

More ideas ~~~~~ More ideja

# **Student Assessment and Examination in the COVID-19 Context**

## **University of Rijeka, Croatia**

May 2020

uniri



# University of Rijeka

- 11 Faculties, 4 Departments, 1 Academy of Arts
- 162 accredited study programs
- 17 100 students; *student to academic staff* ratio = 12:1
- UNIRI Policies on QA of L&T (all harmonized with ESG)
  - Ordinance on Studying at UNIRI
  - Handbook for quality of learning and teaching at UNIRI
  - Ordinance on Accreditation of Study Programs

## COVID-19 context

- 15-year long tradition of using digital tools in the teaching process
- 2019/20: 2100 hybrid courses; 2 complete online study programs
- nationally supported online teaching platform Merlin (LMS *Moodle*)
- restrictive measures in Croatia introduced on March 16<sup>th</sup> 2020
- suspension of f2f L&T at all HE institutions; immediate transfer to online
- *Recommendations for the transformation of classroom teaching into an online environment*

# Support for the transformation *onsite* to *online*

- **Technical part:**

- All registerered courses opened on *Merlin* (*Adobe Connect* integrated)
- Additional platform: *MS Teams* (also nationally licensed, authentication by AAI@Edu)
- Use of other available open resources (*Zoom*, *BigBlueButton* – to be integrated with Merlin)
- Support: Helpdesk (@faculties & departments)

- **L&T methods:**

- „tips&tricks” for quick adaptation (synchronous and asynchronous modes, lecture recording, homeworks, assignments, online assessments)
- Sugested online resources (webinars, YouTube resources)

- **Support - UNIRI Counseling Center:**

- Support for students with special needs
- $\Psi$  support for all students and academics (on the spot, phone hotline, online communication)



- **1<sup>st</sup> week of April 2020**

- Institution wide analysis of the performance and challenges; 95% of courses completely transferred online; issues with practical teaching (labs, clinical practice – medicine, dentistry, health studies; maritime practice)
- 4 382 courses on the Merlin platform (1 428 academic staff and ~ 13,000 students active daily).
- Virtual teaching - video conferencing and collaboration tools
- Continuous assessment and Middterm exams also transferred online
- The Student Union conducts a large survey among students

- **3<sup>rd</sup> week of April 2020**

- The Senate adopts amendments to the Ordinance on Studying by introducing a new article:

*„In the event of a natural disaster, state of war or other imminent threat to the population, the Senate may, other than the manner prescribed by this Ordinance, regulate the adoption and amendments to the curriculum and calendar, forms and methods of monitoring students, methods of evaluating their work during classes and assessment, exams and completion of studies or progress through studies.”*

- Based on the new article in the Ordinance, the Senate adopts **Measures for completing 2019/2020 academic year**, allowing for
  - Changes in present syllabuses - methods of continuous assessment and grading, contribution to final grade, methods of conducting final exams
  - Changes in the exam calendar - introduction of a larger number of exam terms, possible extension of exam terms through summer months
  - Enrolment in next academic year with a larger volume of ECTS credits (in case of the need to transfer ECTS credits achieved through practical classes)
- **Recommendations for evaluation and assessment in the online environment**
  - Essential - evaluation methods and teaching methods should correspond to the set LOs (*adaptation, alignment, timely feedback*)
  - *Formative vs. Summative* assessment: more frequent use of short evaluations (*online tests, quizzes, collaborative work*), to help students stay focused on learning and stimulate motivation and to be better prepared for summative assessments; use of non-traditional methods and techniques (*projects, presentations, e-portfolios, online oral exams*)
  - Strategies for reducing plagiarism and technical authentication capabilities for online examinations.



# Students comment

- "... Last week we wrote a midterm exam. At the scheduled time, we logged into the Merlin system and connected to a Jitsi Meet video conference where we received all the information from the assistant and were able to ask questions during the exam. We were afraid that we would not have enough time but the assistant made a large database of questions and each student was randomly given a different test and had enough time to provide an individual solution. I like that the exam was complex in such a way that one needs to understand the logic of the task and that, despite having all the materials available, without understanding and thinking about the assignments we could not pass. "
- "... I had the opportunity to defend a team project related to programming via the Skype platform. It was my first such experience and I really have no objections. Our team had an accompanying presentation that we presented to the teachers by sharing the screen, and then we showed them how our app works. Finally, questions and comments on the development and theme of the application followed. In total, the exam lasted about 20 minutes. I am thrilled to interact with the professors in these circumstances, they are all accommodating and are available for inquiries."

# May 2020

- Croatia relaxes restrictive measures:
  - Starting May 11<sup>th</sup> students are allowed to come back for practical teaching (with special measures in place; temperature measurement at the entrance and exit; 2 m physical distance, < 10 persons in the same room, working places at the distance of 2 m, etc.)
  - Students also allowed to enter hospital facilities and dental clinics
- **UNIRI**
  - Enrollments 2020./21. – adaptation to possible scenario of restricted measures again in place
  - Institution wide surveys among students and academics on quality of online teaching and learning, with special emphasis on
    - Possibilities to achieve expected LOs
    - Experience with evaluations and assessments
    - Psycho-social challenges of isolation and online performance
  - Institutional measures to promote quality in L&T online:
    - Financial support to develop complete online courses for 2020/21
    - Financial support to organize online summer/winter schools and LLL programs