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FINAC

FINancial management,
Accounting & Controlling
in public administration

Financial Management, Accounting & Controlling curricula development for capacity building of public administration

REPORT ON PARTICIPATION OF FINAC IN WORK OF SymOrg2018



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OPENING CEREMONY of 16th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM 2018

The opening ceremony of the 16th International Symposium SymOrg 2018 was held today in Ratko Mitrovic Congress Center. The central theme of the Symposium is "Doing Business in the Digital Age: Challenges, Approaches and Solutions", with more than 200 participants, professors and students from our country and abroad. More than 200 participants, professors and students from our country and abroad participate in this year's Symposium.

Ana Langović, the State Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, wished the participants a successful conference.

Professor Milija Suknović, PhD, the Dean of the Faculty of Organizational Sciences (FOS), addressed the audience by saying that that "this is the 16th time that professors and students gather to share their experiences, good practices, knowledge and establish contacts, which implies that the Symposium proved its significance."

Professor Ivanka Popovic, PhD, the Vice-Rector of the University of Belgrade, said that the conference is a valuable opportunity for creating good labor market professionals, and for learning how to create ideal working environment with the use of digital technology.

"New time is looking for new educational models and new ways of communication. The Internet and social networks are rapidly progressing and it is a fact that some services have become truly addictive. This represents a major challenge both from the psychological and social point of view. These phenomena and changes are looking for new approaches and new solutions "- said Professor Nevenka Žarkić Joksimović, PhD, the President of the SymOrg 2018 Program Committee.

Professor Sanja Marinković, PhD, the Vice-Dean for international cooperation and the President of Symorg 2018 Organizing Committee, believes that the conference is very useful for doing future business and for this reason it puts students in focus.

This is the first time that Symorg is hosting a students' case study competition SymOrg Case Study Hackathon the support of the Serbian Government, the Swiss Office for Development and Cooperation, National Alliance for Local Development NALED and the Tax Administration. In 30 hours, six teams will try to propose and program the best solution for flat-rate taxation system and the improvement of user interface for connecting tax administration and taxpayers.

The program continued with the following keynote speakers:

Branislav Vujović, the President of the New Frontier Group, Austria, said that we need to know how to create new values, because this is the basic issue of digitization. Business in the digital era is changing rapidly and we need to know how to share information in such a way to keep the client in the spotlight.

TAN, So Jiu, Nus Business School Singapore, represented Singapore as a multilingual, multiethnic and multicultural country and reminded of the importance of developing IT skills for both an individual and a company.



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Katri Kerem, Estonia Business School, Estonia, spoke about digitization in Estonia, with a special focus on Estonian digitized health-care system and the application of digitization in the field of genetics. Estonia has a strategy for Internet use that encompasses all age groups. She also reminded the audience about the high scores that Estonian pupils earn on PISA tests (1st in Europe).

This year's Symposium will host four round tables with both participants from both business and research sector.

The International Symposium SymOrg of the Faculty of Organizational Sciences was founded in 1989. Since then, the Faculty of Organizational Sciences traditionally organizes it biannually with the aim of improving the theory and the practice of management and related disciplines. The Symposium brings together members of national and international academic and research community public, representatives of corporate, public and non-governmental sector, and undergraduate, graduate and PhD students who participate in the discussion and analysis of relevant issues in the field of management by presenting their current results, knowledge and experiences.

THE SECOND DAY OF SYMORG FOCUSES ON ROUNDTABLES

The second day of 16th International Symposium Symorg 2018 organized by the Faculty of Organizational Sciences hosted three roundtables focusing on digitalization.

The moderator of the first roundtable entitled *Current state and future prospects of Serbian digitalization was Branislav Vujović, New Frontier Group, Austria*, while the panelists were Branko Ružić, the Serbian Minister of State Administration and Local Government, Milan Simic, Executive Director of IT and ICT Services at Telekom Srbija; Mihailo Jovanovic, PhD, Assistant Professor and Director of IT and e-Government Office and Nenad Paunovic, Director of IT and Entrepreneurship Team from the Cabinet of the Prime Minister.

Important issues regarding digital economy and the changes that it brings to clients, companies, administrations, and the society as a whole were discussed during this roundtable. The focus was on the values brought about by the digital economy, and the ways of recognizing and defining them. The panelists tried to provide answers to the questions concerning Serbian chances and directions regarding digital transformation, the advantages and disadvantages of a faster digitization progress, and other issues.

"Digitization is a priority of this Government. New registers are needed in order to introduce digitization, so that citizens and users will be at the center of attention, and the State is providing citizen services" - said Minister Ruzic.

Another roundtable entitled *When E-procurement did (not) mean better procurement* was moderated by Predrag Jovanovic, the Director of the Public Procurement Office in the Government of the Republic of Serbia, while the panelists were Sašo Matas, the head of Division for the development of public procurement systems, Ministry of Administration, Government of the Republic of Slovenia; Miloš Jović, the Head of division for development of public procurement systems, Public procurement office, Serbia,



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Dean Firkelj, a consultant from Croatia, and Sandra Damijan, PhD, Research Center of the Faculty of Economics in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

The third roundtable gathered former students of the Faculty of Organizational Sciences who now occupy leading positions in some of the major companies in Serbia. Mladen Čudanov, PhD, Associate Professor opened the topic of *Redefining knowledge and skills in the digital environment*, and the panelists were some distinguished representatives of the academic community: Ivanka Popović, PhD, Professor, Vice-Dean of the University of Belgrade, Miladin Kostić, PhD, Professor, the Dean of University of Novi Pazar, Mihailo Vesović, the counselor of the president of the Chamber of Commerce, and Dušan Vujović, assistant, University Union. The same role of panelists was also occupied by the representatives of the corporate sector: Maša Lalić, Head of Human Resources, Generali Osiguranje, Gorana Golubović Vuksanović, Head of Corporate Communications, MK Group, Suzana Marović, Head of Development Sector, Telekom Srbija, Jovana Dačković, HR Business Partner and Talent Development Expert, Coca Cola Hellenic, and Dragana Stojanović, People Processes Manager, Air Serbia.

One of the questions raised was the one regarding formal and informal education. The representatives of the academic community pointed that many University programs wish to maintain their exclusivity and that we have become intolerant to multidisciplinary programs. This is why it is necessary to redefine them. The representatives of companies, on the other hand, spoke about knowledge and skills that are expected, but hardly ever present with graduates with a degree in IT and management. They all agreed that the practical knowledge gained throughout studies is very important for their future careers.

„We do not have enough time to sleep and we are still too traditional. Rapid progress asks for more investment by the state“ - said Ivanka Popović, PhD, the Vice-Dean of the University of Belgrade.

THE THIRD DAY OF THE SYMPOSIUM

On the third day of the Symposium, a Steering Committee was dedicated to project activities within Erasmus + project FINAC (*Financial management, Accounting and Controlling curricula development for capacity building of public administration*). After the introductory words of the project coordinator Slađana Benković, PhD, the participants presented the results achieved so far and agreed on future activities with the aim of sharing the experiences of all the participants from the region.

Participants of FINAC project had a section dedicated to Digitalization of Public Administration where was presented current situation regarding level of digitalization in partner countries of FINAC project. The section is highly rated and visited, and the participants had the opportunity to learn more about importance of digitalization of public administration in order increasing quality of financial management and control .

The fourth roundtable, *Blockchain technologies for better business*, was moderated by Miroslav Minović, PhD, an Associate Professor, and Mladen Čurić, PhD, Assistant Professor, both from the Faculty of Organizational Sciences, while the panelists were Radojko Miladinović, PhD, IT Director of the Belgrade Stock Exchange, and Matija Stanić, Product Specialist, Societe General Bank, and Novica Ninić, Production



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Manager, IBM Cloud. The roundtable dealt with one of the burning topics - *blockchain technology*, with a special focus on the implementation of this technology in business. The panelists discussed the main advantages and disadvantages of blockchain technology, and the possible use of private blockchains for the improvement of business operations in various fields, e.g. quality control, banking, fintech, agriculture, health services, etc. The participants had the opportunity to learn more about the functioning of blockchain technologies, and the panelists were eager to answer the many questions of the audience. All the participants agreed that blockchain will soon become an integral part of everyday business, both on its own and in combination with traditional technologies.

The afternoon is booked for a visit to Potpećka Cave and the village of Zlakusa, both located in close proximity of Zlatibor. The Symposium participants thus have a chance to get acquainted with the nature, culture and tradition of our country. The participants who decided to stay in Zlatibor took part in sports competitions such as rope climbing, zipline, etc.

THE CLOSING CEREMONY

The XVI International Symposium SymOrg 2018 was closed on June 10, 2018 in "Ratko Mitrovic" in Zlatibor. More than 250 participants took part in the Symposium with as many as 92 scientific papers.

The President of the Program Committee, Nevenka Žarkić Joksimović, PhD, and the Head of the Organizing Committee, Sanja Marinković, PhD, spoke about the results of the Symposium and expressed their gratitude to the participants, partners, companies and institutions that supported SymOrg 2018.

During the gala dinner on the last evening of the Symposium, several awards were presented to the most outstanding participants. In the category of the best paper, the award was given to Assistant Nikola Zornic and Associate Professor Aleksandar Marković, PhD, for the work "Crypto-currency price forecasting using time series and Monte Carlo modeling and simulation". The best presenter at the Symposium was Milica Maričić, an Assistant at the Department of Operational Research and Statistics. Ivona Jovanović and Uroš Jeremić were awarded as the best young authors. A special award was given out to by the Associate Professor Mladen Čudanov, PhD, for the best general impression of the Symposium.



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