Bihać is a city on the river Una in the north-western part of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is located in the Una-Sana Canton (Canton I) of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and it has 61,186 inhabitants.

The city and the region have become a tourist attraction region for its beautiful landscapes and surroundings, for the large number of historical interest locations and for the large offer of adventure and leisure activities.
UNIVERSITY PROFILE

University of Bihać is an accredited public higher education institution established by the Assembly of Una-Sana Canton on 28 July 1997.

Since 12 January 2010, the University operates as an integrated university with 6 organizational units and one associate member.

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Application of Bologna Study model at University of Bihac began in the academic year 2006/07, meaning that the university issues the following qualifications:

- three years of undergraduate study students acquire the title of Bachelor worth 180ECTS,
- four years of undergraduate study students acquire the title of Bachelor worth 240ECTS,
- graduate studies students gain the title of Master worth 300 ECTS,
- Doctoral studies students gain a PhD title worth 480 ECTS.

The implementation of second cycle studies began in the academic year 2010/11. The second cycle is not organized at all faculties.

The third cycle study began in the academic year 2017/18 at Mechanical and Department of Wood-processing Technology of the Faculty of Technical Sciences under the title “Contemporary production technologies”.

Watch our promotional video here: https://tinyurl.com/y9xfppmn
In order to provide education for qualifications as close as possible to those of EU, the University has implemented a quality assurance system, which, along with the institutionalized quality assessment of study programs and teaching process, continuously monitors and improves the quality of education.

The European dimensions in higher education are promoted through the international cooperation (study visits, student exchanges, thesis development, joint projects, etc.).

Lifelong learning is the weakest link in the chain at the University and its Bologna implementation process, but it will be given more attention in coming years.

Quality Assurance

The quality assurance system in University of Bihać is established at three levels. At the top, there is the Board for Quality Assurance at University of Bihać, consisting of 15 members from different areas: management representatives, academic and administrative staff, students and external stakeholders. Together with the Board for Quality Assurance, in terms of organization, the Centre for Quality Assurance and Internal Evaluation of University of Bihać was created as the central executive body of the University, as well as the Quality Assurance Teams for every organizational unit of the University.

Centre for Quality Assurance and Internal Evaluation

The Centre for Quality Assurance and Internal Evaluation (from now on Centre) is the executive organ of University of Bihać and it is responsible for the implementation of the Quality Assurance Policy and the decisions made by the Board and the Senate of the University. The Centre was created in 2010 with the adoption of University of Bihać Statute.

The main tasks of the Centre are to carry out equity and legal acts which can be consulted in the website of the University, as well as all the scientific and technical literature and regulations designed for national and international quality assurance systems in higher education. The Centre has the duty to serve as advisory body on quality assurance for University of Bihać management and administrative organs in order to coordinate the adoption of internal quality assurance systems and to work constantly on the arrangements for accreditation and external evaluation. Next to the employees of the Centre and QA Teams, there is the support of all members of the University concerning student programmes, accreditation and re-accreditation, evaluation, didactical issues and encourage quality assurance and internal evaluation activities. The Centre currently operates with three employees and four volunteer students, and it performs its tasks with the support of the Teams, which help in many ways for the work and implementation of the assigned goals for internal quality assurance. The QA Teams from the organizational units of University of Bihać have from five to seven members being management representatives, academic and administrative staff and students.
University of Bihać fosters and successfully promotes international cooperation among the universities. University of Bihać has over 60 signed agreements on international cooperation with other universities, along with a great number of bilateral Agreements signed by the organizational units of the University of Bihać.

International cooperation and internationalisation become one of the most important aspects for the activities lead by higher education institutions because their improvement facilitates the exchange of knowledge and student’s achievements, it gives an insight into global sciences and distinguished developments and, after all, it establishes equality and openness among students regardless of race, religion, nation, sex or social status. Since its foundation, and keeping in mind this concept of international cooperation, University of Bihać takes part in several international activities, especially when it comes to the participation in projects, national and international conferences but also students and staff exchanges.

Since 2001, the University has participated in almost 50 projects financed by international benefactors, among of which European Union stands out thanks to the following programmes: CARDS, IPA, Tempus, Erasmus Mundus, Erasmus Mundus Lifelong Learning, Eureka and Erasmus +. Besides EU, there are also projects supported by some embassies in Bosnia and Herzegovina (such as U.S. Embassy), Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), Mercator Foundation Switzerland, ERSTE Foundation Austria, etc.

Tempus is a European Union’s programme (from 2007 to 2013) focusing on the reform and modernisation of the higher education in partner countries from Eastern Europe, Central Asia, West Balkans and Mediterranean. Participating in these projects, University of Bihać has established partnership with several renowned European universities, like Paderborn University, University of Birmingham, Heidelberg University, Catholic University of Leuven, University of Graz, etc. Through these projects, there are considerable resources implemented in order to purchase equipment and literature for the University and, the most important, many capacities are enhanced concerning the quality assurance, the internationalisation, the curriculum and study programs modernisation, the introduction of ECTS, strategic management, etc. The completion of the last Tempus project took place in March 2017 and the constant endeavours for the modernisation of the higher education are possible thanks to Erasmus + programme, financed by the EU.
Erasmus + is the new programme financed by the European Union and it is oriented to regional education, youth improvement and sport. At the moment, University of Bihać participates in two subprogrammes in the context of this programme: the Key Action 1 International Credit Mobility (ICM), and the Key Action 2 Cooperation for Innovation and Exchange of Good Practices.

Thanks to the Erasmus + International Credit Mobility (ICM) programme, it is possible the exchange teaching staff, students and administrative staff with a large number of European universities such as Nova de Lisboa University, Çukurova University, University of Warsaw, University of Valencia, University of Wroclaw, University of Milan, University of Maribor and other along with universities from other programmes countries, with which we have also arranged and signed international agreements. The total number of active Erasmus+ICM Inter-university agreements is 14. This vision of the mobility allows the financial support for all the expenses for the stay of students and teaching staff in the host institution, and the recognition of the acquired qualifications during the stay is provided by University’s legal documents, which ensures an increase of the mobility numbers.
The support to students and teaching staff involved in the exchange programs is provided by the International Relations Office of the University, which is at the disposal to all the participants to help them find a scholarship, finish the application procedures and assist them during their stay at other universities, but also to finalize the recognition procedures once they come back (which is ensured by the University’s Rulebook on Mobility at UNBI). Since the academic year 2015/2016, students, teaching and administrative staff regularly participate in this programme and our intention is, alongside with the outgoing, to enhance the incoming mobility in order to advance the internationalisation process of our higher education institution itself.
The other Erasmus + subprogramme (the Key Action 2), is the continuation of the Tempus programme, and as such, it enables implementation of projects dealing with the modernisation of study programs for their accreditation purposes, strengthening the University internationalisation, the achievement of a curriculum based on students’ results, the validation of qualifications in the European qualifications framework, etc. Through this subprogramme, many projects are nowadays implemented in partnership with the University of Limerick, the University of Travnik, the University of Pristina – Kosovska Mitrovica and the Catholic University of Leuven.

Kick-off meeting Erasmus + KA2 STINT Project: Strengthening of Internationalisation in B&H Higher Education (from 24th to 27th January 2016, KU Leuven, Ghent, Belgium)

Meeting in the partner Institution School of Electrical and Computer Engineering of Applied Studies in Belgrade (23th and 24th May, 2016) within the Erasmus + DBBT project “Implementation of the study program Digital Broadcasting and Broadband Technologies (Master studies)”
Along with the mobility and capacity building, an important element in international cooperation is the exchange of scientific experiences and the application of research achievements into practice. The EUREKA programme, financed by the European Union, provides support for such kind of projects and with the support of the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Project implemented by Technical Faculty in cooperation with business sector of Una-Sana Canton, coordinated by the University of Belgrade).

The cooperation through projects with the business sector is financed by the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) of the European Union. The University took part in the project “Innovation progress and investment attraction in Una-Sana Canton – BINOVA”, the goal of which is to support the development of small and medium enterprises via a business incubator centre and an employment infrastructure.

The EU Erasmus Mundus programme is a predecessor of the KA1 (ICM), included in the Erasmus + programme. The Erasmus Mundus SIGMA Agile project has a special significance for the University of Bihać. In 2013, this project established the first partnership of the University in the European Consortium for student and staff mobility. During the project, the nominated students and staff from our University, granted the mobility scholarship, made their stay at Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona, City University of London, University of Warsaw and Nova de Lisboa University. The most remarkable is the post-doctoral research scholarship granted to Dr. Ermin Husak, Assistant professor for his stay at City University of London for five months.

The U.S Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina also provides its support to University of Bihać for the realization of international activities, through the provision of projects funds but also student and academic staff scholarships. Along with the small grants the U.S. embassy has approved for implementation of the projects and UGRAD scholarship for a student from the Biotechnical Faculty, we are proud to highlight the success of the Assistant Professor, Alma Oračević from the Technical Faculty, who obtained a Fulbright Scholarship for a ten-month stay at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, as well as the success of the Faculty of Pedagogy for hosting the Fulbright scholarship holder, Assistant professor Azra Hromadžić from the Syracuse University of New York in the academic year 2016/17.

Reception of the Assistant professor Azra Hromadžić by the Rector of the University Prof.dr. Fadil Islamović (23th January, 2017)
UNET - University Network in former Yugoslavia

The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the eleven partner institutions of the former Yugoslavia region (www.unet.upr.si) in 2014, paved the way for the exchange of students and teaching staff between these institutions. Education aims of the UNET network are:

- improve the quality of education through the support of international mobility,
- build cooperation platforms leading to the creation of common programs,
- conform the system of higher education in accordance with the Bologna process.

As the funds for scholarships during the mobility period are not ensured in this network, thanks to the project “Support for the student mobility increase at University of Bihać within the UNET network”, with Alma Bosnić as the project coordinator and with the funding of the Federal Ministry of Education and Science, International Relations Office of the University of Bihać was able to provide some funds for the student mobility, by means of which two students from the Faculty of Economy spent the winter semester of the academic 2016/17 at the Department of Economy at the University of Zadar. In this way, the University of Bihać became the first partner institution, in cooperation with the University of Zadar, to initiate an academic exchange within this network.

Besides the international funding resources for the project implementation and research at the University of Bihać, a large number of projects are financed by national institutions, among of which it is especially important to mention the Federal Ministry of Education and Science for its every year financial support for research activities at Federal higher education institutions through the signed Agreement for funding scientific projects for the development of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Furthermore, the Federal Ministry also finances research and development projects, but also the student standard improvement projects. Besides the Federal Ministry of Education, the support for University projects is provided by other Ministries on a Cantonal level (on a large scale the Ministry of Construction, Space Management and Environmental Protection) and on a Federal level (the Ministry of Culture and Sport, the Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Trade, etc.). Concerning the funding for environmental protection projects, there is a good cooperation implemented by the Environmental Fund of the Federation of B&H, which on several occasions financed the scientific conference “World Environment Day – June 5th”, traditionally organised already by the Biotechnical Faculty of the University of Bihać.
Inter-University Cooperation

Since its establishment, the University of Bihać was always oriented to engage cooperation with other universities and institutions in region, but also from those around the world. In such a way, the University demonstrated (and still demonstrates) the openness to different knowledge and the application of diversified funding and research possibilities in order to improve their capacities. The increase of academic exchanges in the last three years brings the University closer to the European region in terms of education and research. In recent years, many inter-university cooperation agreements were signed and we have in total 60 signed agreements, excluding the previous agreements individually made by organizational units.

Among these agreements, there are also a series of inter-university agreements signed within the exchange programmes, such as the Mevlana Exchange Programme with universities from Turkish Republic (20 in total). This programme offers the opportunity to our students and teachers, as well as to Turkish students and professors, to spend a certain study or teaching period out of their home institutions. Thanks to this exchange programme specifically, Turkish students are the first foreign mobility students ever studying one or two semesters at the University of Bihać and their interest for the studies spread to a larger number of study areas represented at our University. Since the 2013/14 academic year, a certain number of Turkish professors have also visited the University of Bihać within this programme.

After the application of the International Relations Office in 2015 for funding the project proposal, entitled “Student and teaching staff exchange in the framework of inter-university cooperation agreements, Erasmus Mundus and Mevlana Exchange Programme”, at the Federal Ministry of Education and Science, three of the six students who applied for it received financial support in order to cover the expenses not guaranteed by the Mevlana Programme. With these funds we also had the opportunity to help other students who went on an exchange within other programmes. During the execution of this programme and after the arrival of the students from the exchange, plus their positive experiences shared with their friends and classmates after their return from the host institutions, the interest of our students to apply for this and other programmes has increased, and this was the main purpose of this project.

Visit of the Vice-Rector, Prof.dr. Fatih Killi; Vice, Prof.dr. Ömer Süha Uslu, and the special representative Osman Nalbant from Kahramanmaraş Sütçü İmam University, on the occasion of signing the Mevlana agreement at the University of Bihać (14th May, 2016)
Patterns Lectures course entitled “Design and Crisis”, by Assistant professor Irfan Hošić, was completed during the academic year 2016/17 by the Department of Textile Design at the Technical Faculty of the University of Bihać. PATTERNS Lectures is a programme to support the development of new university courses in Central and South Eastern Europe. This programme was launched by ERSTE Foundation and is being implemented by World University Service (WUS) Austria from 2009. The “Design and Crisis” course was the first project of this kind awarded in Bosnia and Herzegovina since these awards started to be allocated in the several past years.

The main objective of the programme is to develop new university courses and subjects in the fields of art research, art history, cultural theory and cultural studies in Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe. Moreover, it promotes international academic exchange by enabling lecturers to go on international study visits and conduct guest lectures. Some of the prominent figures in this project who have visited the University of Bihać are the Artist and Professor at the University of Michigan Endi Pošković, Marko Golub from the Croatian Designers Association in Zagreb, Amir Husak from The New School in New York, Feđa Vukić from the University of Zagreb and Koraljka Vlajo from the Museum of Arts and Crafts in Zagreb, among others.

The Mercator Foundation Switzerland gave funding the second time in a row for the notable project “Innovation School Sprungbrett”, which is intended for the realization of students’ practical work through presentation of scientific projects in the field of technology, furniture design and wooden products. The project coordinator is the Department of Architecture, Wood and Civil Engineering at Bern University of Applied Sciences and during the project students have assisted in a wide range of diversified conferences and workshops supporting their scientific projects as well as the application of the theory into practice.
Since 2007, Bosnia and Herzegovina is included in the Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies (CEEPUS III), which made possible so far to provide more than 76,000 monthly scholarships in 16 European Programme member countries.

The main purpose of the actual CEEPUS III programme is to connect scientific-research areas on academic cooperation development through the creation of university networks and, among other things, to work on joint programs in order to obtain joint diplomas.

On the 19th November 2013, the University of Bihać and other national universities in B&H, together with the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Federal Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Education and Culture of Republika Srpska, have signed the Agreement for the establishment of CEEPUS III in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Since then, the University participates in three networks:

- CIII-AT-0037-00-1415 - Slavic Philology and Its Cultural Contexts
- CIII-SI-0217-08-1415 - Techno-Arts: Design and development of multifunctional products
- CIII-HU-0003-00-1617 - Agriculture and Environment in the 21st Century - @groen

CEEPUS is oriented to develop some European higher education areas and to use the regional academic mobility as a strategic program for the implementation of Bologna objectives. CEEPUS exchanges are carried within the networks, except the so-called Free Mover exchange, and the universities and faculties must apply for the exchange Programme within the network. Every year in October, it opens a new round to submit network applications for the forthcoming academic year and all the interested higher education institutions can do so every year until the 15th January. Thanks to these networks, many students and teaching staff went on an exchange but also many students went on short-term student visits to cities as Vienna, Graz, Maribor, etc.
Link to our promo video:

https://tinyurl.com/y9xfppmn
Publisher:

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