



Sveučilište u Zadru
University of Zadar

Experience with Learning Outcomes

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University of Zadar

- Founded in 1396 by Dominicans, shut down by Napoleon in 1807
- Till 50's of the last century Teachers Preparatory High School was the only academic institution
- In 1956 a Faculty of Humanities and Arts founded in Zadar
- In 2002 the University of Zadar was reestablished
- Integrated university , departmental type





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- 27 departments, most in the fields of Humanities and Social Sciences
- Maritime department, Health studies, Department of Ecology, Agronomy and Aquaculture
- 83 BS and MS study programmes, 7 PhD and 1 post graduate specialization
- 5500 students, 420 teaching staff and 220 administrative staff
- member of the alliance European University for Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability - EU-CONEXUS

BFGU TBG A meeting Vienna 25 and 26 April 2023

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Learning outcomes – a personal experience

- In 2008 I have applied for a position at University of Zadar
- Soon afterwards I was involved in creation of BS study programme in Ecology applied to agriculture
- Working on courses of Plant Physiology and Microbiology I arrived to Learning outcomes – WHAT’S THAT??
- I put “after finishing the course students will know ...”
- A colleague in charge of QA sent me a comment about active verbs and the appropriate ones for the 6th level of EQF
- Again a lot of WHY and WHAT’ THAT?????



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Learning outcomes – a personal experience

- University organized several trainings and workshops on learning outcomes
- It helped me to better apply learning outcomes
- I got acquainted with Bloom's taxonomy
- But it was still misty for me, a kind of administrative burden for which the utility was not clear (to me)



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Learning outcomes – a personal experience The enlightenment

- During one training groups were formed from people working in similar scientific fields
- The exercise was to create a minor for students of the programmes in other scientific fields
- My group had to propose a minor in *Small scale food production in orchards* for students of Economy
- Some notions of plant physiology are needed
- How to define those notions?
- It is not the same knowledge required from an agronomist



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Learning outcomes – a personal experience The enlightenment

- Bloom's taxonomy finally understood
- While for an agronomist one of the learning outcomes is:
- *Explain the importance of macro and micro elements in plant life cycle, detect the symptoms of a nutrient deficiency and propose measures to overcome it*

For minor students it is:

Recognize symptoms of possible deficiency of nutrients and call an expert



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Learning outcomes at University of Zadar

- Periodic teachers trainings, learning outcomes included in the program
- In the alliance EU-CONEXUS trainings on learning outcomes included
- QA office in charge of verifying learning outcomes of a course/study programme
- Senior teaching staff work on learning outcomes with young assistants
- Students QA surveys include questions on the achievement of learning outcomes



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Learning outcomes at University of Zadar

- Design of a new study programme involves teachers, stakeholders, students and QA office
- The first step is a survey of labour market needs and eventual competences not included in the standard of the profession
- Once the competences are established, learning outcomes of the programme (LOP) are determined
- Based on LOP the courses and their learning outcomes are developed
- Each of the course learning outcomes has to contribute to at least one of the LOPs



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Learning outcomes at University of Zadar

- In a short time learning outcomes passed from “what’s that” to “how important they are”
- Learning outcomes as a very important part of educational offer
- LO enable recognition of prior learning, mobility of the students, enhance the employability of graduates



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Thank you!