

---

# Increasing mobility and academic cooperation in environmental sciences by an international curriculum development

**Prof. Marija Romić, PhD**

Faculty of Agriculture University of Zagreb,  
Svetošimunska c. 25, 10000 Zagreb

Croatia

E-mail: [mromic@agr.hr](mailto:mromic@agr.hr)

<http://www.agr.hr>

# 1. OVERVIEW

- The Bologna reform was expected to foster the mobility of students, the employability of graduates, contributing thereby the overall country development.
- Among the central features of the Bologna reform was a re-definition of the curricula, a student-centered learning, the definition of learning-outcomes, the development of competencies, and, in the first stage, the implementation of a two-tier system, a three-year first cycle (bachelor's degree) followed by a two-year second cycle (master's degree).

# 1. OVERVIEW

- One of the main goals of the EU common agricultural policy is to establish an agriculture harmonized with the natural resources of a region and the needs of the wider community that constitute the all-encompassing rural landscape;
- Agriculture is recognizable as an activity whose primary role of food production has become merely one of its many roles, from preservation of landscape beauty to meeting the increasingly more demanding requirements for food quality and safety;

## Challenges driving research and teaching in life and environmental science

- Overarching challenge: **Climate change and variability**
- Other challenges:
  - Water availability (in quantity and quality)
  - Maintaining soil quality (prevention of soil sealing org. C losses, compaction, contamination ...)
  - Maintaining (or increasing if possible) biodiversity
  - Overuse of renewable resources, bioenergy and waste management

## **Environment, Agriculture and Resource Management Graduate Programme (EAREM)**

- › a two-year study programme developed to provide students at the MA level with the knowledge and skills necessary for managing natural environment within the context of climate change
- › methods for research the soil – water – plant continuum, including also understanding of the role of climate change on natural resource management, particularly water and soil environments, as well as nutrient and pollutant flows and developing effective survey methodologies of land assessment.

## 2. STARTING POINTS

- One of the main goals of the reform was to render the higher education more responsive to the needs of the labour market and, therefore, enhance graduate employability and returns to education.
- it's particularly important to offer study programs focused on specific contents which are interesting both from the regional and global aspects.
- teaching in English enables an equal participation in programs on the international level, but also leaves field for the faster information transfer, improving and updating of the curricula, collaboration with the foreign partners and building of capacities in teaching and research.

### 3. STUDY OBJECTIVES

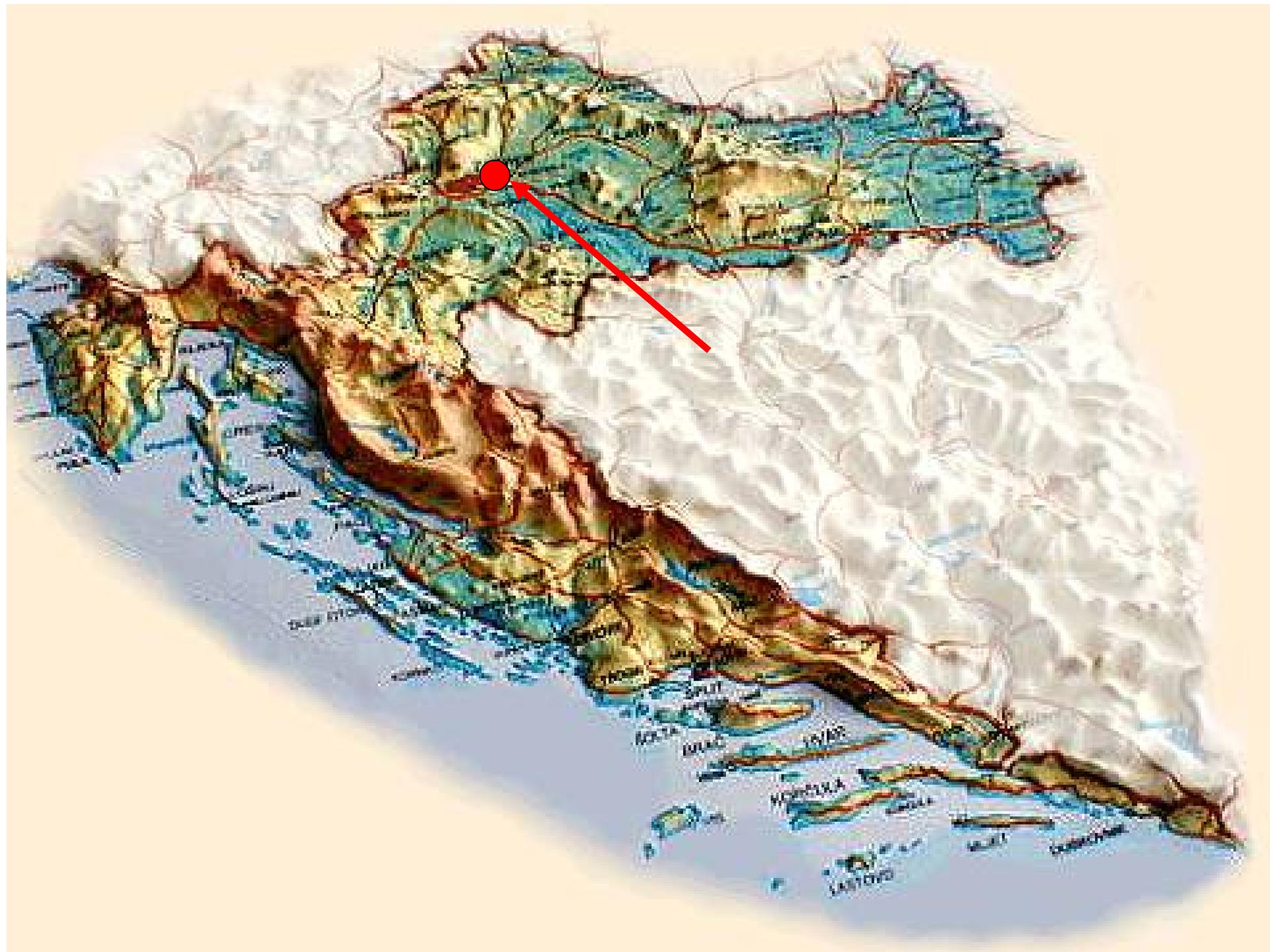
- resource depletion and degradation (water management; soil functions in ecosystems and crop production systems; human influence on ecological resources)
- management of natural resources and the environment (in contexts of rural development, agri-environmental systems, landscape ecology, environmental policy and legislation)
- bioenergy and waste management

## 3. CONTEXT AND AIMS

► thematic fields:

- Agricultural environmental management
- Protected nature and soil & water conservation
- Rural development & policies
- Bioenergy & climate change

- Expected benefits of international interaction in such programs are consideration and comprehension of the regional diversities and multidisciplinary approach which gives a holistic perspective and understanding to these contents.



















**Thank you for your attention!**