

University and Lifelong Learning in Serbia

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Abstract

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We analyze the definition and the main features of Lifelong Learning and discuss its role in Serbian education and society.

Lifelong learning

Basics

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All learning activity undertaken throughout life, with the aim of improving knowledge, skills and competence, within a personal, civic, social and/or employment-related perspective.

Lifelong learning

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 - ▶ **Self-directed learning** (the individual makes all decision about *what* and *how* to learn).
- ▶ Updating basic skills and offering learning opportunities at more advanced levels.

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Learning seems to focus on the person, while education focuses on the system.

Lifelong learning

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- ▶ **Insight into the demand for learning**, by analyzing and redefining basic skills (including e.g., the new information and communication technologies), taking into account foreseeable labour market trends.
- ▶ **Adequate resourcing**, better public and private investment in learning (not only by increasing public budgets, but by an allocation of existing resources and by encouraging new forms of investment). Investment in human capital is important at all points in the economic cycle; skills gaps and shortages co-exist with unemployment.

Lifelong learning

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- ▶ **Creating a learning culture** by giving learning a higher profile, both in terms of image and by providing incentives for the people most reticent to opt for learning.
- ▶ **Striving for excellence** through the introduction of quality control and indicators to measure progress (standards, guidelines and mechanisms whereby achievements can be recognised and rewarded).

Lifelong learning in Serbia

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- ▶ the development of information literacy.

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The programme tackles all levels of education, all forms of education both formal and informal which may involve a person throughout their life, and it contributes to the advancement of their competencies knowledge, skills and attitudes in the personal, civic and professional domain.

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- ▶ counseling for individuals and groups interested in LLL.

They can also deal with research in the field of LLL and promote relevant ideas in the society.

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The Centre was established on November 15, 2011, by a decision of the University Council.

Lifelong learning in Serbia

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- ▶ counseling for individuals interested in lifelong learning programs

Lifelong learning in Serbia

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- ▶ promotion of the idea of lifelong learning and the promotion of lifelong learning courses in the public
- ▶ research in the field of lifelong learning services (the needs of potential clients, etc.)
- ▶ participation in the international system of lifelong learning and cooperation with international projects in this field
- ▶ establishment of academic, scientific and expert cooperation with other institutions in the country and abroad engaged in lifelong learning.

Lifelong learning in Serbia

Projects

At the University of Kragujevac:

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TEMPUS JP 145010-2008

Lifelong learning in Serbia

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The main goal of this project is the development of lifelong learning framework in Serbia. It is important to emphasize that the project is in line with the national priorities: development of lifelong learning in the context of the reform of higher education in Serbia, the training of non-university teachers, development of partnerships with enterprises and employers, reduction of the unemployment and definition of qualification framework.

Lifelong learning in Serbia

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- ▶ Promoting entrepreneurial culture in education and training and cooperation with enterprises.

Lifelong learning in Serbia

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Developing and setting up measurement for initiating
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Lifelong learning in Serbia

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Setting up a continuous learning and quality improvement system for universities.

Lifelong learning in Serbia

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Seminars will be organized at all five Serbian universities at the third project year.

Lifelong learning in Serbia

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Contemporary topics in Applied Statistics will be presented.

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ICT

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Companies, enterprizes, banks, public institutions... encourage and support employees to enrol such courses.

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Teacher is required to improve his skills continuously for successful implementation and improvement of educational work and for the acquisition of required competencies as well as for achieving educational goals and standards.

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Every year a list of approved seminars is published on the web site of the Ministry.

Lifelong learning in Serbia

Assumptions and risks

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- ▶ Serbia is not at all a knowledge-based society.
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- ▶ Funding, certificates.
- ▶ Enterprizes and companies mostly do not show interest in LLL for their employees.

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- ▶ periodical LLL courses for employees.

Thank you for your attention!