

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE HIGHER EDUCATION IN NORTH-EASTERN CROATIA

VISOKO OBRAZOVANJE IZ EKOLOŠKE POLJOPRIVREDE U
SJEVERO-ISTOČNOJ SLAVONIJI

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In spite of several higher education institutions in north-eastern Croatia, (Slavonia and Baranya region, comprised of 6 counties) both public and private, formal organic agriculture degree can be obtained, at this moment, only at the Faculty of Agriculture Osijek, part of J. J. Strossmayer University, Osijek, Croatia. The Faculty of Agriculture Osijek has an enrollment rate of 300 students each year since the introduction of the Bologna process in 2006. Four bachelor degree study groups are offered at present: Plant Production, Zootechnique, Agromechanisation and Agroecology, whereas Horticulture will probably start in 2009. At this moment, only elective modules are offered in the last semester (third year), which are at an introductory level and good preparation for students who will continue to study at "Organic agriculture" Master degree, one out of seven Master courses offered at the Faculty. Since the first enrolled generation is still studying at the Bachelor level, with expectation to earn BSc degree at the end of this academic year (2007/08), the first MSc degree professionals will be leave not before the year 2010., after which some of them will decide to enroll for the PhD, either at the Faculty of Agriculture in Osijek, or at the Interdisciplinary graduate school of the Osijek University. The informal organic agriculture education in Slavonia and Baranya has been offered to organic farmers and experts through lectures, round tables, international experts presentations and meetings by extension service of the "Biopa", organic agriculture association since 2001.

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