

The European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers

"Human Resources Strategy for Researchers"—
Action Plan

Human Resources Strategy for Researchers—Action Plan

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Introduction

In 2005 the European Commission adopted the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers. The principles of the two documents are designed to ensure the same rights and obligations for researchers regardless of where in Europe they work. The European Charter for Researchers defines the rights and obligations of researchers and organizations in which they work, while the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers underlines the principle of equality in the procedure of recruitment regarding all researchers in Europe, as well as the idea of increasing transparency in the processes of recruitment and employment. Also, the documents aim to facilitate successful creation, transfer, dissemination and sharing of knowledge, and to encourage such procedures of recruitment which would aim to improve the quality and transparency of the processes of selection of researchers and of their professional development, as well as to improve the criteria used in these processes.

The University of Zagreb decided to accept the principles of the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers, so that the Rector of the University, Professor Aleksa Bjeliš, PhD, signed on 11 March 2010 the Declaration on Commitment to the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers.

The process of implementation of the Charter and the Code started in mid-2011, with the founding of an ad hoc Work Group for the Human Resources Strategy, which started the preparatory work for the making of an internal Human Resources Strategy of the University of Zagreb. The Work Group included the following members: Professor Melita Kovačević, PhD, Vice-Rector for science and technology; Professor Neven Duić, PhD, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture; Professor Ivan Rimac, PhD, Faculty of Law; Olga Šarlog-Bavoljak, academic secretary; Davor Mavrić, expert advisor for recognition of foreign higher education qualifications; Mirjana Fuchs, Head of the Office for Human Resources; Ljubica Krpelj, expert assistant at the Office for Human Resources; Iva Piški, expert advisor on the IPA project; Renata Hranjec, expert advisor for international co-operation; Ida Ogulinac, senior expert advisor for student and teacher mobility from the Office for International Co-Operation; Ivana Cerin, expert assistant for projects from the Office of Financial Management; Hrvoje Mataković, PhD, Head of the Office for Research; dr. sc. Vlatka Petrović, PhD, Head of the Transfer Technology Office; and Arijana Mihalić, Head of the Office for Science and Technology. After the appointment of the Work Group, the University Rector appointed on 14 May 2012 a Work Group for administrative support to the implementation of the principles of the Charter and the Code, which comprised seven members: Professor Melita Kovačević, PhD, Vice-Rector for science and technology; Professor Neven Duić, PhD, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture; Mirjana Fuchs and Ljubica Krpelj, Office for Human Resources; Ivana Cerin, Office for Financial Management; dr. sc. Hrvoje Mataković, PhD, Office for Research; and Renata Hranjec, Office for International Co-Operation, and the primary task of the Work Group was to prepare an internal analysis, "Human Resources Strategy through the Implementation of the Charter and the Code, and the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy."

In order to make the process as open and transparent as possible, in the period from 2011 to 2013 all relevant bodies of the University of Zagreb (the extended Rector's Collegium, faculty secretaries of the constituent units of the University of Zagreb, and the Committee for human resources) were familiarized with the implementation of the Charter and the Code, as well as with the content of the internal analysis. In 2013, the work of offices and bodies of the University of Zagreb on the making of the final version of the internal analysis has been intensified, with which the whole project entered into its conclusive stage.

The final version of the Internal Analysis and the Action Plan is a result of simultaneous work of participants at all levels of operation of the University of Zagreb, from the administration and offices of the Rectorate to the constituent units of the University of Zagreb, and it has been submitted to members of the Senate at its 12th Session, on 16 April, 2013, and was unanimously accepted by the members of the Senate.



I. Ethical and professional aspetcs

Actions required	Who/Responsibility	When/Implementation
1.1 Periodic analysis of the existing situation, and evaluation of adherence to the relevant legislation and the ethics codes regarding research freedom.	 Office for research of the University of Zagreb (herefater UZ) Ethics Council of the UZ 	continuously from December 2013 until December 2015
1.2 Introduction of the practice of signing a statement at the time of hiring, along with handing out of the Code of Ethics of the University of Zagreb, and <i>The Charter and the Code</i> .	 Ethics Committees of the constituent units of the UZ Human resources offices of the UZ 	

Actions required	Who/Responsibility	When/Implementation
2.1 Periodic analysis of the existing situation, and evaluation of adherence to the relevant legislation and the code of ethics.	 Ethics Council of the UZ Ethics Committees of the constiteunt units of the UZ 	continuously from December 2013 until December 2015
2.2 Raising awareness about and adherence to ethical principles, and regular adjustment and improvement of the Code of Ethics through organization of forums, workshops, and other similar activities.		



Actions required	Who/Responsibility	When/Implementation
3.1 Familiarization of all researchers with the national legislation and institutional rules.	Legal team of the UZCollegium of Faculty	
3.2 Adopting the Regulations on disciplinary responsibility and disciplinary procedure, for the purpose of defining procedures in cases of violations of the rules of the Code of Ethics previously established by the Ethics Council.	Secretaries Research Office University Library	3.1 continuously 3.2. December 2014 3.3 continuously 3.4 December 2015
3.3 Continuous emphasis on unacceptability of plagiarism of any kind.		
3.4 Making it possible to be fully informed through access to leading		
journals and online databases.		

Actions required	Who/Responsibility	When/Implementation
4.1 Defining clear rules of conduct in cases where funding comes from	■ Rector's Office	
the industrial sector or the business sector.	Research Office	4.1 January 2015
4.2 Calling attention to the importance of meeting the agreed dates of implementation, and of reporting on project results.	 Board for Research, Development and Technology 	4.2 continuously in the period from 2013 - 2015



Actions required	Who/Responsibility	When/Implementation
5.1 Familiarization of researchers with national legislation and institutional rules—raising awareness of the researchers and stimulating them to familiarize themselves with regulations through workshops, round tables, and the like.	 Legal team of the UZ Collegium of Faculty Secretaries Research Office 	5.1 continuously in the period from 2013 - 2015 5.2 in the 2013 - 2014 period
5.2. Putting together and publishing information packages for researchers on the existing regulations on working conditions and professional training.	 Human resources offices at the constituent units of the UZ 	

6. Accountability Actions required	Who/Responsibility	When/Implementation
6.1 Raising awareness about and stimulating sound, transparent and efficient financial management through organization of forums,	Research OfficeLegal team of the UZ	6.1. continuously in the
round tables and workshops. 6.2 Elaboration of the rules of the	 Collegium of Faculty Secretaries 	period from 2013 - 2015 6.2. in 2014
Code of Ethics, and making of specific financial management codes.	■ Ethics Council of the UZ	6.3. December 2015
	 Ethics committees of constituent units of the UZ 	

Actions required	Who/Responsibility	When/Implementation
7.1 Familiarization of researchers with national legislation and institutional rules.	 Technology Transfer Office Research Office Centre for Research, Development and Technology Transfer of the UZ 	March 2015
7.2 Building up the information system, and education of users about data protection.	■ Information system services	continuously



Actions required	Who/Responsibility	When/Implementation
8.1 Further development of legal and institutional mechanisms for commercialisation of research results	 Technology Transfer Office Centre for research, development and technology transfer of the UZ 	continuously from December 2013 until December 2015

Actions required	Who/Responsibility	When/Implementation
9.1 Presentation of research results to the public, stimulation of interest in science and of presence of science in the media	Public Relations Office	continuously from December 2013 until December 2015
9.2 Organization of public lectures and thematic round tables fort he purpose of familiarizing the public with research achievements of the institution.	■ Research Office	continuously from July 2013 until December 2015
9.3 Articulation of a clear strategy of how to present achievements at the University, and of how to timely inform the public.	 Management of the UZ 	the period from 2013 to December 2014

Actions required	Who/Responsibility	When/Implementation
10.1 Further efforts in raising awareness among workers, employees and providers of funding on avoidance of discrimination.	 Human resources offices at the constituent units of the UZ 	May 2014
10.2 Conducting evaluations among workers, employees and providers of funding on avoidance of discrimination.	 Office for Human Resources Office for Study Programmes and Quality Assurance 	January 2015



Actions required	Who/Responsibility	When/Implementation
11.1. Examination and adoption of criteria for evaluating successful research institutions.	 Expert committees; Faculty Councils of the constituent units of the 	
and procedure of evaluation transparent; initiative to introduce a peer-review system in the appointment to positions of special responsibility in scientific research projects.	 Field Council 11.1 and 11.2 Board for research, development and technology 	11.1 and 11.2 January 2014 11.3 March 2015
11.3 Evaluation and ranking of research efficiency of a constituent unit of the UZ in research fields and sub-fields (but also of its institutional divisions like institutes and chairs) at the level of the University, but also at the national level.	and technology 11.3 Research Office	

II. Recruitment

Who/Responsibility	When/Implementation
 Management of the UZ 	
Collegium of Faculty Secretaries	12.1 continuously from December 2013 until
Board for research, development and technology	December 2015
and some eg	12.2 continuously from
 Human Resources Offices at the 	December 2013 until
constituent units of the UZ	December 2015
	12.3. April 2014
	12.5.11.
	12.4 April 2015
	 Collegium of Faculty Secretaries Board for research, development and technology Human Resources Offices at the



Actions required	Who/Responsibility	When/Implementation
13.1 Improvement of advertising, especially as concerns definition of requirements for appointment, description of the working conditions and promotion prospects.	 Human Resources Offices at the constituent units of the UZ Office for Human Resources 	13.1. in the period from December 2013 until December 2015
13.2. Advertising positions on the EURAXESS portal.	 Collegium of Faculty Secretaries 	13.2. October 2013

Actions required	Who/Responsibility	When/Implementation
14.1 Introduction of advisory bodies comprised by researchers and experts of different expertise and competences from Croatia and abroad (according to scientific fields and sub-fields).	Human resources committee Administrations of the constituent units of the UZ Board for research,	14.1 June 2015 14.2 July 2015
14.2 Introduction of a broader range of selection procedures.	 development and technology Committees for appointment to rank Human resources offices at the constituent units of the UZ 	

15. Transparency (Code)		
Actions required	Who/Responsibility	When/Implementation
15.1. At the level of constituent units: Human resources offices of the constituent units of the UZ should inform the applicants on the procedure of selection and employment through procedure guidelines.	 15.1 Human resources offices at the constituent units of the UZ Human resources committee Senate 	15.1 In the period from October 2013 until December 2014 15.2 In the period from October 2013 until
15.2 The applicants should be informed on the selection procedure in detail.		December 2014



Actions required	Who/Responsibility	When/ Implementation
16.1 Establishment of independent advisory bodies acting in the capacity of peer-review	Board for research, development and technology	(Describe
16.2 Designing criteria that would consider the overall potential of the candidate	 Centre for research, development and technology transfer of the UZ 	16.1. Decembe 2015 16.2. May 2019
16.3 Establishment of a procedure that would allow the selection	Human resources committee	16.3 May 201
committee to objectively evaluate the overall portential of the candidate.	 Committee for appointment to rank 	

Actions required	Who/Responsibility	When/ Implementation
17.1 Defining clear guidelines on treating career breaks or variations in the chronological order of the CV in the selection critaria.	 Board for research, development and technology Office for Human Resources 	17.1 March 2014
17.2 Encouraging changes in the legislation that would abolish the obligation to get promoted in research-and-teaching ranks.	 Human resources committee 	from December 2013 until December 2015



Actions required	Who/Responsibility	When/Implementation
18.1 Designing a database that would allow monitoring (and rewarding) of mobility.	Board for research, development and technology	18.1. October 2014
18.2 Stimulation of mobility of doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers.	 Vice-Rector for research and technology 	18.2. continuously in the period from
18.3 Stimulation of post-doctoral training abroad and at the institutions in the RC; and adequate evaluation of such training.	 Office for doctoral studies and programmes Field Councils 	2013-2015 18.3. continuously in the period from 2013-2015 18.4 continuously in the period from 2013-2015
18.4 Stimulation of professional development and other forms of mobility through creation of institutional opportunities for leaves for researchers.		

Actions required	Who/Responsibility	When/Implementation
19.1 Encouraging the passage of regulation at the national level concerning recognition of competences acquired by nonformal education.	 Office for doctoral studies and programmes Office for academic 	19.1 continuously from
19.2. The web pages of the UZ include the basic information and guidelines related to the procedure of academic recognition of higher education institutions and periods of study; for this purpose the Outline of the publication on academic recognition of higher education qualifications and periods of study was written.	recognition of foreign higher education qualifications Collegium of Faculty Secretaries	December 2013 until December 2015 19.2 information already published on the website -2013 Draft publication - October 2013



Actions required	Who/Responsibility	When/Implementation
20.1 Raising awareness and providing information about the significance of lifelong professional development, and familiarization with examples of good practice from abroad.	 Board for quality assurance Office for academic recognition of foreign higher education institutions 20.1. Work group for lifelong learning 	continuously from December 2013 until December 2015

Actions required	Who/Responsibility	When/Implementation
21.1 Initiative towards the national legislation concerning definition of status and funding of employment of post-doctoral researchers.	 Board for research, development and technology Office for Research 	continuously from December 2013 until December 2015
	 Vice-Rector for research and technology 	

III. Working conditions and social security

Who/Responsibility	When/Implementation
Ethics Council of the UZ	
 Ethics Committees at the constituent units of the UZ 	continuously from December 2013 until December 2015
	Ethics Council of the UZEthics Committees at the



23. Research environment		
Actions required	Who/Responsibility	When/Implementation
23.1 Stimulation of allocation of funding for research in science and art at the state level (campaigns, forums, etc), and establishment of connections with the business sector and the broader community fo common projects. 23.2 Stimulation of the use of EU funds through education and providing of information.	 Heads of organizational components at the constituent units Board for research, development and technology Office for Research 	from September 2013 until December 2015

Actions required	Who/Responsibility	When/Implementation
24.1 Stimulation of allocation of funding for research in science and art at the state level	 Leadership of the constituent units of the UZ 	
(campaigns, forums, etc).	 Board for research, 	
24.2 Initiatives designed to define	development and technology	
and improve national legislation.		
24.3 Encouragement of flexibility		continuously from September
in every form, with a control of	 Collegium of Faculty 	2013 until December 2015
efficiency in the use of work time	Secretaries	
/ introduction of periodic		
impartial evaluation of the work	 Office for students with 	
of researchers.	disabilities	
24.4 Securing adequate health		
insurance and retirement plans		
in line with existing legislation.		



Actions required	Who/Responsibility	When/Implementation
25.1 Initiative to change national legislation: to abolish the	 Management of the UZ 	•
obligation to get promoted in research-and-teaching ranks, and	■ Senate	
to allow for researchers to remain in the research-and-teaching rank achieved, along with harmonization of criteria for	 Leadership of the constituent units of the UZ 	
appointment to ranks, and their strict implementation.	Collegium of Faculty Secretaries	
25.2 Initiative to change the criteria for promotion at the national level, in order to make them more qualitative and	Bodies at the constituent units— boards, committees	July 2015
adequate to the specificities of scientific fields, and not quantitative	 Board for research, development and technology 	
25.3 Regulation of the status of assistants		
25.4 Initiative to establish financial		
and other instruments to select		
and stimulate the most successful researchers in science and art.		



Actions required	Who/Responsibility	When/Implementation
26.1 Stimulation of initiatives at	 Rectorate of the UZ 	
the national level directed at		
making sure that the salaries of	■ Senate	
researchers do not lag behind		
salaries in the business sector.		
26.2 Better differentiation and	 Leadership of the constituent 	
increase of salaries of research-	units of the UZ	
and-teaching staff in science and		26.1 continuously
art, along with a clear	 Board for research, 	
differentiation of teaching loads and research duties.	development and technology	26.2 September 2014
26.3 Introduction of the		26.3 January 2015
possibility of increasing the share of teaching or research in the	 Collegium of Faculty 	2644 "2004
equated work hours in line with	Secretaries	26.4 April 2014
the necessities of research.	- 11	26.5 December 2015
attitudes of employees, and	Human resources offices at	20.5 December 2015
institutional needs.	the constituent units of the	
26.4 Establishment of procedures	UZ	
of evaluation that would lead to		
additional remuneration and		
access to higher portions of		
research funding to successful		
eaders of research groups or		
researchers.		
26.5 Stimulation of guarantees of		
air and attractive working		
conditions and benefits (income)		
it all career stages regardless of		
he form of the work contract.		

Actions required	Who/Responsibility	When/Implementation
27.1 Continued efforts in raising awareness among workers, employers and funders.	 Committees for appointment to rank 	•
27.2 Stimulation of half-time employment in research in cases where there is a need to harmonize family obligations and work obligations.	 Leadership of the constituent units of the UZ 	Continuously



28. Career development		
Actions required	Who/Responsibility	When/Implementation
28.1 Making precise action plans of development of the constituent units of the UZ, identifying strategic	 Committees for appointment to rank 	•
points on which they intend to build their competitiveness; and systematic and realistic planning of human resources and work	 Leadership of the constituent units of the UZ 	28.1 April 2014
positions. 28.2 Making strategies for professional development of	 Faculty Council at the constituent units of the UZ 	28.2 June 2014 28.3 July 2014
researchers at the constituent units. 28.3 Accelerate the introduction and creation of databases on researchers.	 Board for research, development and technology 	200,40, 2021
	 Human resources offices at the constituent units of the UZ 	

Actions required	Who/Responsibility	When/Implementation
29.1 Initiative to create an adequate stimulative national and institutional framework (quotas, defining teaching obligations that facilitate mobility).	 Leadership of the constituent units of the UZ Committees for appointment to rank 	
29.2 Creation of conditions for and stimulation of mobility of post-doctoral researchers.	 Board for research, development and technology 	29.1 continuously in the period from September 2013 until December 2015
29.3 Stimulation of professional training and other forms of mobility of all researchers through the creation of institutional opportunities for leaves for researchers, which requires adequate national and institutional regulations, as well as financial support. 29.4 Monitoring of professional development, increase of mobility and stimulation thereof, through a system of rewards, and on the basis of the introduction of a database on researchers.	 Research Office Collegium of Faculty Secretaries 	29.2 continuously in the period from September 2015 until December 2015 29.3 continuously in the period from September 2015 until December 2015 29.4 April 2014



Actions required	Who/Responsibility	When/Implementation
30.1 Making detailed institutional regulations on mentoring, along with a definition of financial instruments.	 Career Services Office (founding in progress) 30.2.Human resources committee 	30.1 mid 2014
30.2 Establishment of a Career Services Office—with the task of advising and career guidance for students and researchers; or the establishment of an Office for planning and development of human resources.		30.2 from September to December 2013 30.3 continuously from September 2013 until December 2015
30.3 Acquisition of experiences on international institutions of the same kind through international projects.		

Actions required	Who/Responsibility	When/Implementation
31.1 Continuation of the making of regulations for protection of intellectual property and distribution of profit from it at the University. 31.2 Development of mechanisms for providing information and education in the implementation of the said regulation.	 Technology Transfer Office Collegium of Faculty Secretaries Centre for Research, Development and Technology Transfer of the UZ Vice-Rector for research, development and technology Board for research, development and technology 	31.1. – July 2014 31.2. continuously in the period from 2013-2015



Actions required	Who/Responsibility	When/Implementation
32.1 Initiatives for a more precise definition of criteria for listing co- authorship in keeping with respective	 Committees for appointment to rank 	•
roles in research, through national regulations and institutional rules (definition of criteria for promotion that would emphasise the quality of published work, and not their number).	 Board for research, development and technology Office for research 	continuously December 2013
32.2 Stimulation of co-operation and co-authorship with foreign research groups	 Technology Transfer Office 	
32.3 Stimulate the practice of co- authorship in social sciences and the humanities.		

33.1 Initiatives for introduction the possibility of increasing the share of teaching or research in the equated work hours in line with the necessities of research, attitudes of	 Leadership of the constituent units of the UZ 	When/Implementation
employees, and institutional needs. 33.2 Initiatives for separate regulation of the share of teaching in the overall work load of young researchers, so that this share does not impede research activities. 33.3 Development of mechanisms of training and education of young researchers (teaching assistants and research assistants) for teaching work.	 Field Councils Board for research, development and technology Office for doctoral studies and programmes Field Councils 33.3 Vice-Rector for research and technology 	33.1 December 2013 33.2 continuously 33.3. continuously



34. Complaints/appeals		
Actions required	Who/Responsibility	When/Implementation
34.1 Articulation and making of plan or strategy for career development for young researchers (which would precisely define the role of mentors and their relationships with young researchers).	Board for doctoral programmes	34.1 February 2015
34.2 Establishment of a Career Services Office—with the goal of advising and career guidance for researchers; or the	Rectorate Human resources	34.2 2013 34.3 continuously
establishment of an Office for planning and development of human resources.	committee	
34.3 Encouragement of the Ethics Council in further improvement of its advisory capacity in possible disputes.	 Legal departments at the constituent units of the UZ 	

Actions required	Who/Responsibility	When/Implementation
35.1 Elaboration of a system of evaluation (financial and otherwise) of participation in the work of relevant bodies at the constiuent units, the University and institutions at the national level. 35.2 Starting an initiative to incorporate this principle into regulations on promotion at the national level.	 Leadership of the Rectorate of the UZ Leadership of the constituent units of the UZ Office for Financial Management Committees for appointment to rank Collegium of Faculty Secretaries 	35.1 March 2014 35.2 December 2013

IV. Training

Actions required	Who/Responsibility	When/Implementation
36.1 Internal analysis of the practices at the constituent units; and where necessary, improvement of the quality of the relationship between mentors and doctoral candidates, and of the results	 Vice-Rector for research and technology Office for Doctoral Studies and Programmes Board for doctoral programmes Committees for doctoral studies at the constituent units of the UZ 	April 2014



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Actions required	Who/Responsibility	When/Implementation
37.1 Initiative to toughen the criteria of excellence and promotion of researchers in order to select the best researchers, capable of taking on supervising and administrative duties	 Office for Doctoral Studies and Programmes Board for doctoral programmes 	February 2014
	 Committees for doctoral studies at the constituent units of the UZ 	

Actions required	Who/Responsibility	When/Implementation
38.1 Continuous creation of financial instruments for stimulation of development of skills and competences. 38.2 Stimulation of introduction of new lifelong education programmes. 38.3 Encouragement of education of researchers at prominent institutions abroad, as well as at institutions in the RC. 38.4. Stimulation of education of teachers for teaching and e-learning at the level of the University.	 Management of the University and administrations of the constituent units of the UZ University computing centre 	38.1 continuously 38.2 continuously 38.3 April 2014 38.4 from September 2013 until December 2015



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Actions required	Who/Responsibility	When/ Implementation
39.1 Encouragement of continuous improvement of researchers through rules and practices at the	 Leadership of the constituent units of the UZ 	
constituent units and the University. 39.2 Creation of financial	 Centre for Research, Development and Technology Transfer 	39.1 continuosly
instruments for stimulation of development of skills and	 Board for quality assurance 	38.5 from September 2013 until
competences.	 Project leaders 	December 2015

Actions required	Who/Responsibility	When/ Implementation
40.1 Initiative to release supervisors from a part of teaching obligations so that they could dedicate themselves to activities associated with education of doctoral students and monitoring of their work. 40.2 Initiatives addressed to the competent Ministry for opening new jobs in teaching, which would facilitate the creation of more space for more intensive scientific research. 40.3 Continuously develop the existing regulations for monitoring	 Board for doctoral programmes Office for Doctoral Studies and Programmes Competent bodies at the constituent units of the UZ Collegium of Faculty Secretaries 	from September 2013 until December 2015





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