE – Erasmus plus project

Main coordinator: University of Osijek, Croatia

Partners: University of Båras, Sweden; University of Hildesheim, Germany; University of Graz, Austria; University of Ljubljani, Slovenia; University of Pisa, Italy; University of Barcelona, Spain; and Hacettepe University, Turkey.

Key Participants:

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Abstract:

The function of this panel is to provide an interactive platform for faculty members interested in designing Information Science (IS) educational programs and motivating students with different background other than in IS to become information professionals. This interactive panel session will introduce the goals and aims of the EINFOSE project and debate the issues of harmonization of entry requirements and learning outcomes at graduate level programs in IS. The short multimedia session will include in-person students presentations, comment by one panelist and dialogue with the audience. Panel participants will be polled on their knowledge of and attitudes towards challenges and changes in Higher education area in the field of IS. After the panelists have provided their perspectives on the issues of harmonization and approaches to how to attract students with different BA background other than IS at graduate programs, all participants will have an opportunity to join the debate in several groups lead by panelists.

Description: A description of the event of up to 1,000 words, addressing each of the following:

Purpose and Intended Audience:

- EINFOSE (European Information Science Education: Encouraging Mobility and Learning Outcomes Harmonization) is an EU funded project under the Erasmus plus program. The aim of EINFOSE project is to overcome differences that exist in the area of entry requirements and learning outcomes in the field of Information Science (IS) by a) analysing the state-of-the-art- in partner institutions; b) offering recommendations that could mitigate or even eliminate the differences in

enrolment procedures at different HEIs; c) offering common entry requirements through preparatory summers schools that could help in reaching a higher enrolment of students with different educational background at the graduate level programs in IS. After the original research is reported, invited experts from information science, will be asked to offer their comments and suggestions. We expect to discuss several issues that come up during the progress of EINFOSE project with deans/chairs or/and program coordinators of I-schools or (L)IS schools. We are looking forward to expected outcomes as a fruitful contribution to the final proposals EINFOSE project is due to present to Erasmus plus funders in relation to the project's main goal: Recommendations for harmonization of entry requirements and learning outcomes in IS for master degrees. The project goal and aims are in the line with *The 2013 Communication on Opening Up Education* and *Modernization agenda in Higher education*, in particular with the issues relevant to the new profiles of i-professionals and recognition of digital skills and qualifications across borders.

- *Proposed activities including agenda, ramp-up (development), and follow-through:* This event intends to invite participants to an active participation in discussion by allowing them to comment some of the topics prepared by EINFOSE team. After the short introduction of the EINFOSE project the panelists will engage with participants in several groups presenting them leaflets with Interaction and Engagement (SIE) main goals and expected outcomes. The participants will be asked to approach and comment main outcomes of a comparative analysis of undergraduate programs and entry requirements for graduate programs in information science (IS) at 8 European HE institutions. This part of the Interaction and Engagement (SIEs) will include mixed methodology – group work, drawing and reporting. Next part will be devoted to the of Didactic Framework and will call for other type of participants grouping with a goal to allow them to offer some useful suggestions for attracting the best students with other background education to IS studies and better management of their preparation for the enrolment at graduate programs in IS. The outcomes of proposed SIE will be visible through a report that will be used for dissemination among iSchools and LIS departments as well as participants at the International Conference of Future education of information professionals in Pisa, September 2018. Last part of the proposed SIE will be devoted to summing up and highlighting received suggestions. One of the goals of our event will be to involve as many of our colleagues from i-Schools as possible for their comments and suggestions.
- *Relevance to the Conference/Significance to the Field:*

One of the main outcomes of the EINFOSE project is expected to be Policy Recommendation for the Entry Requirements and Learning Outcomes harmonization. After necessary modifications, the document will be available for final discussion at the EINFOSE International Symposium in Pisa, 10-11 September 2018 (<http://feis2018.di.unipi.it>).

The project's objectives are in line with *ET2020*, especially its key priorities from the *Modernization agenda* (EC, 2011) that relate to the improvement of the quality and relevance of teaching and learning, promotion of student' and staff' mobility, cross-border cooperation and the emphasis on the importance of the "knowledge triangle". All partners involved in EINFOSE project are determined to further develop their partnership network, share experience with other colleagues, and to take an active part in the implementation of the goals of the 2013 *Communication on Opening Up Education* (EC, 2013), in particular of these goals that might result in easier recognition of digital skills and qualifications across borders.

Since iSchool community is recently spreading over the world, and in Europe in particular, we believe that EINFOSE project could contribute to the rising of the awareness of the need to re-think the potentials of LIS education in a changing environment.

Duration: Our session requires 90-minute session.

Title	Presenter	Time (min.)
<i>Overview of the Study and Results</i>	T. Aparac-Jelušić	5
Multimedia session	Thomas Mandl & the audience	10
<i>The View from an i-School</i>	Elena Maceviciute & the audience	10
<i>The View from a Computer Science school</i>	Maria Simi & the audience	10
Overview of EINFOSE main Recommendations	Polona Vilar & the audience	20
<i>Open Discussion</i>	Panelists & the audience	30
<i>Concluding remarks</i>	Serap Kurbanoglu	5
		90

Table 1. The Agenda for the panel.

Tatjana Aparac-Jelušić

Retired as Distinguished Professor, Department of Information Sciences, University of Zadar and Dean of the PhD program Knowledge Society and the Information

Transfer. She is currently main coordinator of the EINFOSE project, 2016 – 2018. Professor Aparac-Jelušić has received Kukuljević's Award (Croatian highest award in LIS field) and ASIST/Thompson/ISI Outstanding Teacher of Information Science 2006. Her main research interests are theory of IS, education for information professionals, convergence of disciplines and digitization of written heritage.