

UNIVERSITY OF ZADAR
Department of History

**STRATEGY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
HISTORY
2013 - 2020**

Zadar, 2013

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. REASONS FOR THE STRATEGY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, UNIVERSITY OF ZADAR

The Department of History at the University of Zadar was founded on the tenets of the Department of History at the Faculty of Philosophy in Zadar, the first dislocated higher education institution in Croatia founded in 1955, and on physical and cultural continuity of the first university on Croatian soil – *Studium Generali Sancti Dominici Jadræ* from 1396. With regards to the high rank the Department of History had thus gained, particularly after the *Strategy of the University of Zadar* in 2011 and its *Amendments* in 2013 have been adopted, it was necessary for the Department of History to adopt a similar document, which would represent a framework for the Department's development in the following years. The document does not contain the parts of general importance for all segments of the University but only particularities related to specific activities of the Department of History as a segment of an integrated university such is the University of Zadar.

The Department of History brings its development strategy for the period until 2020, with a view even further ahead regarding those segments that must be planned for a very long term. The *Strategy* covers all aspects of the Department's development within the University of Zadar, Croatian academic community, the town of Zadar, the region, the Republic of Croatia, and, to a certain extent, European and world academic community. This document is based on a vision of development, but it also attempts to answer the question what the Department of History stands for in Croatia today in educational and research sense, since only after such an analysis a reliable manner of development can be determined.

1.2. MISSION

Mission of the Department of History, University of Zadar is based on the Law on Science and Higher Education in Republic of Croatia, which obliges universities and their integrated components to conduct scientific, educational, and development policies. The Department of History will particularly promote the policy of strategic interest to the eastern Adriatic region. This particularly emphasizes the fundamental objective of the Department of History: scientific valorisation of historical processes in the Adriatic as a part of the Mediterranean. This policy will be reflected in organization and implementation of research activities and conduct of undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral studies. The Department will continue to improve its organizational framework, ensure concerted actions of all its components and reasonable usage of its human and material resources. It will ensure mobility of students and teachers in accordance with available financial resources, inter-institutional cooperation, and will monitor and control the quality and competitiveness of its educational, scientific, and professional activities. Simultaneously, the Department will initiate and conduct, again, in accordance to its financial and human resources, integrative and innovative scientific projects necessary for the University, the town, the region, Republic of Croatia, and academic community in general.

1.3. VISION

The Department of History at the University of Zadar is primarily focused on scientific, educational, and research activities. Its development and, accordingly, its vision is based on reaffirmation of its long-lasting academic tradition, affirmation of the unique environment it is situated in, and intellectual and cultural heritage it shares with other components of the University of Zadar. This vision will be achieved through partnership with all who participate in education and research and with anyone who has the need for the

Department's services or collaboration with the Department: economic institutions, the community, social partners. The vision is supported by a long-term and consistent work on academic excellence, purposeful and well-thought learning outcomes, pursuit of sustainable development, mobility and cooperation with European institutions, tolerance and development of civil society, acceptance of innovations, and natural, cultural, and anthropologic heritage of the Mediterranean to which Zadar and its region have always belonged.

1.4. STRATEGY

The Bologna Declaration, applied at the University of Zadar and, accordingly, the Department of History since 2005, is the backbone of the scientific and educational work at the Department. The Department first reformed the earlier undergraduate study to undergraduate (6 semesters) and graduate (4 semesters) study programmes and organized them as single and double major studies. The aforementioned programmes were approved and have been continuously implemented since the academic year 2005 / 06. In 2010 / 2011 the doctoral study entitled *Jadran – poveznica među kontinentima* [*The Adriatic – Link between Continents*], designed in collaboration with the Department of Geography, was added. Since then, the highest level of scientific and educational work has been implemented according to the guidelines of the Bologna Declaration.

Almost simultaneously, the Department of History was relocated from the “old building” on the Riva (Obala kralja Petra Krešimira IV, 2) to the Citadel (former Dom hrvatske mladeži), which enlarged the teaching space from the previous one teaching hall to three teaching halls (the Big Hall on the 2nd floor and the Small Hall on the 3rd floor of the Citadel, and the hall no. 201 on the ground floor of the “old building”), which amounts to 486m² of teaching facilities. Previously, while the Department was located on the 3rd floor of the “old building”, it only had one 54m² room, which means that the surface of the teaching facilities only was increased by 900%, and the number of the facilities by 200%. At the same time, three former offices (teachers' rooms) were replaced by seven new ones in the Citadel (all on the 2nd floor), one office in the “old building” (room 200 on the ground floor), and one office in the Rectorate building. Before the relocation the Department had only 90m² of office space and now it has a total of nine teachers' rooms on 244m², which is a 271.11% increase in surface and a 200% increase in the number of rooms. Since all the facilities have been appropriately equipped with computers and other equipment, it can be determined that excellent conditions for scientific, educational and research activities have been generated.

Despite the constant “dispersal” of a part of the academic personnel and junior assistants, who left for other parts of the country in pursuit of better working conditions, retired or passed away, the Department, thanks to the personnel policy of creating its own new employees, now has 12 employees in scientific and academic positions. The Department also employs one Senior Assistant associate, one Assistant, and two Research Assistants, who have the potential to become the Department's employees in scientific and academic positions in a relatively short period of time. Current structure of employees is the best one the Department has had since 1955.

The Department is also conducting several scientific projects (currently five active projects) that have been financed by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia.

By looking at the essence of all the aforementioned, particularly the bibliographies of the Department's teachers, it can be concluded that the basic scientific and research objective of this department is to continuously contribute to the knowledge of historical processes in the Adriatic and its surrounding areas as parts of the Mediterranean. In this regard, besides the standard knowledge and skills, the students of all levels should also be offered specific knowledge and skills regarding historical processes in the Adriatic region and its surroundings

within the Mediterranean and thus make the Department of History the only place in Croatia and wider region where one can study history on all levels with an important focus on the Adriatic, its surrounding areas, and the Mediterranean as a whole.

Strategic Goals

1. Students and study programmes. To remain an institution that provides quality education in historical sciences on all three levels (undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral), founded on clearly defined learning outcomes, flexible and outgoing creation of academic profiles, adapted to the European higher education and economic and social needs.

2. Scientific work and research. To turn primarily to the Adriatic region within the Mediterranean, research excellence, collaborative projects with the economic and civil sectors, and enhancement of its scientific production and material resources, keeping in mind the moment and the requirements of the time in which the Department operates.

3. International collaboration and integration in the European area. Continue to develop and improve all forms of international collaboration regarding historical sciences, primarily concerning the mobility of students, teachers and other employees, joint study programmes of history at all levels, joint international scientific and other projects, and participation in European programmes and projects.

4. Contribution to the community. To make the Department, as a part of the University of Zadar, a recognizable segment of the town's and the region's identity, a suitable cooperation partner for local and other communities, an integral part of the town's and economic development, and the initiator of various historical science projects for the purposes of civil society, science, local development and European integration.

5. Human, financial, and material resources. Establish a functional, transparent, and efficient system of managing human, material and financial resources, which will enable efficient and safe business activity and competitiveness within the University of Zadar and individuals in the European educational and scientific area. Try to reinforce the Department's human resources, particularly the teachers who deal with the 20th century history.

6. Publishing. Continue and expand the University's publishing activities. By doing so, elevate two annual journals (the students' professional journal *Rostra* and the professors' scientific journal *Miscellanea Hadriatica et Mediterranea*) to a higher professional and scientific level, and establish collaboration (exchange) regarding the Department's scientific journal (since its issues are bilingual) with prestigious universities worldwide in which history is studied and researched. The same should be done with books, too, with the goal to print at least two titles a year, preferably bilingual. Of course, all the aforementioned will depend on available financial resources. In all its publications printed at the University of Zadar or other journals in the country or abroad, or, when books are concerned, by other publishers, the Department should permanently strive towards continuous scientific valorisation of historical processes in the Adriatic region within the Mediterranean as a fundamental scientific and research commitment of the teachers at the University of Zadar's Department of History, which has been a recognizable feature of the Department in Croatia and abroad for decades.

7. Other strategic goals. The Department of History will follow the *Strategy of the University of Zadar* in all other aspects of strategic goals.

