University and Lifelong Learning in Serbia

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Banská Bystrica, January 22, 2013
Abstract

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The view from the European Commissions memorandum on Lifelong Learning:

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
Basics

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*The scale of current economic and social change, the rapid transition to a knowledge-based society and demographic pressures resulting from an ageing population in Europe are all challenges which demand a new approach to education and training, within the framework of lifelong learning.*
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Lifelong learning is mostly about:

▶ Acquiring and updating all kinds of abilities, interests, knowledge and qualifications from the pre-school years to post-retirement.
▶ Considering all forms of learning, namely:
  ▶ Formal learning (university).
  ▶ Non-formal learning (obtaining particular skills at the workplace).
  ▶ Informal learning (home schooling, in the family, with friends).
  ▶ 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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Other lifelong learning contexts:

- Adult education (acquisition of formal qualifications and skills later in life).
- Continuing education (mainly courses offered by higher education institutions).
- E-learning, on-line learning.

The term "education" usually carries an institutional or system connotation, whereas the term "learning" connotes behavior of the individual. Learning seems to focus on the person, while education focuses on the system.
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Lifelong learning strategies:

- Partnership working (between public authorities and education service providers (schools, universities, etc.), the business sector and the social partners, research centres, etc.)
- 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.
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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).
From the site of the Serbian Government:

Serbia has accessed the European Union Lifelong Learning Programme aimed at cooperation in the field of education and training, the mobility of participants and their preparation for the European labor market. The Memorandum between the Government of Serbia and the European Commission was signed in Brussels on December 21, 2011. It will enable full-fledged participation of Serbia in the Programme, unlike prior indirect participation as a third country. Thus Serbia is given an opportunity to take part in all EU projects on all levels of education, which is a significant reward.
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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.
The role of the university
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Academic institutions are mostly involved in LLL throughout the framework of formal learning.
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They can offer

- updated academic courses
- expert training
- 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.
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- development of the system of lifelong learning at the University of Belgrade
Lifelong learning in Serbia

Universities

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- counseling for individuals interested in lifelong learning programs
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Lifelong learning in Serbia

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- 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:

Development of Lifelong Learning Framework in Serbia

TEMPUS JP 145010-2008

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.
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Objectives:

▶ Development of high-quality lifelong learning system supported by ICT.
▶ Development of national system for recognition and valuation of LLL.
▶ Promoting entrepreneurial culture in education and training and cooperation with enterprises.
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Projects

At the University of Novi Sad:

- Developing and setting up measurement for initiating, enhancing, and sustaining Higher-Education-Society-Cooperation
- TEMPUS project
- Enhancing the employability of university graduates
- Ensuring LLL and on-the-job training for academics
- Fostering transfer and multiplication of academic knowledge to society
- Combating brain drain
- Setting up a continuous learning and quality improvement system for universities
Lifelong learning in Serbia

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Lifelong learning in Serbia

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Projects

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511140-TEMPUS-1-2010-1-RS-TEMPUS-JPCR
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The results of the project will be the new master curriculum in applied statistics and a number of LLL courses in statistics.
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Seminars will be organized at all five Serbian universities at the third project year.
Some experts from Republic Statistical Office and National Bank of Serbia will also participate at LLL seminars and they will share their opinion on suitable topics for the seminars.
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Contemporary topics in Applied Statistics will be presented.
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In the field of ICT, Lifelong Learning is successfully applied.

Universities, computer laboratories, institutes, organize courses to improve skills and update knowledge in ICT.
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Universities, computer laboratories, institutes, organize courses to improve skills and update knowledge in ICT.

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

Sustainability?
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Lifelong learning in Serbia
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Lifelong learning in Serbia
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Lifelong learning in Serbia
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How to improve LLL organized by universities?
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Permanent and essential connection of university with society, economy, enterprizes:

▶ appropriate study programs;
▶ students' practice organized in collaboration with enterprizes;
▶ seminar works, diploma, master, PhD thesis',... dealing with concrete problems arising in the society and economy. (e.g., EKMI);
▶ periodical LLL courses for employees.
Future

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Thank you for your attention!