

The Republic of Croatia

The Region of Istria



The Role of University in Regional Development

(presentation)

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The Role of University in Regional Development



The Region of Istria - introduction

- one of the most developed Croatian region
- unemployment rate is 6.1%
- per capita GDP (approx 7.200 USD)
- 40% of the total tourism revenue in Croatia
- leader in international cooperation

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- the Region of Istria is behind the Croatian average in the number of inhabitants with a post-secondary or scientific education

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The Region of Istria – aims (2005. – 2009.)

- unemployment rate 4 %
- increase social standard
- increase competitiveness of economy
- environment protection
- develop human potential and level of education

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- foundation of a regional university

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Universities – introductory consideration

- growing number of universities, faculties and students,
- ...the considerable economic recovery of Europe and Japan after the Second World War and the considerably high growth rate of the global GDP, especially in developing countries, were all linked to the increase in the general level and standard of education.

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Universities – introductory consideration

- universities played an important and direct role in the advancement of education, research and training of human resources and in this manner they made a large contribution to general economic growth, and especially to an increase in the standard of living.
- universities are a source of socio-economic growth and progress.

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The Impact of Universities on Regional Development

- universities generate revenue, spend this revenue and attract students who will spend money on their education,
- universities conduct scientific research regarding regional questions or commercial studies for the firms in the region,
- universities educate the work force and by such assist in industrial development,
- universities can improve the social and cultural life of a region,
- universities create human capital.

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The Impact of Universities on Regional Development

- research which takes place at universities stimulates regional development through an increase in GDP and employment,
- considerable capital is concentrated around the financing of research, which is a great contributor to increases in GDP relative to its size as a sector,
- research at universities has a strong, deep effect on the productivity of the economy in a region,

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The Impact of Universities on Regional Development

- university **research** is a source of potential revolutionary discoveries which could fundamentally affect economic growth and the standard of living,
- universities affect regional development through training students to create new ideas and **innovations**,
- university students assist firms in increasing their productivity, effectiveness, and in the introduction of new products which generates growth in the region.

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A University in Istria

- The issue of founding a university is one of the most important political and developmental projects in the Regional government's program (from 2001.),
- Bill for a University in Istria (expected in 2006).

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A University in Istria

- small, modern, propelling and distinctive University,
- it would be the motor driving academic development directed towards the needs of the Region of Istria,
- multilingual university, with equivalent status for the Croatian, Italian and English languages,
- complimentary with other Croatian universities,
- adaptability of the programs,
- University in Istria shall follow all the current European processes which are transforming the post-secondary education system (deregulations, decentralisations),

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A University in Istria – main goals to achieve

- employing a highly qualified teaching staff
- designing and supporting high-quality scientific research
- achieving and maintaining high-quality teaching practices
- increasing the contribution of the University to the Region through supporting industry and commerce, as well as political and social life
- developing an international presence for the University

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Conclusion

- In our circumstances exist the need to create an organised and institutionalised approach to the education.
- With the initiative to create a University, the Region is indirectly supporting the development of **research** and **innovation**, the economy and finally, the actual development of the region.
- Developing our human potential and ensuring that this potential remains in Istria is of tremendous importance for the future socio-economic development of the region.
- **Universities are important for regional and national growth.**