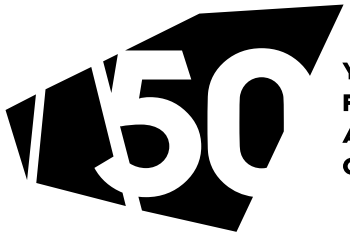


50 YEARS OF THE FACULTY OF CIVIL ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURE OSIJEK

MONOGRAPH

Josip Juraj Strossmayer
University of Osijek
Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture Osijek

MONOGRAPH



YEARS OF THE FACULTY OF CIVIL ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURE OSIJEK

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Foreword by the Dean

The fiftieth anniversary of the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture Osijek fills us with pride and invites us to reflect on the path we have travelled, the achievements we have made and our responsibility towards future generations. Half a century in the history of a higher education institution is a period in which we can look back on its beginnings, development, challenges and achievements, while also recognising the values that have remained its enduring characteristics despite numerous changes.

It is a particular honour and pleasure to address the readers of this monograph as Dean in the year in which our Faculty celebrates fifty years of existence and activity. This anniversary is an opportunity to recall with respect all those who have contributed to its establishment and development, and to highlight with pride what the Faculty represents today.

From the establishment of the Higher Technical School of Civil Engineering in 1976 to the present-day Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture Osijek, our institution has undergone a long and demanding process of development. Its names, organisational forms, study programmes and teaching premises have changed. Each period has brought new circumstances, opportunities and challenges – from modest beginnings and the gradual development of our own teaching and research capacities, through the exceptionally difficult years of the Homeland War, to the development of the modern Faculty that now operates on the University Campus. Yet our fundamental mission has remained unchanged: to educate competent and responsible professionals, generate new knowledge and contribute to the advancement of the profession and society. The development of the Faculty has never been merely a matter of its physical facilities, organisational structure or the number of study programmes. Above all, it has been the development of people: their knowledge, competencies, ambitions and readiness to respond to the challenges of their time. Generations of teachers, researchers, other employees and students have shaped the Faculty as we know it today through their work, commitment and dedication.

The last decade has been particularly significant in the development of our institution. Moving to the new building in 2016 created better conditions for teaching, scientific research, laboratory and professional work, and the further expansion of the Faculty's work. That same year, the university undergraduate programme in Architecture and Urban Planning was launched, marking the beginning of a new chapter in our development.

Education remains our core activity. Over the past fifty years, the Faculty has educated many generations of civil engineers and, more recently, graduates in architecture and urban planning, who now work in industry, public institutions, research and educational institutions, both in Croatia and abroad. Their professional work and contribution to the development of their fields are perhaps the most important indicators of the value of our activities. Every generation that leaves the Faculty equipped with knowledge and competencies marks both the end of one stage of education and the beginning of a new professional journey. We are aware that education cannot be viewed separately from changes in society and the economy. Contemporary civil engineering and architecture face challenges relating to sustainable development, climate change, energy efficiency, the circular economy and increasingly widespread digital transformation. Building Information Modelling, advanced computing technologies, artificial intelligence and new materials are changing the ways in which buildings are designed, constructed, managed and maintained. It is our responsibility to keep pace with these changes and incorporate them into the education of future professionals.

We continuously modernise our study programmes, develop new teaching content and methods, and strengthen the links between theoretical knowledge and its application in practice. We attach particular importance to fieldwork, laboratory work undertaken by students, practical training and cooperation with industry. Such forms of teaching and collaboration enable students to gain practical experience and better understand the demands of their future profession.

We are continuing to develop education in architecture and urban planning by preparing a university graduate programme in Architecture and Urban Planning, for which the initial accreditation procedure was launched in the year of our fiftieth anniversary. This is an important step towards establishing a complete progression of study programmes in this field, opening up new opportunities for students and further developing the architectural profession in Osijek and eastern Croatia.

Alongside teaching, scientific research and professional work are inseparable parts of our activities. In recent years, the Faculty has made significant progress in research output, the implementation of research and development projects, and the strengthening of international cooperation. Our teachers and researchers participate in national and international projects, publish their findings in relevant scientific journals and develop solutions to contemporary challenges in civil engineering, architecture and urban planning. We are particularly pleased that young researchers and students are increasingly engaged in scientific work, as the Faculty's future research development rests upon them.

Laboratory activities form an important part of our scientific and professional identity. Systematic investment in equipment, the development of testing methods and the reorganisation of laboratory operations have created conditions for increasingly demanding research and improved cooperation with industry. The Laboratory's accreditation to HRN EN ISO/IEC 17025:2017, achieved in the year of our fiftieth anniversary, is an important confirmation of its technical competence, systematic work and lasting commitment to quality.

I consider the progress made in higher education quality assurance equally important. The successful reaccreditation process in 2025, which confirmed the high quality of the Faculty's work, was the result of many years of joint efforts to improve teaching processes, study programmes and institutional governance. We do not regard such results as the conclusion of a development process, but as a further obligation to maintain and continuously improve the quality achieved.

The recent period has also been marked by the modernisation of administrative processes, digitalisation, staff development and more systematic links with industry and the international academic community. We recognise that an institution's quality depends not only on individual achievements but also on its capacity to create a supportive environment for working, studying and research. We therefore seek to develop the Faculty as an open, modern and responsible institution that encourages excellence, cooperation, initiative and the professional development of all its members.

The broader social role of the Faculty is equally important. Civil engineering and architecture directly affect quality of life, safety, economic development and the preservation of the built and natural environment. Through cooperation with industry, professional chambers and associations, and local and regional authorities, our teachers, researchers and experts apply their knowledge to solving concrete problems in the community. These links with our surroundings, recognised and positively evaluated during the Faculty's reaccreditation, confirm our important role in the development of the construction sector and society as a whole. We want the Faculty to remain a place where knowledge is created, shared and applied for the benefit of society.

Looking back over the first fifty years, I believe that the people who have shaped the Faculty are the most valuable part of its history. A faculty is not merely its building, laboratories, projects, research papers or diplomas. Above all, it is the people who founded it, led it through difficult periods, taught, researched, worked and studied within it, and those who continue their work today. Each generation has left its mark and contributed to what we proudly call our Faculty.

I therefore wish to express my sincere gratitude to all my predecessors as Dean, to former and current teachers and associates, administrative and technical staff, and all retired employees. We remember with particular respect those colleagues who are no longer with us, whose work, knowledge and dedication have become an enduring part of this institution's development. I also thank our current and former students, external associates, institutions and industry partners, as well as Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, for their cooperation and support throughout these years.

Our fiftieth anniversary is also an opportunity to ask ourselves what kind of Faculty we wish to leave to future generations. We live in a time of rapid technological, economic and social change, when adaptability, openness to new knowledge and mutual cooperation are more important than ever. Our task is to continue improving educational quality, scientific excellence, international recognition and links with industry, while preserving the values on which the Faculty was founded – responsibility, expertise, dedication to knowledge and respect for people.

The past fifty years show that we have been able to develop even under difficult circumstances. I am confident that, drawing on our experience, knowledge and sense of community, we will be able to meet the challenges ahead. Our goal is not simply to preserve what earlier generations have built, but to continue developing that foundation so that the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture Osijek remains a recognised centre of education, science and expertise for decades to come.

This monograph bears witness to the first fifty years of our shared journey. Its pages record the people, events and achievements that have shaped the Faculty, as well as the values on which we continue to build its future. The value of an institution is determined not only by its past achievements, but also by the vision, knowledge and people who will shape its future success.

I congratulate all current and former employees, students and friends of the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture Osijek on the fiftieth anniversary of its establishment and activity, and sincerely thank everyone who has contributed to its development.



Prof. Hrvoje Krstić, PhD
Dean of the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture Osijek




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Faculty Management

Dean
Prof. Hrvoje Krstić, PhD

Vice-Dean for Education
Assoc. Prof. Tamara Brleković, PhD

Vice-Dean for Quality, Development and Digitalisation
Assoc. Prof. Tihomir Dokšanović, PhD

Vice-Dean for Science
Prof. Hrvoje Draganić, PhD

Vice-Dean for Finance and Business Organisation
Assoc. Prof. Željka Jurković, PhD

Vice-Dean for Projects and Institutional Cooperation
Prof. Ivana Miličević, PhD

Secretary of the Faculty
Iva Vrkić, dipl. iur.





The First Fifty Years

The beginnings of civil engineering education in Osijek date back to 1967, when the Higher Technical School from Zagreb opened a branch in Osijek, at what is now 17 Županijska Street, at the initiative of representatives of the local engineering profession. From the outset, local civil engineers and architects were involved in teaching. In this old, dilapidated building, they established the Higher Technical School of Civil Engineering Osijek in 1976.

The establishment of the independent Higher Technical School, which became a constituent of the University of Osijek, is regarded as the beginning of continuous higher education in civil engineering in eastern Croatia. The School initially operated independently and later became part of the Civil Engineering School Centre.

The building at 17 Županijska Street was unsuitable for teaching and needed to be replaced as soon as possible by larger and more appropriate premises. The foundation stone for a new building in Drinska Street, to be shared by the Higher Technical School of Civil Engineering and the Civil Engineering School Centre, was laid on 4 July 1977. The first graduation ceremony for students of the professional undergraduate programme was also held that year. The diplomas were presented to the first generation by the first Dean, Antun Kedmenec, MSc. The first graduates in civil engineering were Marin Bilić, Antun Bošnjak, Spomenka Simeunović and Ružica Šimunović.

In early May 1980, both educational institutions moved into a new circular building at 16a Drinska Street. Designed by architect Dragutin Kapun, who served as Dean at the time, the building combined contemporary architectural and structural solutions with an innovative use of traditional materials. In this way, the building itself became a teaching tool for the students educated within it. The new premises brought renewed momentum: improved facilities for teaching and research enabled the development of new study programmes, strengthened the Faculty's staffing capacity and supported an increase in student numbers.

In 1982, the Higher School of Civil Engineering of the University of Osijek separated from the Civil Engineering School Centre and joined the Department for Materials and Structures, which operated within the Civil Engineering Institute Zagreb. From 1983 to 1991, the Faculty operated under a new organisational form and the name Basic Organisation of Associated Labour (OOUR), Faculty of Civil Engineering Sciences, University of Osijek. The first stage of the university civil engineering programme began in 1983, followed by the full university civil engineering programme (Level VII) in 1986. Since February 1992, the Faculty has operated independently as the Faculty of Civil Engineering of Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek.




GRAĐEVINSKI FAKULTET OSIJEK
Faculty of Civil Engineering Osijek

The Faculty was located at Drinska 16a for almost 20 years, but over time this space became insufficient for quality teaching and scientific work. During the Homeland War, the Faculty, although on the front line and exposed to shelling, worked and maintained all regular activities with exceptional efforts.

Immediately after the Homeland War, the Faculty was given the use of a building at 21 Crkvena Street, which provided more space and better conditions. However, problems still existed due to the work at two locations.

Since 2001, the Faculty has been conducting master's studies, and since 2005 doctoral studies. In 2005, the Faculty's work was harmonised with the Bologna Process. Since 2010, specialist graduate professional studies and postgraduate specialist studies have been carried out.

Long-standing difficulties caused by inadequate premises, operations at two locations and a lack of laboratories and suitable teaching facilities were resolved in 2016, when the Faculty moved into a new building on the University Campus. The university undergraduate programme in Architecture and Urban Planning was launched in the same year, marking a new chapter in the Faculty's development. In 2018, the institution adopted its present name, Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture Osijek.

The programme agreement concluded in 2025 between Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek and the Ministry of Science, Education and Youth created conditions for the Faculty's further development, securing five new positions – the highest number among the University's constituent institutions.

Over the course of five decades, the locations, names, organisational structures and administrations of the Faculty have changed, but the mission and vision have not changed since its beginning fifty years ago: raising the quality of higher education, creating a research environment as an incentive for scientific and professional work, strengthening professional work and the Faculty as an active stakeholder in the wider social and economic community.




Građevinski i arhitektonski
fakultet Osijek
Faculty of Civil Engineering
and Architecture Osijek

Organisation of the Faculty

The internal organisation of the Faculty is regulated by the Statute of the Faculty in accordance with the Statute of the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek.

The organisational units of the Faculty are departments comprising chairs, the Laboratory, the Library and the Secretariat.

The Department is the Faculty's principal organisational unit for teaching, scientific research and professional work, established by a decision of the Faculty Council. Its members are teachers, research and teaching associates, and professional associates employed by the Faculty and engaged in teaching, scientific, artistic or professional work.

A Chair is a smaller organisational unit within a Department, established by a decision of the Faculty Council primarily for teaching, but also for scientific research and professional work. A Chair may also operate as an independent organisational unit for subjects that do not require a scientific approach.

The Laboratory is an independent organisational unit at the Faculty in which research relating to scientific programmes and projects, professional investigations and practical teaching are carried out.

The library is an organisational unit of the Faculty for performing library and information tasks and tasks related to the teaching, scientific research and professional needs of the Faculty. The Faculty library system with its library and information services is part of the university library system.

The Secretariat is the Faculty's professional and administrative unit responsible for legal and administrative affairs, finance and accounting, quality assurance and enhancement, student affairs, technical and support services, and other tasks necessary for the Faculty's operation, as defined in the Statute and other general acts. The Secretariat comprises smaller organisational units responsible for specialised administrative tasks within services, divisions, sections and subsections.



Department for Technical Mechanics

Head of Department: Assoc. Prof. Goran Gazić, PhD

Chair of Technical Mechanics
Head of Chair: Prof. Davorin Penava, PhD
Prof. Davorin Penava, PhD
Assoc. Prof. Aleksandar Jurić, PhD
Assoc. Prof. Goran Gazić, PhD
Matija Zvonarić, PhD, Senior Research Assistant

Chair of Structural Theory
Head of Chair: Prof. Silva Lozančić, PhD
Prof. Silva Lozančić, PhD
Prof. Ivica Guljaš, PhD
Prof. Tanja Kalman Šipoš, PhD
Assoc. Prof. Marin Grubišić, PhD
Domagoj Trajber, univ. mag. ing. aedif.

The Department for Technical Mechanics was established in 2003 and comprises two Chairs: the Chair of Technical Mechanics and the Chair of Structural Theory. Its mission is to advance knowledge and expertise in theoretical and applied mechanics. With an emphasis on experimental research in laboratories and in situ, the Department undertakes scientific and development activities that improve understanding of the behaviour of civil engineering structures, their components, individual structural elements and materials. The aim is to improve existing methods of structural analysis and design, develop new approaches and contribute to the advancement of structural design standards.

The Department's academic staff contribute to teaching at undergraduate, graduate and doctoral levels at the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture Osijek. Through lectures and practical laboratory exercises, students develop essential knowledge of statics, dynamics, stability and strength of materials. Particular emphasis is placed on critical thinking and preparing future engineers to address complex structural analysis and design problems in professional practice.

The Department's scientific standing and research excellence are further demonstrated by its participation in major national and international projects, publications in leading international journals and successful cooperation with industry. Through professional projects and expert assessments, the Department brings the latest theoretical knowledge into construction practice, making a valuable contribution to both the academic community and society.



Department for Materials and Structures

Head of Department: Prof. Ivan Radić, PhD

Chair of Steel and Timber Structures
Head of Chair: Assoc. Prof. Jurko Zovkić, PhD
Assoc. Prof. Jurko Zovkić, PhD
Prof. Damir Markulak, PhD
Prof. Ivan Radić, PhD
Assoc. Prof. Tihomir Dokšanović, PhD
Asst. Prof. Adriana Brandis, PhD

Chair of Concrete and Masonry Structures
Head of Chair: Prof. Marijana Hadzima-Nyarko, PhD
Prof. Marijana Hadzima-Nyarko, PhD
Prof. Damir Varevac, PhD
Prof. Hrvoje Draganić, PhD
Antonija Ereš, univ. mag. ing. aedif., Project Assistant
Josip Radić, univ. mag. ing. aedif., Project Assistant

Chair of Materials
Head of Chair: Asst. Prof. Mario Jeleč, PhD
Asst. Prof. Mario Jeleč, PhD
Prof. Ivana Miličević, PhD
Ivan Vrdoljak, PhD, Assistant
Stjepan Crnojevac, univ. mag. ing. aedif., Project Associate

The Department integrates knowledge of construction materials with the analysis, design and assessment of load-bearing structures. Through teaching activities in the field of concrete, masonry, steel, aluminium, timber and composite structures, the Department participates in the education of generations of civil engineers, passing on theoretical knowledge, research experience and modern approaches to design.

The Department's research activities encompass experimental and numerical investigations of the behaviour of building materials, structural elements and load-bearing systems under various loading conditions. Particular attention is devoted to mechanical resistance, stability, earthquake resistance and structural durability, the development of innovative structural solutions, and the use of new and sustainable construction materials. Research also includes the assessment of existing buildings, evaluation of their structural reliability, and the development and application of modern analysis and modelling methods.

The employees of the Department contribute to the development of the profession by publishing research papers, university textbooks and professional manuals, participating in domestic and international projects and cooperating with industry. Professional activities include the provision of professional and advisory support in the design, construction and maintenance of buildings, the preparation of professional studies and expertise, and the application of scientific knowledge in solving specific problems of construction practice.

By combining teaching, scientific research and professional practice, the Department contributes to safer, more resilient and more sustainable construction.



Department for Organization, Technology and Management

Head of Department: Asst. Prof. Mihaela Domazetović, PhD

Chair of Management and Sustainable Construction
Head of Chair: Prof. Ivana Šandrk Nukić, PhD
Prof. Ivana Šandrk-Nukić, PhD
Prof. Hrvoje Krstić, PhD
Asst. Prof. Mihaela Domazetović, PhD
Hana Begić Juričić, PhD, Assistant
Prof. Barbara Medanić, PhD, professor emerita

Chair of Construction Organisation and Technology
Head of Chair: Assoc. Prof. Mario Galić, PhD
Assoc. Prof. Mario Galić, PhD
Prof. Zlata Dolaček-Alduk, PhD
Asst. Prof. Marija Leko-Kos, PhD
Držislav Vidaković, PhD, Senior Lecturer
Dino Obradović, PhD, Senior Research Assistant

External associates:
Prof. Uroš Klanšek, PhD
Prof. Domagoj Sajter, PhD
Filip Anić, PhD, Adjunct Senior Research Assistant
Dražen Holmik, PhD, Adjunct Lecturer

The Department for Organization, Technology and Management comprises the Chair of Construction Organisation and Technology and the Chair of Management and Sustainable Construction. Its teaching activities include courses at undergraduate, graduate and doctoral levels at the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture Osijek. These courses cover construction methods and organisation, project management, economics and management in civil engineering, building maintenance, energy efficiency and sustainable construction. Teaching combines theoretical and practical knowledge through fieldwork, professional visits to construction sites and cooperation with industry.

The scientific activity of the Department is focused on the organisation of construction and management of construction projects, optimisation and digitalisation of construction processes, costs and financing of projects, management and marketing in construction, maintenance and lifespan management of buildings, energy efficiency and renovation of buildings, and sustainable construction. The employees of the Department participate in national and international scientific research and development projects, publish papers in relevant journals and conferences, and are mentors of final, graduate and doctoral theses.

Professional activities include professional supervision of construction, energy certification of buildings, preparation of studies and economic analyses, preparation of expert reports and assessments, consulting services in the field of construction organisation and project management, and professional development of engineers. The employees of the Department are members of technical committees, professional bodies and associations and actively participate in the work of the Croatian Chamber of Civil Engineers.



Department for Geotechnics, Transportation and Geodesy

Head of Department: Prof. Ivana Barišić, PhD

Chair of Geotechnics
Head of Chair: Prof. Krunoslav Minažek, PhD
Prof. Krunoslav Minažek, PhD
Assoc. Prof. Brankica Malić, PhD
Asst. Prof. Jelena Kaluđer, PhD
Asst. Prof. Robert Bušić, PhD
Asst. Prof. Igor Sokolić, PhD

Chair of Transportation and Geodesy
Head of Chair: Asst. Prof. Martina Zagvozda, PhD
Asst. Prof. Martina Zagvozda, PhD
Prof. Sanja Dimter, PhD
Prof. Irena Ištoka Otković, PhD
Prof. Ivana Barišić, PhD
Vladimir Moser, MSc, Senior Lecturer

External associates:
Asst. Prof. Jasna Kopić, PhD
Tea Tonc, mag. ing. aedif.
Matej Hanžek, univ. mag. ing. geod. et geoinf.

The teaching activities of the Department include the education of students in the fields of geotechnics, transportation engineering and geodesy. Teaching connects theoretical knowledge, analytical and computational methods, laboratory work and solving practical engineering problems, and trains students for the design, analysis and maintenance of geotechnical structures and transportation infrastructure. Teaching contents include the areas of soil mechanics, foundations, geotechnical design, application of geosynthetics, design, construction and maintenance of transport infrastructure, sustainability in road construction, transport planning and modelling, and the use of GIS and engineering surveying in planning, design and construction. Research activities include fundamental, applied and development-oriented studies of soil properties and behaviour, geotechnical interventions and pavement structures, as well as transport planning and modelling. The emphasis is on interdisciplinary research, development of new knowledge, cooperation with industry and contribution to sustainable development.

The Department provides professional services in geotechnics, transport infrastructure and geodesy. In geotechnics, these include conducting and interpreting site investigations, preparing geotechnical reports and foundation designs, assessing soil and slope stability, developing rehabilitation solutions for existing structures, and providing construction and design supervision. In transportation engineering, activities include the design, construction, maintenance and rehabilitation of road infrastructure. Geodetic services include engineering surveys and the preparation of survey plans and base maps for design and construction.



Department for Hydrotechnics and Environmental Protection

Head of Department: Asst. Prof. Željko Šreng, PhD

Chair of Water Management and Environmental Protection
Head of Chair: Prof. Lidija Tadić, PhD
Prof. Lidija Tadić, PhD
Assoc. Prof. Tamara Brleković, PhD
Siniša Maričić, MSc, Senior Lecturer
Josip Janjić, univ. mag. ing. aedif., assistant
Luka Juretić, univ. mag. ing. aedif., Project Assistant

Chair of Theoretical and Municipal Hydrotechnics
Head of Chair: Prof. Marija Šperac, PhD
Prof. Marija Šperac, PhD
Asst. Prof. Željko Šreng, PhD
Darija Marković, PhD, Senior Lecturer
Tatjana Mijušković-Svetinović, MSc, Senior Lecturer
Josipa Matotek, MSc, Senior Lecturer
Antonela Ivanković, univ. mag. ing. aedif., assistant

External associates:
Prof. Mirna Habuda-Stanić, PhD
Asst. Prof. Maja Oštrić, PhD

The teaching activities of the Department include courses in the field of hydrology, hydraulics, hydrotechnical structures, watercourse regulation, hydrotechnical reclamation and water supply and drainage, with the aim of acquiring theoretical and practical knowledge necessary for the analysis, design and management of hydrotechnical systems.

Scientific research focuses on analysing hydrological processes and regimes, with an emphasis on extreme precipitation events, the occurrence and duration of dry periods, and the assessment of the impact of climate change on hydrological conditions. A special area of research is the modelling of rainfall–runoff processes in urban and natural basins, the analysis and development of design rainstorms, and numerical flow modelling in open channels and pressurised systems. The Department participates in international research projects aimed at assessing the impact of climate change and hydrological extremes on river basins and water resources management.

Professional activities include the preparation of hydrological and hydraulic analyses and models, as well as laboratory tests, condition assessment and quality control of municipal hydrotechnical infrastructure.



Department for Architecture and Urban Planning

Head of Department: Prof. Dina Stober, PhD

Chair of Architectural Structures and Building Physics
Head of Chair: Assoc. Prof. Ivana Brkanić Mihić, PhD
Assoc. Prof. Ivana Brkanić Mihić, PhD
Assoc. Prof. Željka Jurković, PhD
Lidija Kraljević, prof., Senior Lecturer
Anamarija Štefić, prof., Senior Lecturer
Marko Ganjto, univ. mag. ing. arch., assistant
Danijela Koški, univ. mag. ing. arch., assistant
Valentina Pleša Režan, univ. mag. ing. arch., assistant

Chair of Architectural Design, Urbanism and Spatial Planning
Head of Chair: Asst. Prof. Danijela Lovoković, PhD
Asst. Prof. Danijela Lovoković, PhD
Prof. Dina Stober, PhD
Assoc. Prof. Sanja Lončar-Vicković, PhD
Asst. Prof. Lucija Kraus, PhD
Marija Krajnović, PhD, Senior Research Assistant
Ivan Cingel, dipl. ing. arh., Senior Lecturer
Nikolina Selec, univ. mag. ing. arch., assistant

External associates:
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Prof. Ines Matijević Cakić, DArt
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Adjunct Assoc. Prof. Jasenka Kranjčević, PhD
Asst. Prof. Margareta Lekić, DArt
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Darija Benja, dipl. ing. arh., Adjunct Assistant
Kristina Novak, univ. mag. ing. arch., Adjunct Assistant
Luka Opšić, univ. mag. cin., Adjunct Assistant
Mislav Salitrežić, univ. mag. ing. arch., Adjunct Assistant
Antun Stahor, univ. mag. ing. arch., Adjunct Assistant

The teaching, scientific and professional work of the Department for Architecture and Urban Planning focus on the scientific field of architecture and urban planning. The Department also includes teachers from the humanities who teach foreign languages and participate in the Faculty's development and research projects.

The Department's work explores and seeks to improve both built and undeveloped spaces, ranging from structural details and interiors to everyday living environments, cities and urban–rural connections. The Department leads and participates in national and international research projects, working with European universities, professional institutions and local and regional stakeholders. These activities share a commitment to developing spatial solutions that enhance resilience, sustainability and inclusiveness. Research interests include traditional local materials and building forms, housing typologies in Osijek, the identification and evaluation of built heritage, modern surveying and digital documentation technologies, and the resilience of urban areas to developmental and environmental challenges.

The teaching, scientific and professional work of the Department are strongly connected with the city of Osijek and the region in which the Faculty operates. The Department's staff play a key role in the Faculty's teaching and development, particularly in educating future architects and urban planners. After ten years of conducting the university undergraduate study of Architecture and Urban Planning, its continuation at the graduate level is expected.



Laboratory

Head of the Laboratory: Assoc. Prof. Ivan Kraus, PhD

Employees:
Assoc. Prof. Ivan Kraus, PhD
Oliver Romić, univ. mag. ing. aedif., expert associate in the system of science and higher education
Kristijan Zuzjak, laboratory technician
Dalibor Erceg, laboratory technician
Zlatko Krstin, laboratory technician
Danijel Križanec, laboratory technician

Employees on projects:
Petra Olić Miloš, univ. mag. ing. aedif., assistant

Laboratory work at the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture Osijek has evolved alongside its teaching, research and professional activities. The need to connect theoretical knowledge with practical experience, introduce future civil engineers to the properties of construction materials and the behaviour of structures, and provide training in experimental methods gradually led to the development of the Faculty's own laboratory facilities. Over time, these facilities have expanded beyond their original teaching purpose to become a vital link between education, research and industry.

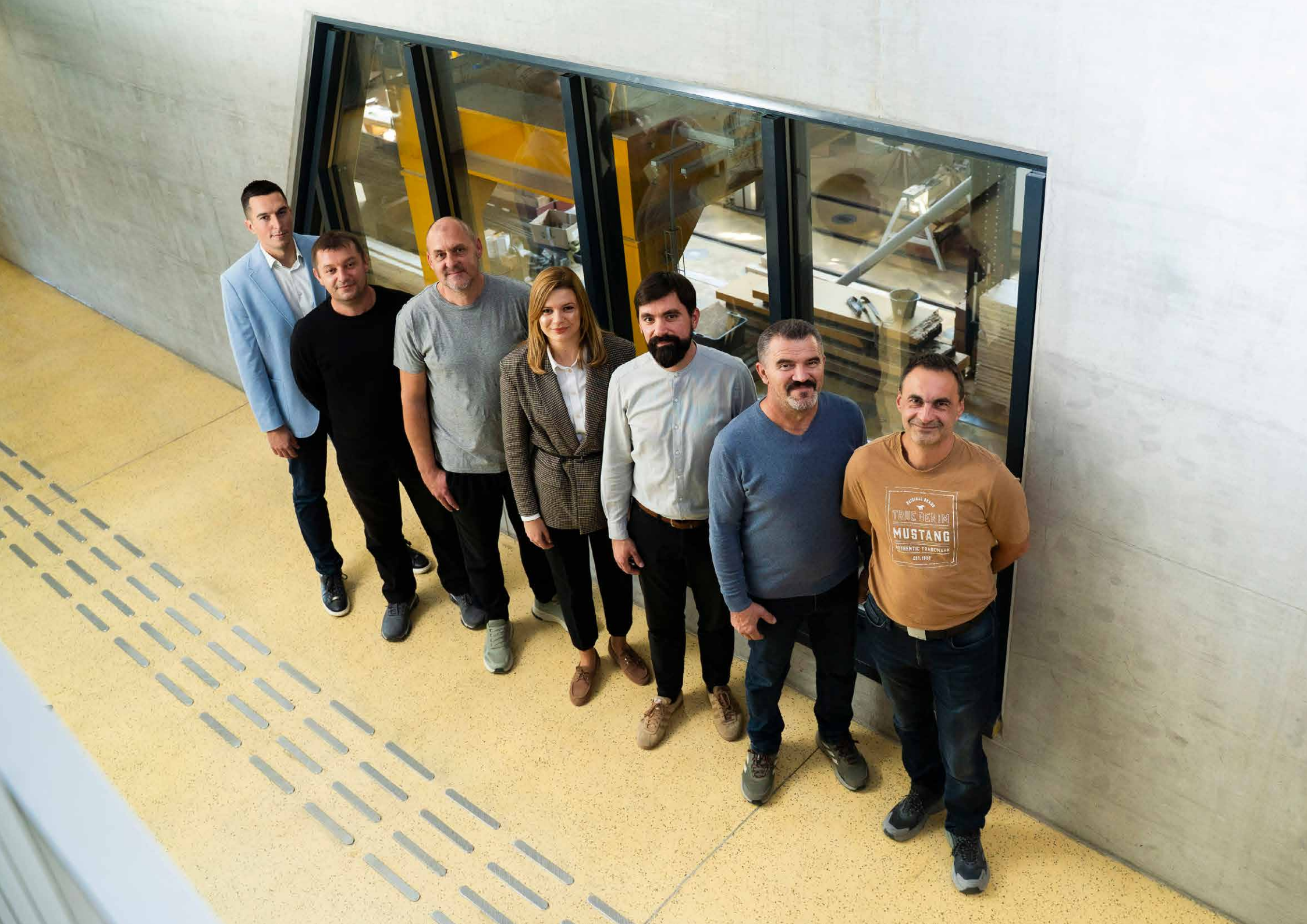
Experimental research at the Faculty began with the establishment of the Laboratory for Timber Structures, equipped to investigate the properties and behaviour of timber and timber structures. It was established as part of the research project Research of Rheological Properties of Timber and Composite Structures Wood-Concrete, led by Prof. Stjepan Takač, PhD. This early work laid the foundations for the systematic development of experimental research at the Faculty.

A major step followed in 2003, when the Faculty began establishing and equipping a laboratory for practical classes in materials and structures. Soon afterwards, basement rooms in the Faculty's then premises in Crkvena Street were adapted to accommodate equipment and support more extensive experimental work. Over the following years, major equipment purchases were financed through the Faculty's own resources, research projects and dedicated funding from the competent ministry.

Thus, the field of laboratory research expanded rapidly. The equipment enabled tests in experimental mechanics, static and dynamic tests of structures, tests of properties and conformity of building materials, non-destructive testing of materials and structures, and hydrotechnical and geomechanical tests. Specific research related to scientific projects was also carried out, such as geomechanical tests of reinforced soil, natural and ambient dynamic tests of structures, and research on the properties of wood and wooden structures. An important part of the development was also cooperation with the laboratories of the Croatian Civil Engineering Institute – Osijek Business Centre, whereby the Faculty's own capacities were linked to the needs and experiences of construction practice.

The laboratory activity was gradually profiled through several areas. The Laboratory for Materials and Structures served as a practicum in the teaching process, but also as a research unit for testing cement and other binders, concrete, structural steel, wood, plastics and other materials in order to determine their physico-mechanical properties and behaviour in various environmental conditions and loads. The Laboratory for Experimental Mechanics enabled the analysis of the behaviour of structural elements and systems on scaled models and prototypes, as well as static and dynamic tests of real structures in situ.

At the same time, a laboratory for hydraulic engineering, geomechanics and environmental protection was developed, equipped for experimental work in fluid me-


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chanics, flow processes, water–sediment interactions, surface-water and groundwater hydrology, hydraulic structures, wave hydrodynamics and sediment transport. A particularly valuable teaching and research facility was the hydraulic demonstration flume, which made it possible to demonstrate a wide range of flow phenomena and fundamental principles of fluid mechanics and hydraulics. From the outset, the aim of developing these facilities was not merely to provide space and equipment, but also to enable students to participate in experiments, prepare seminar papers and final and graduate theses, and become involved in the Faculty's research and professional work.

The Faculty's move to a new building on the University Campus in 2016 marked another major milestone. The new premises brought laboratory activities together and provided modern conditions for their further development. Approximately 835 m^2 was allocated to laboratories, mainly in the basement, together with supporting technical and storage facilities. The move enabled more effective organisation, provided space for existing and new equipment, and supported increasingly complex experimental research.

The Faculty's laboratory infrastructure continued to develop alongside its research fields. The new premises accommodated the Vladimir Sigmund Laboratory for Experimental Mechanics and the Laboratory for Materials and Structures, while capabilities in hydraulic engineering and environmental protection, geotechnics and road construction, and building energy efficiency were also expanded. Equipment supported model-scale and full-scale testing, static and dynamic structural tests, investigations of construction materials and geotechnical properties, studies of hydraulic processes and traffic, and assessments of building energy performance. The laboratories thus became an essential resource for the Faculty's growing portfolio of research and professional projects.

Research into innovative and sustainable construction materials and structural systems is particularly important. Over the years, laboratory investigations have addressed cement-based composites, concrete incorporating recycled and alternative materials, reinforced concrete and steel structures, soil and transport infrastructure, and many other challenges in contemporary civil engineering. Laboratory research is closely integrated with teaching: students contribute through undergraduate and graduate theses, while young researchers undertake experimental work as part of their doctoral dissertations. Their activities include preparing specimens, conducting experiments and analysing results.

Professional services for industry and other clients are an equally important part of the Laboratory's activities. Testing construction materials and structures, assessing their properties and condition, and analysing results account for a substantial share of the Faculty's professional work. Some of the revenue generated is reinvested in equipment, directly supporting the Laboratory's continued development.

A new chapter in the organisation of laboratory work was opened in 2023. With the new Statute and the organisation of the Faculty, the former laboratories were united into one organisational unit – the Laboratory, with the aim of better use of space and equipment, more efficient organisation of work and systematic quality management. At the same time, the reorganisation created the basis for the accreditation of laboratory methods. The establishment of the quality system also included monitoring the satisfaction of users and employees, as well as continuous review and improvement of the Laboratory's way of working.

A further milestone came in September 2026, when the Laboratory received accreditation to HRN EN ISO/IEC 17025:2017 for the scope "Testing of Construction Products and Structures". Accreditation confirmed its competence to perform the tests covered by that scope and represented a major advance in the quality and reliability of its testing services.

From the first experimental research of wooden structures, through the systematic development of laboratory premises since 2003 and moving to a new building in 2016, to the organisational unification of laboratory capacities in 2023 and the acquisition of accreditation in 2026, laboratory activity has accompanied and encouraged the development of the Faculty. During more than two decades of intensive development, spaces, equipment, methods and areas of research have changed, but its fundamental role has remained the same: to connect teaching, scientific research and construction practice. Today, the laboratory represents an important research and professional infrastructure of the Faculty and a place where theoretical knowledge is tested by experiment, new ideas and technologies are developed, new generations of engineers and researchers are educated, and professional support is provided to industry. Thus, its development is one of the recognizable indicators of the development of the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture Osijek during its first fifty years.



Library

Head of the Library: Nikolina Milanović, univ. mag. cult., senior librarian

Library employees:
Sandra Murat, graduate librarian
Anđa Ćosić, Library Technician

Since its establishment in 1985, the Library of the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture Osijek has provided important support to the teaching process, scientific research work and professional development of teachers and students. With the development of study programmes, scientific fields and research activities, the library collection has continuously increased, which today includes Croatian and international professional and scientific literature, scientific monographs, manuals, textbooks, and printed and electronic journals in the field of civil engineering, architecture and urban planning, technical sciences and related scientific and professional fields. The Library currently holds approximately 10,500 volumes. In addition to books, the collection includes 230 offprints, 159 catalogued standards, 160 master's and doctoral theses and a collection of professional and scientific articles. The library also has about 1,500 volumes of journals, i.e. 180 titles from different years, of which 86 are foreign periodicals.

An important step forward in the development of library services was achieved with the introduction of the CROLIST-Unix library information system in 2015, which modernised the processing and cataloguing of materials and loan records. This enabled more efficient management of the library collection, monitoring of its use and easier search for available literature. Since June 2016, the Library has been in the new building of the Faculty, where it is located in modern, purpose-designed premises covering 270 m^2. Users are provided with open access to the library collection, which is located on a total of 112 metres of shelves, and a reading room with 40 workstations. The workplaces are equipped with electricity and internet connections, which ensures quality conditions for individual work, learning and research. An additional enrichment of the library space is the Legere Club, officially opened on February 27, 2020. Located next to the reading room, this 43 m^2 space is designed as a place for informal gatherings, socializing, reading and resting for students and employees of the Faculty. It is intended for various forms of social and educational activities and contributes to the creation of a stimulating academic environment and the development of togetherness within the Faculty.

Over the last decade, the Library has paid special attention to the digitalisation of library operations, increasing the availability of academic and scientific materials and the development of the institutional repository. In November 2015, the Repository of the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture Osijek was established, within the national system of digital institutional repositories DABAR, which is developed and supported by the University Computing Centre (SRCE). The repository enables storage, long-term preservation, and search of scientific, professional and educational content of the Faculty. It stores students' final and graduate theses, doctoral dissertations, scientific and professional papers of employees, contributions published in journals and conference proceedings, and other academic content. In this way, the Library contributes to the long-term preservation of the research and professional output of the Faculty, its visibility and accessibility to the wider academic community. The Library plays an important role in providing information services to the Faculty, providing students, teachers and researchers with access to relevant national and international sources of knowledge. In addition to the printed library collection, us-


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ers have access to a wide range of scientific and professional information resources, including full-text scientific journals, conference papers and e-books, through available national licences. Electronic resources can also be accessed off campus via the proxy service of the National and University Library in Zagreb, ensuring access to current scientific and professional literature regardless of users' location.

In addition to providing access to library and electronic materials, the Library provides systematic support to the scientific research work of the Faculty. Particularly noteworthy are the services of bibliometric analyses, monitoring of scientific production and the issuance of certificates of indexing and citation of research papers. For the purposes of selection and promotion to scientific and teaching titles, applications for scientific projects and the preparation of various reports, the Library conducts searches of relevant bibliographic and citation databases, primarily the Web of Science Core Collection and Scopus. Users have access to data on the number of published and cited papers, as well as bibliometric indicators of journals, including the Impact Factor, the SCImago Journal Rank (SJR) indicator and the corresponding quartile (Q). Searches are carried out on the basis of data stored in the Information System of Science of the Republic of Croatia (CroRIS), i.e. its CROSBI module, as well as data from the institutional Repository. The Library also issues certificates of mentorship and co-mentoring and collects and processes data on scientific and professional works of employees for the purpose of developing action plans and reports on the scientific activity of the Faculty.

Special attention is paid to information support to students during the preparation of seminar, final, graduate and doctoral theses. For this purpose, the Library provides a thematic literature search service, which helps students find relevant scientific and professional sources in accordance with the topic of their work. This encourages the development of students' information competencies and enables them to independently find and use scientific information.

The use of library services and the availability of library materials are also confirmed by user data. With its services, the Library primarily provides support to students and employees of the Faculty, and its services are also available to students of other constituents of the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek and international students staying at the University within the Erasmus+ programme. In addition to approximately 1,200 students of the Faculty, the Library also gathers about 250 enrolled students of other faculties and international students, thus confirming its openness and role in the wider university and international academic environment.

In addition to regular library and information services, the Library actively participates in the professional development of teaching and scientific staff and doctoral students by organising educational lectures and workshops. Their goal is to improve the information and research competencies of users, especially in the field of searching scientific databases, using bibliometric indicators and scientific information management.

An important part of the Library's activities is also focused on promoting sustainable development, environmental protection and social responsibility. As part of the Green Libraries project, exhibitions, educational content and occasional activities are continuously organised to mark important environmental dates and raise awareness of environmental protection and sustainable development.

With its diverse holdings, modern space, developed digital services and active participation in scientific, educational and social activities, the Library of the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture Osijek today represents an important component of the academic infrastructure of the Faculty. Its role goes beyond the traditional collection, processing and lending of library materials and includes active support for education, research, open science, visibility of scientific production and lifelong learning. By continuously monitoring the needs of its users and applying modern information technologies, the Library is developing as an open, accessible and stimulating place of knowledge, information and academic cooperation.




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Faculty Secretariat

Secretary of the Faculty: Iva Vrkić, dipl. iur.

Department for Legal, IT and General Affairs
The Service is responsible for legal affairs, information technology and the preparation of internal regulatory documents, as well as coordination between its organisational units, sections and subsections. It provides legal support to Faculty bodies and committees, manages employment-related matters and employment rights, coordinates office administration, records management and archiving, and oversees technical services and premises maintenance.

Employees of the Service:
Mirta Magud, univ. mag. iur., Head of Service
Krešimir Pavelić, univ. mag. ing. comp., IT specialist

Subsection for Deans' Affairs and Faculty Bodies
Danijela Pavić, Head of the Subsection

Subsection for Human Resources and General Affairs
Marija Maras, Head of the Subsection

Subsection for Documentation and Archives
Anamarija Kolak, Head of the Subsection
Stanka Kopf, Administrative Affairs Officer

Subsection for Technical and Auxiliary Affairs
Andrej Budač, Head of the Subsection
Dražen Tumir, Fire Protection Officer
Miroslav Kraljević, janitor
Ana Čalošević, cleaner
Maja Filaković, cleaner
Dubravka Grubor, cleaner
Ivana Kečkeš, cleaner
Luca Miloloža, cleaner
Ksenija Radić, cleaner

Department of Students and Studies
Željka Sanseović, univ. mag. oec., Head of the Department

Subsection for Student Affairs
Dunja Valinčić, Student Affairs Officer

Department of Postgraduate Studies
Veronika Malović, upr. pravnik, Head of the Department
Edita Mamić, Postgraduate Studies Officer

Department of Quality Management
Edita Pinterić, dipl. iur., Head of Department



Department for Financial Operations, Investments and Accounting
The Service organises, coordinates and supervises financial operations, investment activities and accounting processes. It ensures legal, efficient and transparent management of financial resources and compliance with regulations. It coordinates the preparation of financial plans, reports and analyses and monitors the implementation of budgets and projects, coordinates the work of divisions and sections within its scope of competence and provides them with professional support.

Employees of the Service
Ana Krajina, univ. mag. oec., Head of Service

Programme Finance Department
Zvjezdana Stober, univ. mag. oec., programme finance advisor

Subsection for Accounting
Jasmina Šmider, Accounting Officer

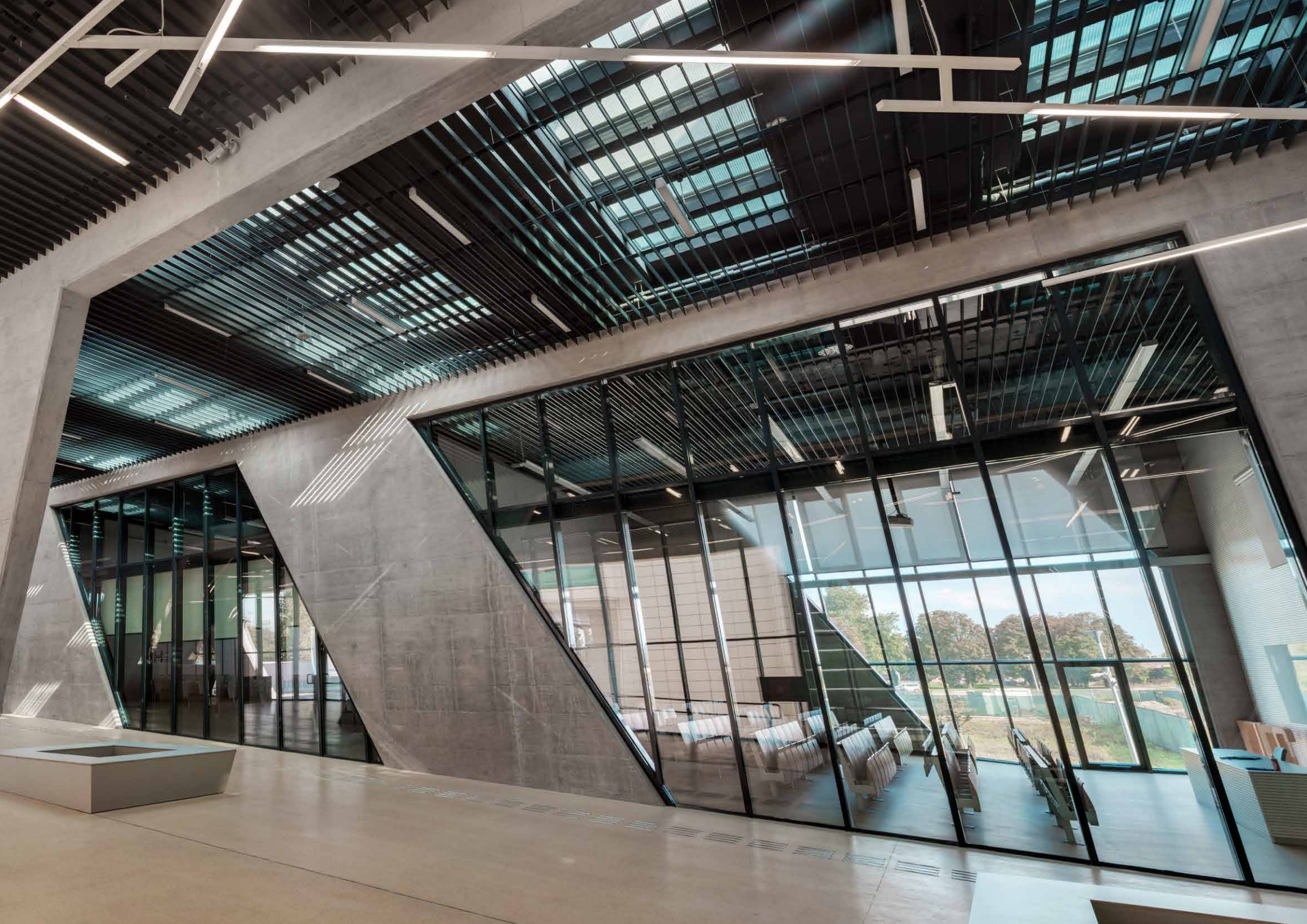
Department of Financial Operations
Tihana Artuković Džajić, univ. mag. oec., financial advisor

Subsection for Accounting
Vlasta Rado, Head of the Accounting Subsection

Department of Projects
Danijela Rogina, MSc, Head of the Projects Section

Business Relations and Procurement Department
The Service organises and implements public procurement procedures within its competence and ensures their legality and proper implementation. It performs professional tasks of preparation, implementation and monitoring of procurement procedures of small, large and minor value. It supervises, verifies and analyses tender documentation and participates in the preparation of reports, decisions and procurement contracts. It participates in the planning of programme financing and monitors and applies applicable regulations in the field of public procurement.

Employees of the Service
Kristina Armbrust, univ. mag. oec.,
Head of the Department for the Implementation of Procurement Procedures
Ana Haluška, univ. mag. oec.



Students and Student Life

The Faculty's fifty-year history is reflected above all in the generations of students educated here. From the beginnings of civil engineering higher education in Osijek, through the establishment of an independent Faculty of Civil Engineering, to today's Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture Osijek, study programmes, qualifications and modes of study have changed. Educating future professionals, however, has remained the Faculty's central mission.

The scale of the Faculty's educational contribution is illustrated by the qualifications awarded: records for the period from 1984 to 2026 document more than 5,200 graduation certificates. Behind this figure are generations of professionals who have applied the knowledge and skills acquired in Osijek in design and construction companies, public administration, education and research institutions, and other organisations in Croatia and abroad. Alumni remain among the Faculty's most enduring and visible contributions to the profession and society.

The Faculty continues to serve a large student community. In the 2025/2026 academic year, more than 1,100 students were enrolled across its study programmes, and more than 200 completed their studies. Students attend university and professional programmes in Civil Engineering and the university programme in Architecture and Urban Planning. This range of programmes reflects the Faculty's gradual development from an institution focused on civil engineering into one that brings civil engineering and architecture together at different levels of higher education. Applications also attest to sustained interest: in 2024/2025, 684 candidates applied for 120 places on the university undergraduate programme in Civil Engineering, while 297 candidates applied for 40 places in Architecture and Urban Planning. In 2025/2026, all available undergraduate places were filled.

Over the decades, study paths have adapted to the development of the profession and changes in the Croatian and European higher education system. Today's progression of study programmes in the field of civil engineering includes the university undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate levels, as well as the professional undergraduate and graduate levels. In the field of architecture and urban planning, the university undergraduate study is carried out, while the progression of study programmes will be further rounded off by the planned university graduate study of Architecture and Urban Planning. The connection between individual study levels and the possibilities of continuing education are shown in the figure.

In parallel with the expansion of study opportunities, the study experience itself has also changed. Traditional forms of teaching have gradually been supplemented with project and problem tasks, laboratory work, field teaching, practical training and digital tools. A special place in the education of civil engineers and architects has the connection of theoretical knowledge with real spatial, structural and organisational problems, as well as direct contact with the profession and the economy.

The quality and excellence of student works are confirmed by numerous awards, including the Annual Award of the Croatian Association of Civil Engineers (HSGI), the Annual Award of Croatian Waters and the Annual Student Lions Award. Student excellence is also recognised by the Rector's Award of the University and the Dean's Award of the Faculty, which confirms the quality of education, the dedication of students and their success in teaching, scientific and professional work.

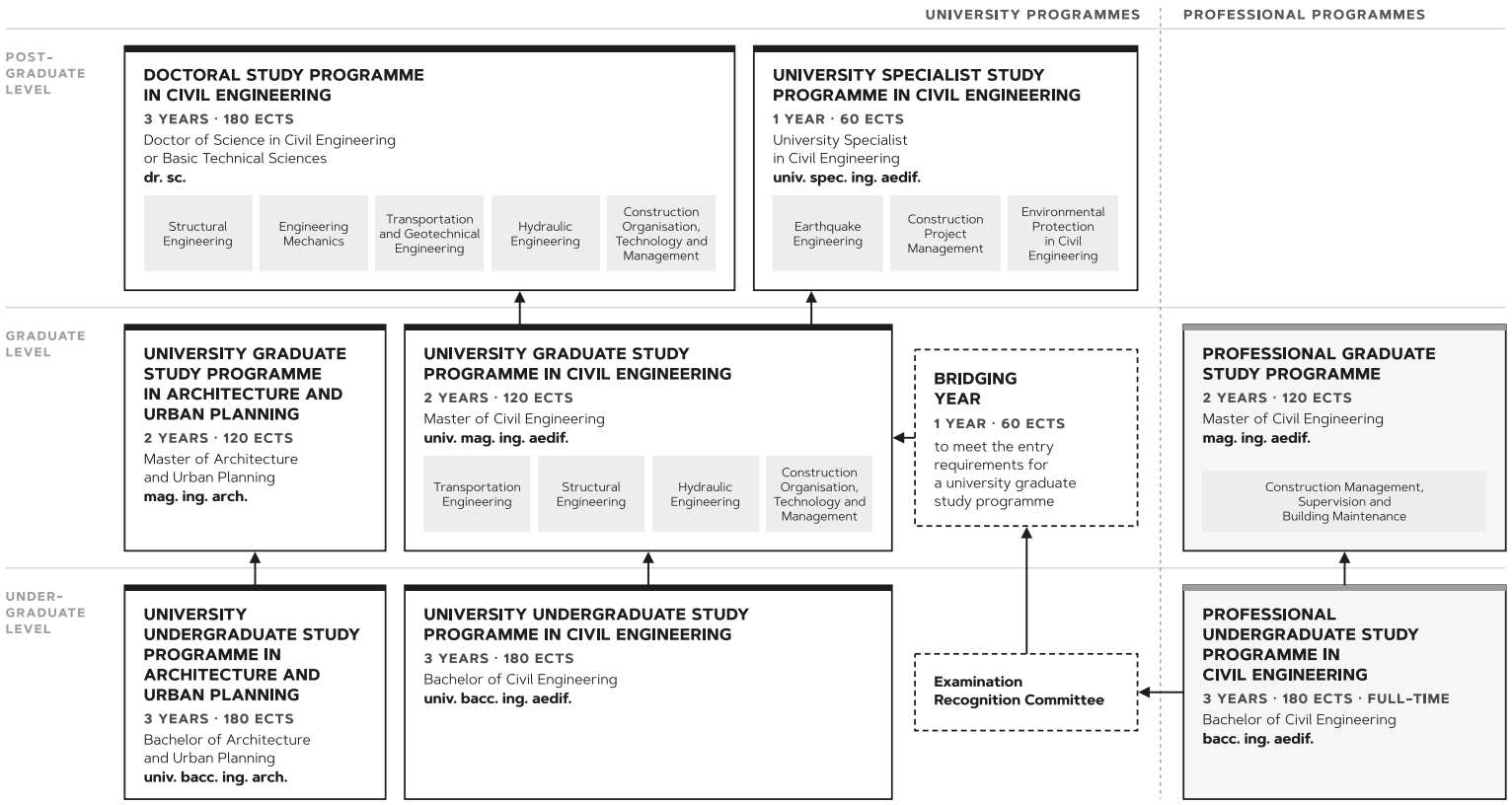
A student support system has also been developed. First-year students attend an orientation session introducing them to the Faculty and are assigned academic advisers who provide guidance and support throughout their studies.

In addition to the direct work of teachers and mentors, various forms of administrative, informational and professional support are available to students. Their success, pass rate, duration of study and satisfaction with the teaching process are systemat-

ically monitored, and the results of student surveys and other indicators are used to improve study programmes and the organisation of teaching. At the same time, students participate in the work of faculty bodies and decision-making processes, thus actively contributing to the development of the academic community.

Modern studies increasingly include experiences outside the home institution. International mobility, professional and study visits, student conferences, workshops, projects, student competitions and cooperation with industry enable students to gain experiences that complement the formal study programme and facilitate the transition to a professional environment. Student organisations, sports and other extracurricular activities further enrich the life of the Faculty and are presented in a separate chapter of the Monograph.

More than five thousand registered diplomas represent a measurable trace of the Faculty's educational activity, but behind each of them there is a separate professional and life path. Generations of its students have participated and continue to participate in the design, construction, management and preservation of the built space, and today's students continue this continuity in the circumstances of new technological, environmental and social challenges. They directly connect the fifty-year tradition of the Faculty and its future development.



Development of study programmes and education

The development of study programmes of the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture Osijek over the past decades has been accompanied by the development of the construction and architectural profession, changes in the higher education system, and the needs of the economy and society. Since the beginning of higher education of civil engineers in Osijek in 1967, educational activities have been gradually expanded, and study programmes have been changed and modernised in accordance with new professional and scientific knowledge.

A particularly important milestone was the harmonisation of study programmes with the Bologna Process and the establishment of a modern higher education structure based on ECTS credits, learning outcomes and clearly connected levels of study. Through international projects, the Faculty also contributed to aligning civil engineering education with the Bologna Declaration and developing its quality assurance system. These changes gradually established a coherent progression of university and professional study programmes in Civil Engineering, with opportunities to continue to doctoral level.

The University Graduate Study of Civil Engineering, approved in 2005, is a good example of the continuity and simultaneous adaptability of study programmes. The programme has been amended several times over the years – in 2009, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021 and 2024 – in order to reflect developments in the profession, scientific knowledge and the needs of the labour market. The study has developed into four recognisable modules: Load-bearing Structures; Hydraulic Engineering; Road Engineering; and Organization, Technology and Management of Construction, enabling students to specialise while maintaining a common foundation in engineering. The programme lasts two years and carries 120 ECTS credits, and holders of professional bachelor's degrees are enabled to join the university progression of study programmes after fulfilling the prescribed bridging requirements.

The latest changes to the study programmes of civil engineering further emphasise the need to connect traditional engineering knowledge with modern competencies. In addition to the content and terminological modernisation of existing courses, the areas of Building Information Modelling (BIM), Geographic Information Systems, Artificial Intelligence, Sustainable Construction, Engineering Calculation Programming, Sustainability, and Academic and Professional Communication are more strongly included in the programmes. For example, the former course Integrated Design is being developed into Information Modelling, GIS is being set up as a tool applicable in various areas of civil engineering, and the Application of Artificial Intelligence in Construction is one of the common elective contents.

At the same time, the forms of teaching themselves are developing. Classical lectures and exercises are increasingly complemented by project and problem tasks, laboratory work, computer modelling and simulations, field teaching and direct familiarization with the professional environment. Study contents are not viewed in isolation: their quality is monitored through the achievement of learning outcomes, the connection between teaching and evaluation methods, and student feedback. Such an approach allows the programmes not only to change formally, but also to gradually change the way students acquire and apply knowledge.

One of the biggest developmental changes in the educational activity of the Faculty was the opening of the field of architecture and urban planning. With the launch of the university undergraduate study of Architecture and Urban Planning in 2016, educational activity was expanded beyond the traditional field of civil engineering for the first time, and this development in 2018 received an institutional term in today's name of the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture Osijek. The study of 180 ECTS credits is designed to connect architectural and urban design, technical knowledge, history and theory of architecture, and understanding of space and the built environment.


Postupak iskolčenja zavoja
Određivanje skretnog kuta α (što ga čine tangente pri promjeni smjera trase mjerenje, računanje)

The next step is the establishment of a complete progression of study programmes in architecture and urban planning. In June 2026, the Faculty Council accepted the proposal of the university graduate study of Architecture and Urban Planning, lasting two years and with a total of 120 ECTS credits, with the planned start of implementation in the academic year 2027/2028, after the completion of the initial accreditation process. The new study is a natural continuation of the existing undergraduate programme and is focused on the independent solution of complex architectural and urban tasks. The programme connects studio-oriented design with digital technologies, sustainability, research approach and interdisciplinary content, with elective blocks, practical training and graduate thesis. This establishes a complete model of education 3 + 2, i.e. 180 + 120 ECTS credits, comparable to the European educational path of architects.

In parallel with university studies, the Faculty has maintained and developed the professional study pathway in civil engineering, today organised through professional undergraduate and professional graduate studies. It emphasises the application of engineering knowledge, construction execution and management, and direct connection with the needs of the profession. The prescribed bridging requirements also preserve the progression to the university graduate programme, which does not close different educational paths, but enables further development in accordance with the interests and previously acquired competencies of students.

The educational activity of the Faculty does not end with the acquisition of a formal qualification. Lifelong learning and professional development programmes are developed in response to accelerated technological and regulatory changes in construction and the need for experts to continuously acquire new competencies. Thus, the traditional role of the Faculty as a place of study is expanded according to the model of an institution to which experts return throughout their professional lives.

The development of study programmes over the past fifty years has therefore not been a succession of unrelated reforms. From the earliest forms of civil engineering education, through the development of university and professional programmes, to the introduction of architecture and urban planning, digital competencies and lifelong learning, the same underlying idea has remained: to preserve the strong foundations of engineering education while continuously adapting them to new knowledge, technologies and societal needs. This ability to change while maintaining its professional identity is one of the defining features of the Faculty's educational development.

After the establishment of the Faculty of Civil Engineering, which was created by connecting the Osijek School of Civil Engineering and the Department for Materials and Structures of the then Civil Engineering Institute Zagreb, the scientific component of the institution's activities was significantly strengthened. This created the foundations for the inclusion of teachers in postgraduate education and scientific work, and for the later launch of their own postgraduate studies. A special impetus for the development of postgraduate studies was achieved after the Faculty became independent in 1991 and its operation since 1992 under the name of the Faculty of Civil Engineering of the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek. During this period, the number of teachers with scientific degrees continuously increased, laboratories and research groups were developed, and the Faculty gradually profiled itself as the centre of civil engineering and higher education in eastern Croatia.

In accordance with the reforms of higher education and the principles of lifelong learning, the Faculty has launched postgraduate specialist and doctoral studies. According to the valid license of the Ministry of Science and Education, the Postgraduate Specialist Study of Civil Engineering is organised through several specialisations: Earthquake Engineering, Construction Project Management and Environmental Protection in Construction. The study lasts one year (two semesters), carries 60 ECTS credits and enables students to acquire additional specialist competencies necessary for modern construction practice. In 2022, the study was put on hold until changes and modernisation are carried out, which will provide students with an even higher level of teaching quality and knowledge.

The highest level of postgraduate education is represented by the doctoral programme in Civil Engineering. The study is organised in the scientific field of technical sciences and enables the acquisition of the academic degree of Doctor of Science in the field of civil engineering or basic technical sciences. The programme lasts three years, i.e. six semesters, and carries a total of 180 ECTS credits. The doctoral study is based on research in key areas of civil engineering that have shaped the scientific profile of the Faculty over the decades.


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The development of postgraduate studies is strongly linked to the strengthening of the Faculty's research infrastructure. With the opening of a new faculty building on the university campus in 2016, modern laboratory and research facilities were provided, which further improved the conditions for conducting doctoral studies, international cooperation and the implementation of scientific projects.

Today, the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture Osijek carries out the doctoral programme in Civil Engineering as an integral part of its mission to develop high-quality education, scientific research and knowledge transfer to industry. Postgraduate studies have become an important instrument for the education of new researchers, university teachers and leading experts in the construction profession in Croatia, especially in the area of Slavonia, Baranja and the wider region.

A special confirmation of the quality and relevance of the postgraduate university programme in Civil Engineering is its continuous interest among experts from the academic community and the economy. In the academic year 2026/2027, 28 doctoral students are active in the Doctoral Study, of which 7 are employees of the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture Osijek, while as many as 21 students are employed in design offices, construction companies, public institutions and other organisations related to the construction sector. Such a ratio confirms the strong connection of the Study with the profession and the economy and its role in the transfer of modern scientific knowledge into engineering practice. The Doctoral Study is recognised as a place where scientific research, the development of innovative solutions and solving real problems in the field of civil engineering are successfully connected.

Since 2005, 47 candidates have earned their doctoral degrees at the Faculty. They now work as university teachers, researchers, designers, expert consultants and managers of complex construction projects. Their professional development and achievements testify to the quality of doctoral education and to the Faculty's contribution to civil engineering practice and research in Croatia.

The quality of doctoral research carried out by doctoral candidates and their supervisors at the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture Osijek is also recognised through national awards. In particular, the Croatian Association of Civil Engineers (HSGI) presents awards for outstanding doctoral theses in civil engineering. These awards recognise the scientific excellence, innovation and contribution of young researchers to the development of the profession, while encouraging the transfer of research findings and new technologies into engineering practice and strengthening cooperation between academia and industry.

The quality of the Faculty's research is further demonstrated by prestigious awards received for doctoral dissertations completed and defended at the Faculty, highlighting the excellence of its doctoral education and its contribution to civil engineering research. Certain doctoral theses prepared and defended at the Faculty have been awarded prestigious awards, which further confirms scientific excellence, the quality of doctoral studies and the Faculty's contribution to the development of science in the field of civil engineering. Through lifelong learning programmes, participants acquire and improve the knowledge and competencies they need for their professional needs. Lifelong learning is carried out at the Faculty through several forms: through a one-year bridging programme, through training programmes for energy audits and energy certification of buildings (Module 1 and Module 2), through professional development, and the adoption of a new Lifelong Learning Programme called Anti-Seismic and Energy Renovation of Buildings is in the process.


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Student Internships and Fieldwork

Connecting theoretical knowledge with direct experience of construction sites, buildings, production facilities and premises is one of the permanent determinants of the education of students of the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture Osijek. Over the decades, field trips, professional visits and excursions have enabled students to get to know the content covered in lectures and exercises in a real environment, while student internship has gradually developed as a more direct form of involving students in professional work. Although the organisation, content and scope of these activities have changed, their basic goal has remained the same – to bring students closer to the real processes of design, construction, supervision and maintenance and to prepare them for their future engineering and architectural vocation.

Field teaching has a long tradition at the Faculty. Older documents and photographic records testify to professional excursions and tours of construction sites, infrastructure systems, production facilities and other buildings, which shows that practical familiarization with the profession from early periods was an important part of education. Over time, such forms of teaching became more and more closely connected with individual courses and fields of study and developed in parallel with the development of curricula.

Since the end of the first decade of the 21st century, field teaching has been regularly recorded as an integral part of teaching in various study programmes. Students have visited land reclamation systems, ports, wastewater treatment plants, communal systems, construction sites of high-rise buildings, road constructions, bridges, water management structures, laboratories and production plants. In the years that follow, the range of field activities is further expanded. Utility companies, large city construction sites, laboratories, industrial plants and infrastructure systems are visited, and classes are also conducted at locations where students can directly follow the individual phases of work.

A particularly important development stage was 2015, when a joint project of four faculties of civil engineering started the development of a more systematic model of student practical training. 120 graduate students participated in the programme, 30 from each faculty, and the internship lasted 20 working days. When selecting employers, efforts were made to cover various activities of the construction profession – design, construction and professional supervision – as well as different professional areas.

The value of this model was that the internship was not limited only to the student's stay with the employer, but was related to clearly defined educational goals and the evaluation of acquired competencies. After the internship, surveys were conducted among students and employers, which assessed general and professional competencies in the field of structures, geotechnics, hydraulic engineering and roads. The defined learning outcomes included the application of professional knowledge in specific tasks, the application of norms and legal regulations, teamwork, the preparation of reports, the design of technical solutions and the presentation of results. This gave the internship a clearer role in checking the readiness of students for professional work and in connecting study programmes with the needs of the economy.

A new dimension of field teaching was introduced with the launch of the university undergraduate study of Architecture and Urban Planning in the academic year 2016/2017. Already in the programme of the first year, field teaching was a separate form of work, and students visited recent architectural and urban design projects, as well as museums, cultural heritage, contemporary architectural projects, construction sites and specific locations of project tasks.


Switzerland

In the study of Architecture and Urban Planning, field teaching has a slightly different, but complementary role in relation to civil engineering. While in construction studies the emphasis is often on construction technology, construction solutions, infrastructure systems and the functioning of construction sites, architecture students get to know space through direct observation, analysis of the urban context, architectural achievements, cultural heritage and the relationship of the building to space. Fieldwork thus becomes a kind of classroom outside the Faculty, where they develop the ability to observe, analyse and critically evaluate the built environment.

The continuity and importance of field teaching have been particularly pronounced in the recent period. In 2023, 34 field classes were carried out at the university graduate programme in Civil Engineering alone, with an emphasis on connecting theoretical knowledge with specific construction projects and locations. Such a scope confirms that field teaching is no longer an occasional supplement to teaching, but a regular and important form of gaining professional experience.

Connecting students with practice is additionally achieved through guest lectures, professional meetings and direct contacts with engineers and employers. Experts from the economy share with students their experiences from designing, constructing and managing construction sites, talk about career challenges, field research and specific problems that engineers encounter in their daily work. In this way, field teaching and student internship are complemented by broader forms of cooperation with the profession and further bring students closer to the professional environment.

The development of student internship and field teaching throughout the history of the Faculty shows a gradual transition from professional tours and excursions to systematically organised learning in a real professional environment. Construction sites, laboratories, production plants, roads, water management systems, architectural achievements and urban spaces have become an extension of the faculty classrooms and practice rooms, while practical training has enabled students to take on more specific work tasks, get to know the organisation of work and the responsibility of the engineering profession, and test their own knowledge before completing their studies.

It is precisely in this connection between academic knowledge and the actual space of its application that one of the important values of education at the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture Osijek lies. The knowledge acquired at the Faculty is tested and upgraded where it will later be applied – on the construction site, in the design office, laboratory, production plant and city space. Student practice and field teaching are therefore not only an addition to the teaching process, but an important part of the professional maturation of students and a permanent link between the Faculty and the construction and architectural professions.







Science and Research Projects

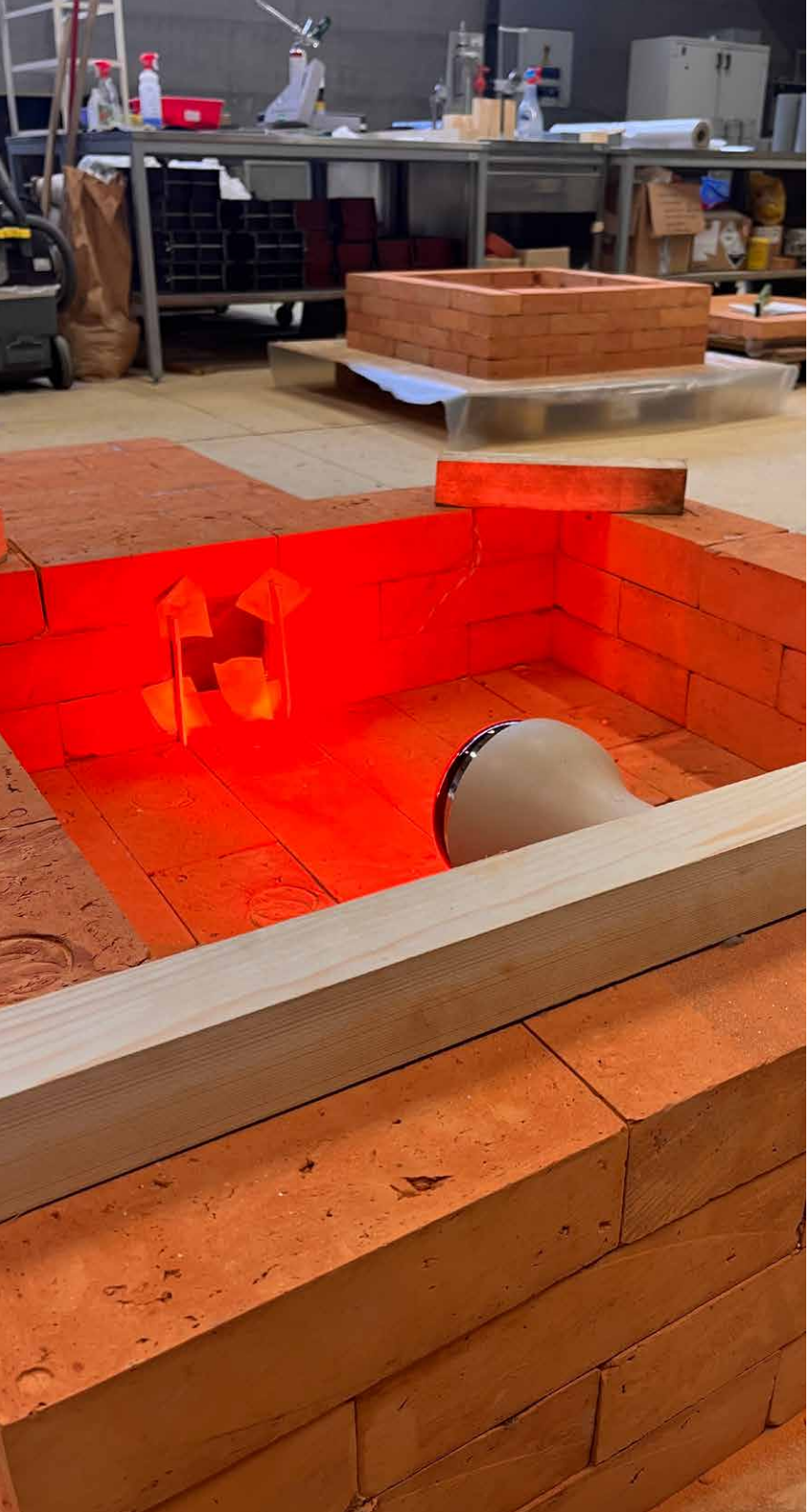
Scientific research activity is one of the fundamental components of the development of the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture Osijek. Over the past decades, the Faculty has grown into one of the leading regional research centres in the field of civil engineering, architecture and urban planning, with a clearly defined goal of creating new knowledge, developing innovative technologies and their transfer to industry and society. Scientific research is carried out through the work of the department, laboratories, research groups and the doctoral programme in Civil Engineering, with strong connections with domestic and international partners. A special momentum for scientific activity was achieved with the development of modern research infrastructure and moving into the new building of the Faculty in 2016. In modern laboratories for materials and structures, experimental mechanics, hydraulic engineering and environmental protection, and geotechnics, conditions have been created for conducting complex experimental research and developing internationally recognised research projects. Over the past few years, laboratories have been continuously equipped with new equipment financed by scientific projects, the Ministry of Science and other sources of funding.

The development of scientific excellence can also be monitored through the continuous growth of scientific production. The number of papers indexed in the Web of Science and Scopus databases has increased many times over the last decade. Thus, from 22 papers in 2016, the number of publications increased to 57 papers in 2025. At the same time, the quality of published research has significantly increased, so in 2025 as many as 62% of papers were published in journals classified in the first quartile (Q1), which confirms the international relevance of the Faculty's scientific results.

An important indicator of the scientific maturity of the Faculty is a strong project activity. In the period since 2016, a large number of projects funded by the Croatian Science Foundation, European funds, cross-border cooperation programmes, COST networks and other international programmes have been implemented. Among the most important projects are the HRZZ Establishment (UIP) and Research (IP) projects, which have contributed to the development of research in the field of structures, roads, sustainable materials and earthquake engineering. At the same time, the Faculty has achieved notable results in international projects, Interreg – IPA and Erasmus+, through which cooperation with universities and research institutions across Europe and beyond has been achieved. These projects have enabled the development of new research methods, the procurement of equipment, the mobility of researchers and students, and the international affirmation of the Faculty.

The Faculty's research encompasses a broad range of topics across contemporary civil engineering. These include earthquake- and blast-resistant structures, sustainable construction materials, earth-based architecture, timber structures, geotechnics, transport infrastructure, water management, building energy efficiency, BIM technologies, digitalisation in construction, sustainable urban development and climate-neutral cities. Through this work, the Faculty responds to the challenges of Europe's green and digital transitions.

Scientific excellence is strongly linked to the doctoral programme in Civil Engineering, which represents the basis for the development of new generations of researchers. The doctoral study has been carried out since 2007, through five scientific specialisations: Load-bearing structures, Organisation, technology and management of construction, Engineering mechanics, Hydraulic engineering and Roads and geotechnics. PhD students are actively involved in the implementation of research projects, publication of research papers and international mobility programmes.



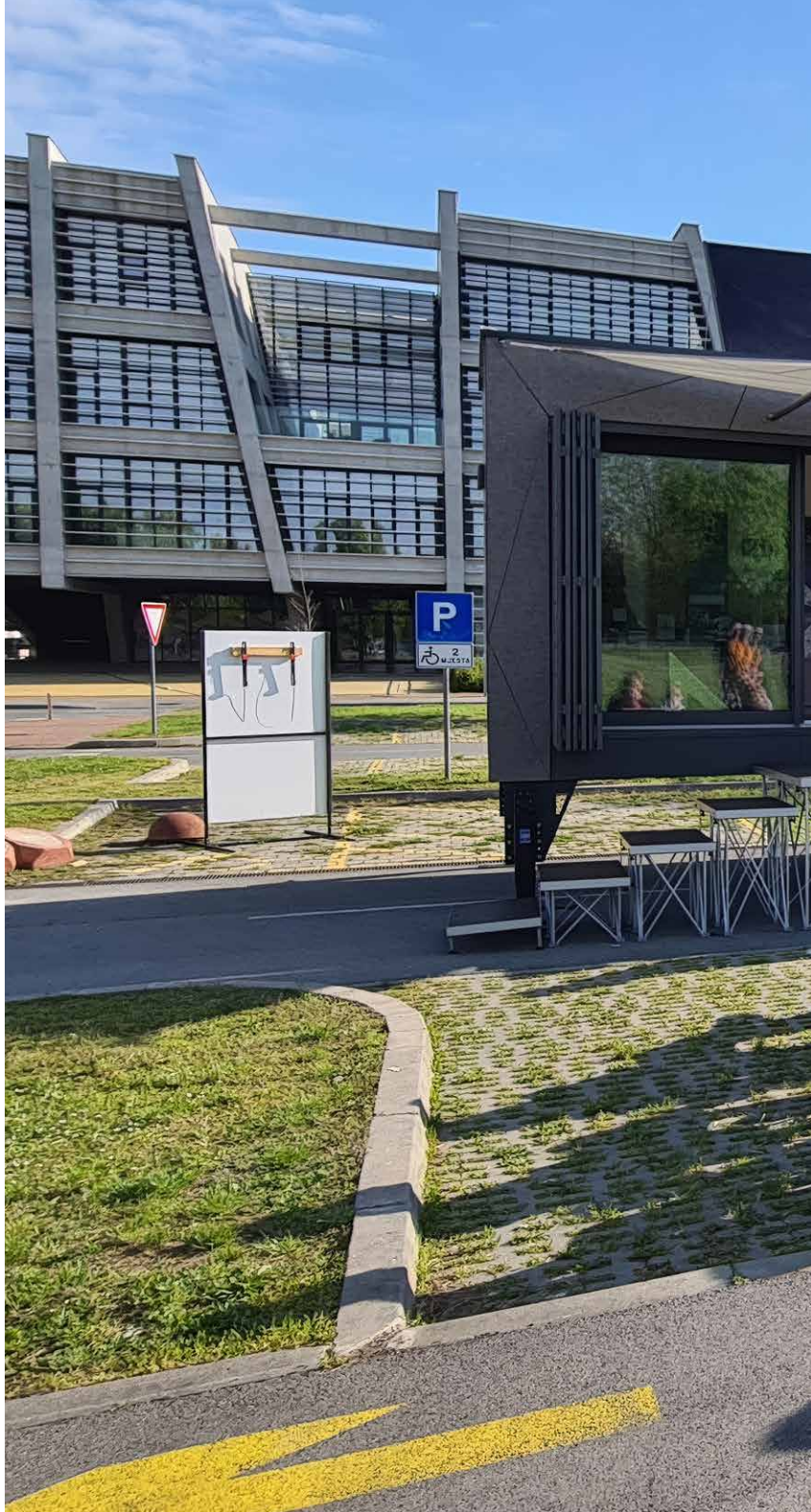

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Recently, the Faculty has been systematically investing in the development of young researchers through the establishment of research groups, financing mobility, organising training, and awarding scholarships and awards for scientific excellence of doctoral students. In 2025, scholarships and awards were granted to doctoral students for excellent scientific achievements, which further encourages the quality of research work and the development of the academic career of young scientists.

Scientific research excellence, international recognition and continuous contribution to the development of science are important indicators of the success of the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture Osijek. The quality of scientific work and the results achieved have been confirmed by numerous awards at the regional, national and international level. Particularly noteworthy are the awards given to the employees of the Faculty for exceptional scientific achievements and contribution to the development of scientific research activities.

The scientific excellence of the Faculty's staff has been recognised through numerous prestigious distinctions, including the Annual State Award for Science, the Osijek-Baranja County Award and awards of Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek for outstanding scientific achievements. The international visibility of the Faculty's research is further demonstrated by the inclusion of its researchers among the world's top 2% of scientists in the Stanford/Elsevier ranking.

In 2026, the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture Osijek has 89 active international cooperation agreements, participates in numerous international research networks and continuously increases the number of projects, publications and research partnerships. With this, the Faculty confirms its role as one of the most important carriers of scientific development in the field of civil engineering, architecture and urban planning in eastern Croatia and beyond.





Popularization of science

The popularization of science occupies an important place in the activities of the Faculty because it contributes to bringing scientific knowledge and research results closer to the general public, especially young people. Over the years, the Faculty has encouraged the interest of pupils and students in science, civil engineering and other engineering professions through various activities.

The Faculty traditionally participates in festivals and events dedicated to the popularization of science among children and young people. Events such as Tehnicoolum and the MUZZA Science Week are an important part of Osijek's STEM story, and the Faculty regularly contributes to their programme with a variety of educational and interactive content. Special attention is paid to the youngest visitors, who are presented with complex scientific and engineering concepts in a simple, interesting and adapted way. Workshops such as "Flat and Spatial Puzzle – Parts of the City", "Floating Elements", "Screw Creatives" and "Balance Game: A Bridge Without Tools" enable children to learn the basic laws of physics, mechanics and construction through play, research and practical work. By assembling structures, testing their stability and finding their own solutions, participants directly discover how scientific principles are applied in everyday life.

The Faculty also seeks to give students insights into research and professional practice beyond their regular classes. One such opportunity is the recurring event "Profession and Knowledge in a Cup of Coffee", previously known as "Science with Coffee". It provides an informal setting for exchanging ideas, experiences and knowledge in civil engineering and architecture. Over coffee, students can meet professionals, hear about their careers and receive advice on entering the profession, design challenges and the transition from study to work. Topics addressed over the years have included "Career in Design?", "Life by the River from the Perspective of a Designer and Hydraulic Engineer", "Architectural Lessons from the Forest", "Caring for Students' Mental Health" and "Studying Abroad".

Over the years, the Faculty has built a strong and continuous cooperation with secondary schools, trying to bring students closer to civil engineering and introduce them to the possibilities of continuing education and work in the profession. Particularly noteworthy is the cooperation with the School of Civil Engineering and Geodesy Osijek, within which the Faculty has been acting as a sponsor and active participant of the traditional "Winter School" for many years. Through professional lectures, workshops and practical tasks, students expand the knowledge acquired in regular classes and get acquainted with the basic principles of designing, building and behaving structures. Among the particularly interesting activities is the construction of spaghetti bridges, during which students design the shape of the bridge, assemble its elements and consider how the load is transferred through the structure. The made models are then tested to check their load-bearing capacity and stability. In this way, students can directly observe how the choice of structural system, the arrangement of elements and the quality of joints affect the behaviour of the bridge. Students also make models of structures from balsa, a lightweight material suitable for displaying the load-bearing elements of real buildings. After production, the models are placed on a shaking table, where their behaviour is examined using records of real earthquakes of different intensity. By observing displacements, deformations and possible damage, students learn the basic principles of earthquake engineering and learn why the proper design of the structure, its rigidity, stability and the quality of the joints are crucial for the resistance of the building to earthquakes.



Over the years, the Faculty has systematically visited high school graduates in order to present study programmes, bring the fields of civil engineering and architecture closer to them, and encourage them to continue their education at the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture Osijek. Such activities included numerous schools, including the I, II and III Gymnasium Osijek, the Vinkovci Technical School and the Slavonski Brod Gymnasium. Cooperation with the School of Civil Engineering and Geodesy Osijek was also realized through organised visits of its students to the Faculty, which enabled them to get directly acquainted with the premises, classes and study opportunities. In recent years, greater emphasis has been placed on participation in the University Festival, which brings together high school graduates, high school students and others interested in continuing their education in one place. The festival allows future students to directly ask questions about study programmes, enrolment requirements, organisation of classes, student obligations, opportunities for professional development and career development. An important role in the presentation of the Faculty is played by its current students, who share personal experiences with graduates about the transition from high school to college, preparation for study, teaching obligations, student projects and everyday student life.

The Faculty nurtures a long tradition of hosting primary and secondary school students and kindergarten children. Organised visits enable young visitors to tour the Faculty, get acquainted with its premises and laboratories, and participate in educational workshops adapted to their age and prior knowledge. In the workshops “Balsa Bridges” and “Spaghetti Bridges”, participants make and test their own models of bridges, while in the workshop “Structures under Earthquake”, they exhibit balsa models to simulations of real earthquakes on a shaking table. The workshops “Seeing the Invisible to the Eye” and “From Material to Construction” bring them closer to scientific observation and methods of laboratory testing of building materials and structures. These activities are just some of the many workshops that the Faculty offers to its visitors. One of the examples of continuous cooperation are the regular annual visits of students of the Technical School Slavonski Brod. During the year, the Faculty also hosts students of other schools and various kindergarten groups, for which it prepares content adapted to their age. Such visits provide children and young people with the experience of learning outside the classroom, encourage their curiosity and creativity, and bring them closer to science, construction and architecture in an accessible way.

All these activities confirm the Faculty’s ongoing commitment to opening science to the community and creating a space where knowledge is passed on through experience, encounter and cooperation. In the years to come, the Faculty will continue to bring civil engineering and architecture closer to new generations, encouraging them to explore, ask questions and boldly shape their own ideas. By nurturing children’s curiosity, supporting students in choosing their future vocation and providing students with the opportunity to develop, the Faculty will continue to create the foundations on which knowledge, progress and the future of the profession rest.

The popularization of science, the promotion of scientific knowledge and the connection between science and education are an integral part of the activities of the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture Osijek. Of particular value are activities that contribute to bringing science closer to the general public, improving educational processes and strengthening the role of science in society. The Faculty’s contribution in this area has been confirmed by prestigious state awards.



Scientific Journal and Publishing

Among the most important forms of scientific and publishing activities of the Faculty, a prominent place is occupied by the international scientific journal Advances in Civil and Architectural Engineering (ACAE) (ISSN 2975-3848), published by the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture Osijek of the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek. The journal represents an important platform for the publication of original scientific, review and professional papers in all fields of civil engineering, architecture and urban planning, and significantly contributes to the international visibility of the Faculty's scientific research work.

ACAE is a modern open access scientific journal (Diamond Open Access), which means that all published papers are freely available to users immediately upon publication, without subscriptions and other access restrictions. At the same time, authors do not pay fees for processing or publishing papers, which ensures maximum availability and equality in the publication of scientific results. All papers are published under the Creative Commons CC BY 4.0 license, which allows free use, sharing and citation with citation of the source. The quality of published papers is ensured through a double-blind peer review system, where neither the authors nor the reviewers are familiar with each other's identities during the evaluation process. Additional quality of publications is ensured by professional proofreading of English for all accepted papers, the costs of which are fully borne by the journal. Thematically, the journal covers a wide area of construction and architecture. Papers are published in the field of concrete, steel and other load-bearing structures, building materials, technical and structural mechanics, geotechnics, soil and foundation mechanics, hydraulic engineering, water resources management, interaction of fluids and structures, organisation and management of construction, construction technologies, architecture, urban planning and other disciplines related to the design and construction of a sustainable built environment.

Today's ACAE journal is the successor of the Electronic Journal of the Faculty of Civil Engineering Osijek – e-GFOS (ISSN 1847-8948), which has been one of the most important means of disseminating the scientific and professional results of the Faculty for a number of years. The last issue of the journal e-GFOS was published in December 2021 as issue 23. In July 2022, the journal continued its activities under the new name Advances in Civil and Architectural Engineering, which was related to the development and international affirmation of the journal, but also to the change of the name of the Faculty to the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture Osijek. The change of name did not mean a change in the editorial policy, scientific field or quality standards of the journal. On the contrary, it represented a natural step in the process of internationalization and emphasis on the interdisciplinary connection between civil engineering and architecture, as the two basic activities of the Faculty. Since then, all papers have been published exclusively in English, which has further increased the availability of the journal to the international scientific community. The journal is published twice a year and brings together authors, reviewers and members of the editorial board from Croatia and abroad.

In a relatively short time, ACAE has achieved notable international recognition and is included in the world's most important bibliographic and citation databases. The journal is indexed in the databases Web of Science, Scopus, DOAJ, CAB Abstracts, INSPEC, Applied Science & Technology Source and the Croatian portal of scientific journals Hrčak. According to the indicators for 2025, the journal achieved a Journal Impact Factor of 0.9, a five-year impact factor of 1.0 and a Journal Citation Indicator of 0.16 in the Web of Science database, where it was classified in the Q4 category in the field of Engineering, Civil. In the Scopus database, the journal achieved a CiteScore of 1.2 (Q4), SJR 0.245 (Q3) and SNIP 0.421. The achieved bibliometric indicators confirm the continuous growth of the international visibility of the journal and its increasingly important role in the publication of research results in the field of civil engineering and architecture. At the same time, they testify to the successful transformation of the faculty journal from a regional publication into an internationally recognised scientific journal.

As the official scientific journal of the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture Osijek, ACAE today represents one of the most important instruments for the promotion of scientific excellence of the Faculty. With the support of the Ministry of Science, Education and Youth of the Republic of Croatia, the journal contributes to the dissemination of new knowledge, strengthening international cooperation and increasing the visibility of research results of teachers, associates and doctoral students of the Faculty in the European and world scientific space.

In addition to the scientific journal, the Faculty has also achieved a notable publishing activity during its operation. Teachers and associates of the Faculty are the authors of numerous university textbooks, scientific monographs, professional books, teaching scripts, collections of tasks and laboratory manuals that have marked the education of several generations of civil engineering students and students of architecture and urban planning.

The published editions cover a wide range of topics in the field of civil engineering, architecture and urban planning. A special place is occupied by textbooks and collections of assignments created as a result of many years of teaching experience of the Faculty's professors. Such editions have enabled students to acquire basic theoretical knowledge and develop engineering competencies, and many titles have become indispensable literature in teaching and at other higher education institutions in the Republic of Croatia over the years. Some titles and authors have also won professional awards for published professional and scientific works.

With the development of scientific projects and international cooperation, the number of scientific monographs, proceedings and publications created within domestic and international research projects has also increased. Such publications represent a permanent record of the scientific achievements of the Faculty employees and significantly contribute to the visibility and international recognition of the institution.





Quality assurance system and culture

During the development of the Faculty, the quality of higher education has gradually grown from a predominantly formal monitoring of the teaching process into a comprehensive system that includes education, scientific and professional work, the work of professional services, resources and the achievement of strategic and development goals. The modern approach to quality assurance at the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture Osijek is based on the idea that quality is not a separate administrative activity, but a joint responsibility and a continuous process of improvement of all areas of the Faculty's activities.

The development of the system took place in parallel with the changes in the Croatian and European higher education systems. An important role in this is played by the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG), national regulations and the system of external evaluation, as well as the Faculty's own strategic goals. Today's system formally includes monitoring the implementation of the strategy, the quality of study programmes, methods of learning, teaching and evaluation, the achievement of learning outcomes, student experience and support, scientific and professional work, the work of professional services, infrastructure and information systems, and the involvement of external stakeholders and alumni.

One of the important development stages was the establishment of systematic internal and external evaluation. In 2012, the Faculty underwent a re-accreditation procedure in which, in addition to the Faculty's self-analysis, its work was also evaluated by external experts, as in 2018. The new re-accreditation was carried out in May 2025, almost simultaneously with the preparation of the new generation of study programmes and the further development of the quality management system. The positive outcome of this procedure, without a letter of expectation, was a confirmation of the achieved standards, but at the same time the recommendations of the expert committee were incorporated into the Faculty's further development and action plans. In this way, external evaluation was not understood as an occasional verification, but as one of the sources for determining future priorities.

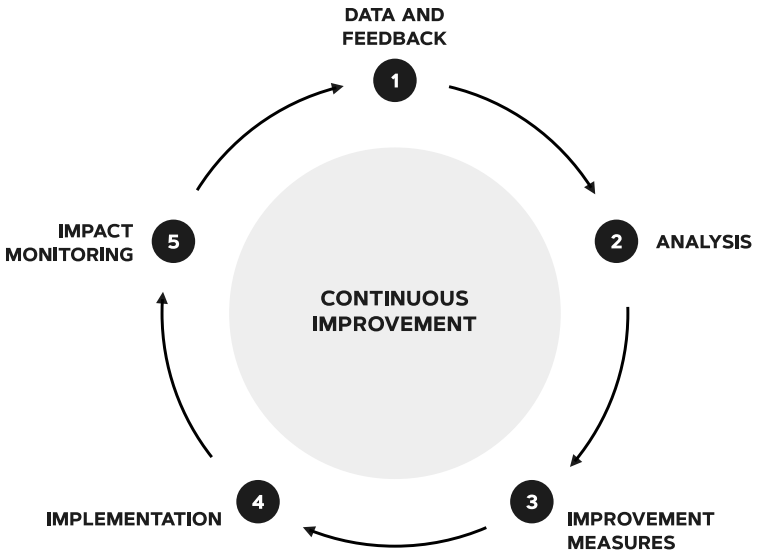
Students are at the centre of the quality system. Their representatives participate in the Faculty Council and quality system bodies and have the opportunity to directly participate in discussions about study programmes, the teaching process and the conditions of study. In addition to formal representation, a system of collecting feedback through student surveys has been developed. The quality of teaching and teachers, satisfaction with the work of professional services, student workload and distribution of ECTS credits are regularly analysed, and the collection of feedback from graduates is also planned. The results are considered at the level of the Administration, the Department and the Faculty Council and are used to determine specific improvement measures.

That such a system only makes sense if students actively participate in it is also shown by the response to student evaluation. In the academic year 2025/2026, 691 students, or approximately 75% of the student population, participated in the University Student Survey, and the average score at the Faculty level was 4.608 out of 5.00, which was the best result of the Faculty since the beginning of comparable monitoring in 2009/2010. The regularity of teaching and the availability of teachers for consultations were particularly highly valued, while the results at the same time enable the identification of areas where there is room for further improvement. Such a combination of high turnout, open presentation of results and their analysis is an important indicator of the development of a culture of quality, and not just the implementation of a formal survey.

An increasingly important place in the system is occupied by data-based management. Indicators such as pass rate, duration of study, student workload, teaching implementation, student satisfaction and availability of teaching resources are observed over several years in order to distinguish individual oscillations from

real trends. Data are not an end in themselves. Their value lies in the fact that they enable the identification of “bottlenecks”, reasoned changes in study programmes, better planning of teaching resources and monitoring of the effects of the measures taken.

Such an approach is particularly visible in the development of study programmes. Learning outcomes are linked to teaching content, teaching methods and methods of evaluation, and the quality of individual courses is monitored through student performance, student surveys and the achievement of anticipated outcomes. When modifying existing and developing new programmes, comparisons with related studies, opinions of teachers and external stakeholders, labour market data and direct examination of students’ interests and needs are increasingly used. An example of such an approach is the development of the graduate study of Architecture and Urban Planning, for which 84 out of 111 students of the target population expressed interest and expectations, and the feedback obtained was used in shaping the content of the programme.



The institutional development of the quality system has been further rounded off by a new normative framework that emphasises transparency, stakeholder involvement, accountability and traceability of procedures, decision-making based on evidence and indicators, student orientation, academic integrity, continuous improvement and digital support for processes as its basic principles. This gradually shifts the emphasis from proving that individual procedures have been carried out according to the question of what can be learned from their results and what can be done better.

It is this change that best describes the transition from the quality assurance system to the culture of quality. It is not achieved by an individual rulebook, survey or re-accreditation, but by the daily acceptance of the fact that teaching, science, professional work and support processes can and should be continuously reviewed. In this sense, quality at the Faculty becomes a link between its fifty years of experience and future development – a way to preserve good practices, identify weaknesses in a timely manner, and increasingly base decisions on reliable information and joint responsibility of the academic community.

RE-ACCREDITATION

External evaluation procedures completed

2012 **2018** **2025**

2010 2026

STUDENT SURVEY

691

participants in the 2025/2026 academic year

AVERAGE SCORE

4.608 / 5

University student survey result, 2025/2026

1 2 3 4 5

International cooperation, partnerships and academic mobility

International and institutional cooperation during the development of the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture Osijek has gradually grown from individual contacts of teachers, professional training and student exchanges into an extensive network of partnerships that today includes the mobility of students, teaching and non-teaching staff, joint scientific and professional projects, guest lectures, research stays, and bilateral and inter-institutional agreements. Openness to other academic environments has enabled the exchange of knowledge and experience, connection with the European and world research area, and the inclusion of students and employees in the international educational and professional environment.

An important early form of international cooperation was related to the professional and scientific training of teachers and researchers. During the 1980s and 1990s, some employees of the Faculty stayed at reputable foreign universities and institutes. Among them, research stays at the University of California, Berkeley, the International Institute of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering in Tsukuba, Purdue University, the Swedish Geotechnical Institute in Linköping, ETH Zurich and other European and world institutions were recorded. Such training enabled the transfer of new research methods and knowledge in the fields of earthquake engineering, geotechnics, architecture, urban planning and other disciplines, and contributed to the establishment of personal and institutional connections on which joint projects and research were later developed.

A special place in the history of international student mobility belongs to IAESTE. The local committee of IAESTE OSIJEK began its work at the Faculty of Civil Engineering in 1986, when a group of students, with the support of teachers and business entities, organised an international exchange of professional internships. After the interruption caused by war circumstances in the early 1990s, the activity was resumed in 1994, and in the years that followed, the international exchange of professional internships gradually developed and expanded. Cooperation was established with institutions and companies from numerous European and non-European countries, including Egypt, Ghana, Syria, Japan, the United States of America, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina and Colombia. IAESTE enabled students not only to gain professional experience in an international environment, but also to get to know different professional and cultural environments, improve foreign languages, develop independence and create international contacts. This laid important foundations for organised international student mobility at the Faculty.

In parallel with the development of student mobility, institutional cooperation has also strengthened. Over time, the Faculty has established links with numerous civil engineering and technical faculties in Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Hungary, Germany, Slovakia, Poland, Australia and other countries. Among the long-term partners, the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Geodesy of the University of Ljubljana, the University of Maribor, the Hochschule Bremen, the University of Mostar, the Faculty of Engineering in Pécs, the universities of Belgrade and Novi Sad, and a number of other European and non-European institutions stand out. The cooperation was not limited to formal agreements, but included joint research, exchange of teachers, preparation of master's and doctoral theses, joint publications, scientific conferences and professional events. Particularly successful forms of cooperation have resulted in joint books, monographs and university textbooks, which have further strengthened scientific and professional ties with partner institutions.

An important development milestone was the involvement of the Faculty in European and international projects in the early 2000s. The Faculty participated in the TEMPUS, CARDS and COST programmes, bilateral projects and other forms of international project cooperation. The TEMPUS project Restructuring and Updating of Civil Engineering Curriculum, implemented from 2002 to 2007 with partners from Glasgow, Athens and Stuttgart, and the project for the development of postgraduate interdisciplinary specialist studies with partners from Maribor, Glasgow and Venice are examples of linking international cooperation with the development and modernisation of study programmes. At the same time, bilateral research was conducted with the University of Ljubljana, Monash University in Australia and other partners. Participation in international projects has contributed to the improvement of teaching content, the development of research competencies and the strengthening of institutional capacities, and opened up new opportunities for connecting with the European and world academic space.


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By joining European mobility programmes, international exchange takes on a more systematic and institutionally regulated form. Erasmus, and then Erasmus+, enables students to study and undertake placements at partner institutions, while teaching and non-teaching staff are provided with opportunities for teaching, professional development and the development of new forms of cooperation. The Faculty is gradually expanding the network of bilateral and interinstitutional agreements, which increases the possibilities of international networking and exchange of academic experiences. At the same time, organisational support for mobility is being developed through the activities of Erasmus coordinators, informing students about competitions and partner institutions, organising presentations and workshops, and providing assistance in choosing courses and recognising the achieved ECTS credits. Mobility is thus gradually becoming an integral part of the educational process, and the experience and competencies acquired abroad contribute to the quality of the student experience and the professional development of students.

In addition to Erasmus+, the CEEPUS programme also plays a significant role in international cooperation, connecting the Faculty with Central and South-Eastern European universities and enabling the mobility of students and teachers. The programme is particularly important for connecting institutions with similar educational and research traditions and for the development of long-term academic partnerships. Through CEEPUS, mobility has been achieved at institutions in Serbia, North Macedonia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Bosnia and Herzegovina and other countries. In combination with the Erasmus+ programme, CEEPUS has contributed to the expansion of the international network of Faculty, the exchange of teaching and research experiences and the establishment of new forms of cooperation.

Over the past decades, international mobility has increasingly developed as a two-way process. The Faculty is not only an institution whose students and employees go abroad, but is also becoming a destination for foreign students, teachers and researchers. Students from different European countries, including France, Portugal, Germany and Turkey, have stayed at the Faculty within the framework of international exchange programmes, while students from Osijek have completed study stays and professional internships at partner institutions and companies across Europe. At the same time, teachers and employees of the Faculty have participated in mobilities at institutions in Austria, Italy, Poland, the Czech Republic, Romania, Slovenia, Hungary, Serbia, Spain, North Macedonia and other countries. Incoming and outgoing mobilities have contributed to the internationalization of the teaching process, the exchange of experiences, getting to know different educational and research approaches and the creation of an international academic environment at the Faculty.

In the recent period, international cooperation has been further expanded by involving new partner institutions and the development of modern forms of mobility. Among them are Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programmes (BIP), which connect physical and virtual mobility and enable international cooperation through shorter, thematically focused educational activities. Such programmes provide students and teachers with additional opportunities to participate in international educational experiences, joint work and exchange of knowledge. At the same time, the development of bilateral and inter-institutional cooperation continues, which includes guest lectures, research visits, joint scientific and professional work, and the exchange of experiences in the organisation of teaching and management of higher education institutions.

International and institutional cooperation of the Faculty over the past decades has gone from individual research stays and first student internships to a well-developed network of European and international cooperation. During the 1980s, IAESTE opened up the possibility for students to gain professional experience abroad, bilateral partnerships and international projects expanded the research and educational space of the Faculty, and Erasmus+ and CEEPUS enabled mobility to become a regular part of academic life. Today, international cooperation is an integral part of the Faculty's teaching, scientific, professional and development activities. Study and research stays abroad, visits by international students and staff to Osijek, joint projects and publications, and lasting partnerships contribute to the exchange of knowledge and experience, improve the quality of education and research, and create new opportunities for academic and professional development. Openness to the international academic space, which has marked the development of the Faculty over the past fifty years, remains an important foundation for its further development and connection with the European and world community of civil engineers and architects.


ENJOY





Professional Activities and Cooperation with Industry

Professional work and connection with industry are a permanent component of the activities of the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture Osijek. From its beginnings, the Faculty has not only been focused on the education of civil engineers and the development of scientific research, but also on solving specific problems of construction practice. Such a focus resulted from the needs of the environment in which the institution was established and developed, and from the fact that education, research and professional activity in the field of civil engineering are strongly interconnected. Over the decades, the Faculty has thus built a recognizable role as a professional partner to industry, public institutions, local and regional government units and other clients. The links between the Faculty and professional practice were particularly strong during its period of operation within the Civil Engineering Institute. In 1983, the Higher School of Civil Engineering Osijek merged with the Osijek Department for Materials and Structures, then an organisational unit of the Civil Engineering Institute, marking the beginning of the Faculty of Civil Engineering Sciences at the University of Osijek. In this organisational form, the institution carried out teaching, scientific research and development and professional activities until 1991. Following the establishment of the independent Faculty in 1992, the Department for Development and Professional Work became part of the Croatian Civil Engineering Institute – Osijek Business Centre, but professional activities remained an important part of the Faculty's work. The development and professional activity was based on continuous professional development of employees, investment in laboratory and measuring equipment, and networking with investors, designers, contractors and other participants in the construction industry. The Faculty has developed as a regional institution with a large number of highly educated experts that transfers the knowledge acquired through teaching and scientific research into practice. Over time, the field of professional work has become extremely wide: from testing and control of materials, as well as static and dynamic testing of structures to design, expert supervision, project audits, expert opinions, rehabilitation of buildings, geotechnical and hydrological research, traffic and urban studies, energy, environmental protection and management of construction projects.

The Faculty's professional competencies have been applied to numerous important buildings and infrastructure projects. Among the tasks recorded in older documentation are the design and revision of bridges, rehabilitation and reinforcement of buildings, testing of structures with test loading, expert supervision and preparation of studies and expertise. The employees of the Faculty participated, among other things, in tasks related to bridges on the Zagreb – Lipovac highway, the pedestrian bridge over the Osijek-Donji grad station, the railway bridge over the Bobotski Canal, the reconstruction of the Clinical Hospital Osijek, the railway overpass in Osijek, the rehabilitation of the walls of the Erdut Tower, the gymnasium in Vukovar, water management interventions and wind farm projects. Such assignments demonstrated the Faculty's ability to apply scientific and engineering knowledge to complex problems encountered in real-world construction practice.

A particularly significant example of the social and professional role of the Faculty was its participation in the reconstruction of war-damaged family houses in the area of Osijek-Baranja County. Design and supervision activities took place from 1997 to 2006, and a total of 603 family houses were included in the two renovation programmes. The Faculty itself participated in the renovation of buildings in Sarvaš, Bilje and Tenja, and 19 of its employees were involved in the implementation of the project as designers or supervising engineers. This example particularly clearly shows that the professional work of the Faculty had not only a market and development dimension, but also a direct social role in the reconstruction and development of the region.

Over time, the professional activity was further expanded and specialised. The activities defined by the Statute include, in addition to scientific research, the organisation of professional training and lifelong learning, energy audits and certification of buildings, expert assessments and expert witness services, consulting, technological improvements and innovations in construction, construction and architectural design, project control, monitoring of the condition of buildings and infrastructure, and participation in the development of building regulations. Laboratories have become an important link between scientific and professional work because they are organised precisely for the performance of scientific and professional research and projects, in addition to their teaching function. The high level of expertise of professors from the Faculty is confirmed by the highest national awards for excellence in the profession received by the employees of the Faculty.


Informacijski sustav prostornog uređenja
Informacijski sustav prostornog uređenja: jučer, danas, sutra
Informacijski sustav prostornog uređenja
Unapređenje sustava prostornog uređenja, graditeljstva i državne imovine kroz digitalizaciju
ePlanovi Editor
eGrađevinski dnevnik
eDozvole
eProstorna inspekcija
eSavjetnik
eKonferencija
ePlanovi
eNekretnine
Interni registar nekretnina
Registar brownfield područja
Zelena infrastruktura

Professional training of engineers has also become an important form of knowledge transfer towards the economy. Since 2006, the Faculty has been the holder of approval for the implementation of professional development programmes in civil engineering, within which courses in the field of design, structures, geotechnics, construction organisation, project management, regulation, environmental protection and other current professional topics were organised. Later, lifelong learning was extended to programmes related to energy efficiency. Today, the Faculty conducts initial and continuing professional training programmes for persons who perform energy certification and energy audits of buildings, as well as regular inspections of heating and cooling systems. Thus, the professional role of the Faculty goes beyond the performance of individual tasks and includes the permanent improvement of the competencies of experts working in construction.

Professional work has maintained continuity over the past decades, although its structure and intensity have changed depending on market needs, the availability of employees and the development of new professional areas. For example, between 2012 and 2017, between 28 and 63 professional assignments were recorded annually, including project inspections, structural tests, design, studies, energy certification, expert opinions and expert supervision. In 2021, 38 professional assignments were contracted and performed, with a particular increase in the number of tests of structures and materials. Such development is also shown by the gradual strengthening of the laboratory and experimental segment of professional work.

In the recent period, cooperation with industry has gained an even more pronounced institutional dimension. In addition to individual professional work, the Faculty systematically concludes agreements on scientific research, teaching and professional cooperation with economic entities and other partner institutions. The goal is no longer only to provide professional and technical services, but to connect the academic community and the business sector in the long term through the development of educational programmes, student internships, joint project applications, research and knowledge transfer.

In 2024, the network grew to 35 partner institutions. The Faculty also introduced new opportunities for direct contact between industry, students and academic staff. These included a meeting with representatives of partner organisations and professional training providers, and the “Profession and Knowledge in a Cup of Coffee” events, at which engineers and other practitioners discuss real projects, professional challenges and the transition into employment with students in an informal setting.

The collaborative network continued to expand and reached 40 partner institutions in the academic year 2024/2025. The agreements include the improvement of teaching and educational programmes, joint project applications, technical services and other forms of cooperation, as well as the creation of quality bases for practical training and connecting companies with future professional staff. An additional step forward is the organisation of the Day of Civil Engineers in March 2025 in cooperation with the Croatian Chamber of Civil Engineers, which brought together students, young engineers and experts and created a space for professional development, exchange of experiences and networking of the academic community and the construction industry.

Professional services also remain an important and direct part of the Faculty’s activities. In 2024, Faculty staff undertook 41 contracted professional assignments, primarily materials and structural testing, design work, studies, expert assessments and consultancy. In 2025, 38 professional assignments were contracted, including 22 involving materials and structural testing, alongside design, studies, energy certification, expert assessments, supervision and consultancy. Some of the revenue generated through these activities is reinvested in equipment and in covering the costs of professional work, linking services provided to industry with the further development of the Faculty’s technical capabilities.

Over the course of five decades, organisational forms, professional challenges and the needs of the construction sector have changed, but the connection of the Faculty with practice has remained one of its permanent features. From developmental and professional work in the field of structures, materials, geotechnics, hydraulic engineering and roads, through participation in post-war reconstruction and major infrastructure interventions, to modern laboratory testing, energy certification, design, consulting and institutional partnerships, professional activity has enabled the knowledge created at the Faculty to find direct application in the economy and society.

Cooperation with industry has gradually outgrown the relationship between the client and the executor of professional work. Today’s model is based on partnership: the economy brings real engineering challenges, practical experience and feedback on the necessary competencies to the Faculty, while the Faculty provides the economy with professional and scientific knowledge, laboratory and research capacities and future experts. It is this permanent connection between education, science and profession that is one of the important components of the development and social role of the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture Osijek.


Hrvatska komora
inženjera građevinarstva
Dan inženjera
građevinarstva
u Osijeku
11.00 panel
sudjeluju:
Ernest Ević, Damir Markulak, Darko Ojvan, Hrvoje Sučić, Damir Vujčić
12.35 pauza za kavu
12.45 speed interview
sudjeluju:
Bruno Bulić, Ivan Ćurić, Marko Ganjto, Filip Prpić, Tin Vujčić
14.00 domjenak
lokacija: kaskade ispred dekanata, 1. kat
OSIJEK
4. ožujka
2025. godine
Građevinski i
arhitektonski
fakultet Osijek
Panel
rasprava:
Panelist:
Damir Vujčić
Dan inženjera
građevinarstva
u Osijeku
Građevinski i
arhitektonski
fakultet Osijek
Panel
rasprava:
Panelist:
Hrvoje Sučić
Dan inženjera
građevinarstva
u Osijeku
Građevinski i
arhitektonski
fakultet Osijek

Digital Transformation of the Faculty

Over the past decades, digital technologies have gradually changed the way of teaching, communication with students, record keeping and management of business processes at the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture Osijek. What initially represented IT support for certain jobs has gradually grown into a broader process of digital transformation, in which technology is no longer just a technical tool, but an important element of the development of teaching, work organisation and management of the Faculty.

The first steps of digitalisation were primarily related to the development of computer infrastructure and the introduction of information systems necessary for teaching and administrative operations. With the development of national higher education systems, an increasing part of student records and processes related to studying has been moved to the digital environment, with the Information System of Higher Education Institutions (ISVU) becoming one of the fundamental components of student administration. Electronic records of courses, enrolment, exams and achieved results have enabled more reliable data management and a gradual reduction of dependence on paper documentation.

At the same time, the digital environment was increasingly involved in the teaching itself. E-learning systems and digital teaching content have become a regular part of teachers' and students' communication, distribution of materials, assignment submission and certain forms of evaluation. Digital tools are particularly important in the education of civil engineers and architects, where computer modelling, design, simulations, spatial data processing and Building Information Modelling are an integral part of modern professional competencies. The development of digital competencies has therefore not only taken place through the way of teaching, but also through the gradual inclusion of new digital content in the study programmes themselves.

A special direction of development is the digitalisation of the Faculty's business processes. In addition to national systems, our own solutions tailored to the needs of the institution were also developed. In cooperation with the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Computer Science and Information Technology Osijek, software solutions were developed that simplify and standardize individual teaching and business processes. Among them are systems for electronic enrolment, project monitoring and international cooperation, as well as other solutions that enable structured data collection and reduce the need for multiple entry and processing of documentation.

A particularly visible example is the introduction of electronic student enrolment. A process that traditionally required students to attend in person, submit extensive documentation and rely on substantial administrative support has gradually moved into a digital environment. Electronic submission of documents, verification of data and payments, and integration with other information systems make the procedure simpler for students and the work of administrative services more efficient. The same approach is gradually being applied to other processes: the aim is not merely to replace paper forms with electronic ones, but to review the entire workflow and eliminate unnecessary administrative steps.

Digitalisation has gradually changed the way the Faculty uses data. Data on students, teaching, passing, workload, scientific and project activity and other areas of activity are increasingly used for analysing the situation and making decisions. This directly connects digital transformation with the quality assurance system. Reliable and timely available data enable the identification of trends, monitoring of indicators and evaluation of the impact of implemented measures. The next development stage is therefore not to create as many separate applications as possible, but to connect them, standardize data and establish reliable sources of information for the management of the Faculty.

An important milestone in the systematic review of digitalisation was the inclusion of the Faculty in the e-University project and the application of the Digital Maturity Model of Higher Education Institutions. During 2025, a self-evaluation was carried out that

covered various areas of the institution's digital operations, including infrastructure, digital teaching processes, competencies, operations and management. The final evaluation of the digital maturity of the Faculty enabled a comprehensive view of the development so far and, in addition to existing good practices, to systematically identify areas where further improvements are needed. Digital transformation thus gained a clearer place in the strategic planning of the Faculty.

In the recent period, the emphasis is increasingly shifting towards system integration, data quality and management, information security, and the development of digital competencies of employees and students. At the same time, new questions are being raised related to the application of artificial intelligence in education, scientific work and business processes. The faculty sees these technologies as an opportunity to improve work, but also as an area that requires responsible application, clear rules and the preservation of academic integrity. The inclusion of content related to artificial intelligence, information modelling, programming and other digital technologies in study programmes shows that digital transformation also includes competencies that future engineers and architects will need in a professional environment.

The development of digital infrastructure remains a necessary foundation of the entire process. Reliable network infrastructure, computer equipment, software support, data security and the availability of digital services are prerequisites for both modern teaching and the daily operations of the Faculty. Within the framework of national projects and own investments, the infrastructure is continuously modernised, but its value is less and less observed only through the amount of equipment. The key question is how much technology contributes to simpler work, better learning and teaching, and better decision-making.



Student Union and Associations

The Student Union of the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture Osijek, the SGFOS Student Association, ALUMNI GRAFOS and the Student Sports Club play an important role in student life and extracurricular activities. They organise professional, scientific, sporting, cultural and humanitarian events that bring students together, strengthen organisational skills and foster a sense of belonging to the Faculty community.

The Student Union protects the interests of all students of the Faculty, participates in decision-making in the bodies of the Faculty, represents the students of the Faculty through its representatives in the Student Union of the University and proposes to the Faculty Council a plan for financing student activities. The Student Union takes care of the quality of life of students, the quality of the study process, student standards and the exercise of student rights.

The SGFOS Association as a non-profit organisation was founded in 2013 and brings together undergraduate and graduate students. The main goals of the association are to promote the profession, i.e. to contribute to the development of the profession and education, to encourage students to mobility and to enable multicultural interaction. A special place among student activities is occupied by the international student conference ISUCCES, which brings together civil engineering students from Croatia and abroad and encourages the exchange of knowledge, experiences and new ideas. Students also regularly participate in Construction Festivals, Architecture Festivals, student STEM games, professional and study trips and various competitions. An important part of student activities are humanitarian activities, including humanitarian cinema, knowledge quizzes and sports tournaments, through which students show social responsibility and connection with the local community.

Student Sports Club GRAFOS was founded in 2001. The Association was founded with the aim of promoting and planning the development of sports among students of the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture Osijek, popularizing and improving student sports, developing and improving active cooperation and sports relations with other clubs and sports associations in the city of Osijek, the Republic of Croatia and other countries whose national federations are members of the International Student Associations.

The Student Union and student associations organise activities independently and frequently in cooperation with one another. Their numerous activities include:

- ISUCCES International Student Conference, which was held for the ninth time in 2025.
- Participation in the Građevinijada and Arhitekturijada, including second place in women's table tennis at the Arhitekturijada in 2024.
- Humanitarian cinema, humanitarian quizzes and actions to support local associations and institutions.
- Student trip to the Venice Biennale of Architecture in 2025.
- Winning first place in the university futsal league in 2025.
- Activities of the Student Sports Club, including traditional table tennis tournaments.

With the Faculty's support, student organisations continue to develop activities that enrich student life and enhance the Faculty's visibility. The ALUMNI GRAFOS Association of Former Students was established to connect alumni, enhance the standing of the professions, and support the Faculty's research, professional and teaching activities. The Association organises talks and meetings at which former students share their professional experiences with current students.

The Faculty is a co-founder and member of the Croatian Centre for Earthquake Engineering – Emergency Response Service (HCPI-IS), a volunteer association established in 2021 that carries out emergency response and specialised engineering activities within the national civil protection system. HCPI-IS was established to bring together and integrate engineering knowledge and expertise within a unified framework, enabling continuous and systematic action.






RAZIGRANA
MREŽA
INVERZIJA
TKO ŽELI BITI GRAĐEVINAR?



Professional and Study Visits

Professional and study trips undertaken by the Faculty's students and employees form an integral part of their educational and professional development. Visits to construction sites, production facilities and examples of good practice contribute to professional growth. Such trips broaden perspectives, encourage innovation and help improve the quality of teaching and the Faculty's reputation. Through direct contact with industry and modern technologies, theoretical knowledge acquired in lecture rooms gains practical relevance and deeper meaning. At the same time, these activities strengthen cooperation between academia and industry and open up opportunities for the exchange of knowledge and experience.

Visits to professional institutions and significant architectural and civil engineering projects provide students and staff with first-hand insights into practice, opportunities to exchange experiences and links with national and international professional communities. They thereby encourage lifelong learning and enhance the quality of teaching and scientific research.

Among the many professional student trips, a visit to Venice, Milan and the Venice Biennale of Architecture in 2025 stands out. The excursion was designed with the aim of providing students with a direct insight into the historical development of architecture, but also into the most contemporary world trends and theoretical practices. While Milan offers a fascinating blend of historical heritage and modern metropolis – from the monumental Gothic Duomo Cathedral to contemporary urban regenerations such as the Porta Nuova district – Venice functions as a unique laboratory on the water, ideal for the study of historic urbanism, conservation and specific engineering solutions. The focal point of the trip was a visit to the Venice Biennale of Architecture with the central theme "Intelligence. Natural. Artificial. Collective." Such a comprehensive experience not only expands the theoretical knowledge gained at the faculty, but also encourages critical thinking about the future of sustainable design and spatial planning.

The Faculty maintains a tradition of joint professional trips for its employees, resumed in 2024 with visits to Maribor, Graz and Ljubljana and continued in 2025 with a trip to Bergamo, Milan and Sirmione. These trips have become an important part of the Faculty's institutional culture, strengthening collegial relationships, encouraging the exchange of ideas and creating new professional and international contacts outside the lecture room.

Visits to universities, direct insight into the work of other faculties and the implementation of other study programmes improve the quality of higher education, encourage the exchange of good practices, and strengthen academic cooperation and mobility of students and teachers. Such activities are crucial for broadening perspectives, as they enable direct comparison of teaching methods, curriculum modernisation and the development of joint scientific research projects. Direct engagement in different academic environments provides a deeper insight into institutional challenges and innovative solutions, which directly fosters a culture of continuous quality improvement. Networking with colleagues from related disciplines not only facilitates the alignment of study programmes with European and global standards, but also opens the door to long-term partnership initiatives. Ultimately, such direct cooperation transforms theoretical concepts of mobility into practical tools that empower the entire academic community and prepare students to work in a dynamic, international environment.



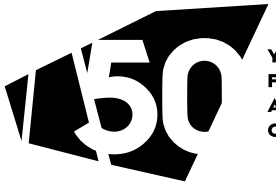



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Josip Juraj Strossmayer
University of Osijek
Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture Osijek



YEARS OF THE FACULTY OF CIVIL ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURE OSIJEK

Osijek, December 2026