

Report on the Development of Project Management Study Programme at the University of Applied Sciences Baltazar Zaprešić (Croatia)

By Zlatko Barilović, Igor Vrečko and Petra Krčelić

An awarding ceremony of International Project Management Association (IPMA) certificates for the students of specialist professional graduate study programme of Project Management was held on Saturday 14 March 2015 in the new premises of the University of Applied Sciences Baltazar Zaprešić (UAS Baltazar) in Zagreb. Thirty new students officially received their international certificates, and a Partnership Agreement between the Croatian Association for Project Management (CAPM) / Young Crew Croatia, Baltazar Alumni Club and the University of Applied Sciences Baltazar Zaprešić was signed.

The awarding ceremony was hosted by Prof. Milan Jurina, Ph.D., the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs at the Graduate Programme of the UAS Baltazar, together with Ass. Prof. Igor Vrečko, Ph. D., the Head of Specialist Graduate Programme of Project Management and the President of the Slovenian Association for Project Management, Prof. Vladimir Skendrović, Ph.D., the Vice President of CAPM and Zlatko Barilović, univ. spec. oec., the coordinator of cooperation between the UAS Baltazar, CAPM and IPMA and a member of the Presidential Board of CAPM.

So far around 650 persons have earned their IPMA international certificates for project managers in the Republic of Croatia, and 353 of them were certified for IPMA level D. The students of Project Management at UAS Baltazar, with 170 certificates, make almost 50% of the total number of certified persons in the Republic of Croatia at the level D. The certification of Project Management students is carried out in cooperation with the Croatian Association for Project Management (www.capm.hr), with which UAS Baltazar has been collaborating since 2010. Croatian Association for Project Management is one of 57 national members of IPMA, and operates in Croatia.

In addition to the certification, previous cooperation of UAS Baltazar with CAPM bore a number of other joint projects. Some of the most important ones are organizing scientific and professional conferences related to management and project management topics, held in 2011 and 2014 in Zagreb and co-organizing the 27th IPMA World Congress in Dubrovnik in 2013. Also, we can single out particular projects in which students of Project Management participate during their studies, managed by an organization of young project managers, called Young Crew Croatia (www.capm.hr/young-crew/), which operates within CAPM.

UAS Baltazar is the first institution in Croatia with IPMA REG mark, (<http://ipma.ch/education/ipma-registration/ipma-registration-programme/>), which confirms the compatibility of the specialist professional graduate programme of Project Management with IPMA regulations. The study programme of Project Management is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year and so far over students have 700 graduated.



Picture 1. The students of the specialist professional graduate programme of Project Management at the awarding ceremony of IPMA international certificates

After the awarding ceremony a Partnership Agreement was signed between Young Crew Croatia (CAPM/YCC), Baltazar Alumni Club and UAS Baltazar. The agreement was signed by Prof. Milan Jurina, Ph.D. (representing UAS Baltazar), Karlo Masnjak, prof.spec.oec. (representing Baltazar Alumni Club) and Rebeka Danijela Vlahov, Ph.D. (representing Young Crew Croatia).

On the basis of the agreement signed, UAS Baltazar and Baltazar Alumni Club will conduct many new joint projects in cooperation with CAPM/YCC, in which both current students and graduates of Project Management will participate.



Picture 2. Signing of the Partnership Agreement between UAS Baltazar Zaprešić, Baltazar Alumni Club and CAPM/Young Crew Croatia

The photo gallery of the award ceremony is available on the UAS Baltazar Facebook site: <https://www.facebook.com/veleuciliste.baltazar/photos/> .

A short video of the award ceremony is available on UAS Baltazar YouTube site: <https://www.youtube.com/user/VisokaSkolaBAK>.

Besides the aforementioned events, which contribute to the development of the Project Management study programme, it is important to mention the project of introducing tablets into the teaching and learning process.

By introducing tablets UAS Baltazar Zaprešić has become the only higher education institution in Croatia and in the region, which is the official Lighthouse School of Apple technology in education. UAS Baltazar is thus joining other higher education institutions which are already using technology in education, while in the region it will be a lighthouse for other higher education institutions. By managing this project UAS Baltazar provides an example of how new technology, a new way of teaching and learning and communication result in students' readiness to face the challenges of the business world.

The aim of introducing iPads in everyday teaching is to improve communication with students, to raise their creativity and to innovate the curriculum. Using this technology encourages the development of four most important business skills in our students, such as: critical thinking, the use of information technology, cooperation and innovation. With the help of Apple Professional Development program and Apple certified trainers, teacher training is currently being conducted at UAS Baltazar. After teacher training, the education of students and the use of iPads is taking place

in a one-to-one program, in which every student and teacher in a certain group will work and communicate with the help of iPads.

It is precisely the study programme of Project Management which is selected to be the first program at UAS that will use iPads, while students have already started creating their first project plans in accordance with the learning-by-doing principle, all with the help of the iPads.



Picture 3. Using iPads in the teaching process at the specialist professional graduate programme of Project Management

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Zlatko Barilović, univ. spec. oec., Lecturer, CPM was born in 1984 in Zagreb. He holds a graduate specialist degree (MA) in Marketing from the Faculty of Economics in Osijek, Croatia. Prior to that he graduated from the Specialist Graduate Professional Study of Project Management at the University of Applied Sciences Baltazar Zaprešić, Croatia, which was a continuation of his undergraduate studies in Business and Management (major Cultural Management). Currently he is attending a doctoral study in Management at the Faculty of Economics in Osijek, Croatia. He is a member of International project management association (IPMA) and a member of the Presidential Board of the Croatian Association for Project Management (CAPM). At the University of Applied Sciences Baltazar Zaprešić he teaches Basics of Management, Project Management 1 and 2, and Planning, preparing and starting the project – practicum. He has written over 25 scientific and professional papers, and has lead several projects for the University of Applied Sciences Baltazar Zaprešić. He is the author of one and editor of four project management books. Zlatko Barilović can be contacted at zlatko.barilovic@bak.hr



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