



Strategic Programme for Research
of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
in Split
for the period 2026–2030

AUTHORS:

Full prof. Ina Reić Ercegovac, PhD
Assoc. Prof. Nikša Varezić, PhD
Assoc. Prof.. Vedran Barbarić, PhD
Full Prof. dr. sc. Antonela Marić, PhD

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Data Processing:

1. Snježana Dimzov, PhD, Library of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split
2. Tamara Ljubičić, Department for International Cooperation and Mobility
3. Jelena Rogošić, Department for Quality, Research and Projects
4. Zrinka Koludrović, Department for Quality, Research and Projects

The Strategic Programme for Research of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split for the Period 2026–2030 was adopted by the Committee for Research Activity of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split on 15 December 2025, at its 7th session in the 2025/2026 academic year (CLASS: 029-06/25-19/00001, REG. NO.: 2181-190-25-00021), with the following members:

1. Associate Professor Nikša Varezić, PhD, Vice-Dean for Research and International Cooperation
2. Full Professor Antonela Marić, PhD, representative of the Department of Italian Language and Literature;
3. Associate Professor Marko Rimac, PhD, representative of the Department of History;
4. Full Professor Darko Hren, PhD, representative of the Department of Psychology;
5. Full Professor Katarina Lozić Knezović, PhD, representative of the Department of Croatian Language and Literature;
6. Full Professor Tonči Kokić, PhD, representative of the Department of Philosophy;
7. Assistant Professor Mirjana Semren, PhD, representative of the Department of English Language and Literature;
8. Full Professor Ivana Prijatelj Pavičić, PhD, representative of the Department of Art History;
9. Full Professor Renata Relja, PhD, representative of the Department of Sociology;
10. Associate Professor Anita Mandarić Vukušić, PhD, representative of the Department of Pedagogy;
11. Full Professor Nikola Glamuzina, PhD, representative of the Department of Teacher Education;
12. Associate Professor Marija Brajčić, PhD, representative of the Department of Early and Preschool Education;
13. Full Professor Eldi Grubišić Pulišelić, PhD, representative of the Department of German Studies.

The Strategic Programme for Research of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split for the period 2026–2030 was adopted at the 4th regular session of the Faculty Council in the 2025/2026 academic year, held on 21 January 2026 (CLASS: 029-06/26-06/00001, REG. NO.: 2181-190-26-00012).

Contents

1. INTRODUCTION	4
2. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK	5
2.1. Vision	5
2.2. Mission	5
2.3. Scope of Activities	6
2.4. Organisational Units	7
3. CHALLENGES AND DEVELOPMENT NEEDS IN RESEARCH ACTIVITY	8
3.1. Infrastructural Investments	8
3.2. Increasing Research Excellence	9
3.3. Implementation of Digital Transformation Principles to Increase Research Output	12
3.4. Doctoral study	12
4. ANALYSIS OF CURRENT AND FUTURE STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS (SWOT)	13
5. OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH STRATEGY	14
Enhancing Research Excellence	15
Strengthening Cooperation with the Companies and Developing National and Regional Identity and Culture	24
Increasing the Relevance, Quality and Efficiency of Studies	29
Strengthening Social Responsibility	30
APPENDIX 1	32

1. INTRODUCTION

The Strategic Programme for Research of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split for 2026–2030 ensures the continuity and advancement of research activity over the next five-year period, in accordance with the findings of various analyses of research output and excellence at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split over the preceding five-year period, and is aligned with the strategic documents of the University of Split and the ESG Standards.

The content of the Programme and its key objectives have been defined in accordance with the *Plan for the Development and Performance-Based Budget Component of a Public Higher Education Institution/Public Research Institute for the 2025–2029 Programme Period*, as well as with other relevant strategic documents, namely:

- Development Strategy of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split 2026 – 2030
- University of Split's Scientific Strategy 2022-2026
- University of Split Development Strategy 2030

The Strategic Programme for Research of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split for the Period 2026–2030 includes an internal self-evaluation of previous research activities, as well as an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split and its position within the scientific and research environment. It also encompasses the strategic objectives and expected outcomes of the Strategic Programme for Research, research topics/projects and the specific objectives associated with them.

This strategic document aims to strengthen both the national and international visibility of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split in the humanities, social sciences and interdisciplinary sciences, as well as in the arts, with the aim of establishing the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split (hereinafter: the Faculty) as one of the leading research institutions in the Republic of Croatia. The Faculty aspires to be a prominent higher education institution recognised for promoting scientific, artistic and cultural excellence. Particular emphasis is placed on enhancing its visibility within the local and regional community, promoting and developing scientific and cultural values through the application of research achievements within the local community, and becoming an example of good practice in achieving these objectives. In addition, this document aims to encourage cooperation with other scientific areas and disciplines, including increased mobility, more intensive transfer of knowledge and experience, and the strengthening of the Faculty's profile, position and role at the regional, national and international levels, particularly within the Mediterranean context, through improved organisation and development of teaching and research as integral parts of its activities.

2. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The Faculty is a public higher education institution within the University of Split that organises and delivers university undergraduate and graduate study programmes, a university integrated undergraduate and graduate study programme, and a postgraduate doctoral study programme, while also developing research and professional activities across several scientific areas and fields. It is entered in the Register of Scientific Organisations under registration number 244 in the scientific areas of the humanities and social sciences, as well as in the interdisciplinary scientific area.

The Faculty has 178 employees, of whom 101 hold research and teaching positions, 15 hold teaching positions, 22 hold associate positions, and three are employed on research projects (October 2025). The Faculty places equal emphasis on education and on the research development of experts in the social sciences, humanities and interdisciplinary sciences. It serves as a central hub for the development of the humanities and social sciences in the region. The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split is recognised, among other things, for its openness to the local, regional, national and international communities, the involvement of a large number of experts and external associates in its activities, the organisation of various scientific and professional conferences and meetings, science popularisation activities, and its extensive publishing activity. Since 2025, there has also been a significant increase in research activities. The Faculty has also established itself as a promoter of cultural heritage and contemporary cultural events at both national and international levels through the organisation of exhibitions, literary events and other cultural and artistic activities.

2.1. Vision

In addition to its focus on the quality of study programmes and their delivery, while placing considerable importance on the teaching competencies of its staff, the Faculty seeks to strengthen and promote research activities within the humanities, social sciences and interdisciplinary sciences, with the aim of achieving significant results not only in the local and national contexts, but also at the European level. In addition to students from Croatia and other countries, the Faculty seeks to attract high-quality researchers through excellence and the introduction of innovation in teaching, learning, research, and the exchange of knowledge and good practices. One of the Faculty's most important tasks is to promote competence, ethical conduct, tolerance, cooperation, inclusiveness and responsibility across all aspects of its activities. The promotion of these values is intended to contribute to the advancement of the local community and society as a whole. High-quality education of students and doctoral candidates in accordance with high quality standards, together with excellence in research, will ensure the Faculty's stronger positioning within the national and European higher education and research landscape, creating the conditions for more intensive cooperation with both national and international stakeholders. The Faculty plays an essential role in building a knowledge-based society and promoting excellence in teaching and research through its diverse study programmes in the humanities, social sciences and interdisciplinary sciences at undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate levels, as well as through the activities of its lifelong learning centres and research centres.

2.2. Mission

The Faculty is a constituent unit of the University of Split dedicated to the education and research development of experts in the social sciences, humanities and interdisciplinary sciences. As the constituent unit of the University that educates the largest number of students for careers in early childhood education, primary education and teaching, the Faculty bears considerable responsibility for the long-term development and advancement of society as a whole. Therefore, in addition to developing the research and practical competencies required for the labour market, the Faculty promotes social, humanistic, moral and ethical values, seeking to contribute to society through education and research of high standards. Through the continuous development and enhancement of

its activities, the Faculty successfully integrates into the European higher education and research landscape, consistently striving for excellence in research and teaching. The key elements of the Faculty's mission relating to research activities may be expressed as follows:

- educating doctoral graduates in the humanities whose competencies will contribute to fostering and advancing the humanities in both national and international contexts
- developing the Faculty's identity and promoting its study programmes and research projects in the European and international context
- fostering excellence in teaching and research in the social sciences, humanities and interdisciplinary sciences

2.3. Scope of Activities

In accordance with the Statute of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split (October 2023), the activities of the Faculty comprise higher education, research and professional activities, which are activities of special interest to the Republic of Croatia and form an integral part of the international, particularly European, research and education landscape. As a constituent unit of the University of Split, the Faculty's activities within the research framework are as follows:

- research activities and professional work in the social sciences, humanities and interdisciplinary sciences
- development and implementation of national and international scientific, research and professional projects
- organisation of national and international scientific, research and professional conferences and meetings
- implementation of procedures for appointment to positions in accordance with the Act and other applicable regulations
- implementation of procedures for the appointment of external title-holding teaching staff and associates in accordance with the Act and other applicable regulations
- printing, publishing, library and information technology activities supporting the Faculty's teaching, scientific, research and professional activities.

2.4. Organisational Units

DEPARTMENTS

The Faculty comprises twelve departments, which are organisational units responsible for the delivery of study programmes and the conduct of research and professional activities in one or more scientific and educational areas or fields. Individual departments may also comprise chairs. (<https://www.ffst.unist.hr/odsjeci>):

1. Department of Croatian Language and Literature

- Chair of Croatian Language
- Chair of Literature and Culture

2. Department of English Language and Literature

- Chair of English Language and Applied Linguistics

- Chair of Literature in English

3. Department of Italian Language and Literature

- Chair of Italian Language
- Chair of Applied Linguistics
- Chair of Italian Literature

4. Department of German Language and Literature

- Chair of German Language
- Chair of Literature and Media

5. Department of Art History

6. Department of History

- Chair of Ancient and Medieval History and Methodology of Historical Research
- Chair of Early Modern and Contemporary History

7. Department of Philosophy

8. Department of Early and Preschool Education

9. Department of Sociology

10. Department of Pedagogy

11. Department of Primary Education

- Chair of Teaching Methodology
- Chair of Croatian Language and Literature
- Chair of Arts

12. Department of Psychology

CENTRES OF THE FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES IN SPLIT

The Faculty has 15 centres, nine of which have been established primarily for the purpose of research and professional activities. The activities of the centres involve staff members from different departments, depending on the purpose and scope of activities of each centre and on the research and professional competencies and interests of the staff members.

Centres for Research and Professional Activities (<https://www.ffst.unist.hr/znanost/centri>):

1. Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies Studia Mediterranea
2. Centre for Integrative Bioethics
3. Centre for Comparative and Korean Studies
4. Centre for Local History and Genealogy
5. Berislav Žarnić Research Centre
6. Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage
7. Centre for Transdisciplinary Research and the Promotion of a Culture of Health
8. Centre for the Transdisciplinary Promotion of Sustainable Development
9. Centre for Research and Education in Human Rights

Among the Faculty's standing committees, the COMMITTEE FOR RESEARCH ACTIVITY is the body responsible for overseeing and monitoring the Faculty's research activities and for promoting and fostering research and the development of research staff. The PUBLISHING COMMITTEE conducts the procedures for the publication of scientific and professional publications, with the aim of disseminating and ensuring access to research results and enhancing the Faculty's visibility within the wider research and academic community.

3. CHALLENGES AND DEVELOPMENT NEEDS IN RESEARCH ACTIVITY

The Faculty continuously works on enhancing all segments of its system and activities, regularly monitoring, among other aspects, research needs and trends. In order to improve the research component of its activities more effectively, the Faculty has identified the need for further investment in infrastructure, as well as continuous efforts to increase research excellence. The Faculty recognises opportunities to strengthen its research capacities and processes by applying the principles of digital strategy development and by developing innovative tools, platforms and approaches. Given that one of the guiding principles of the Faculty's mission is to educate doctoral graduates in the humanities whose competencies will contribute to fostering and advancing the humanities in both national and international contexts, this Strategic Programme for Research also takes into account the needs of the doctoral study programme of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split for the forthcoming period.

3. 1. Infrastructural Investments

After the Faculty invested approximately EUR 700,000 of its own funds in the previous period in the renovation of the second floor of the building to create a large lecture hall with a capacity of approximately 250 people, which was necessary both for teaching the largest student groups and as a key prerequisite for hosting larger scientific and professional conferences and similar activities, the new phase of infrastructure investment for the 2026–2030 period will focus on further improvements aimed at increasing the functionality of the building for both teaching and research purposes, as well as on the acquisition of equipment:

- renovation of some academic staff offices, given that the current overcrowding of certain offices does not meet the standards required for optimal research work;
- equipping a laboratory for conducting research in psychology and interdisciplinary scientific fields;
- acquisition of tools and equipment for the implementation of the three NPOO NextGenerationEU projects;
- investment in software in accordance with the research interests and needs of other researchers at the Faculty;
- continuous provision of the Faculty Library with the most recent literature in accordance with the needs of all researchers.

3.2. Increasing Research Excellence

One of the Faculty's key development challenges is **increasing research excellence** by increasing the number of applications submitted by the Faculty, as a lead institution and/or partner, to competitive calls for research projects. In the preceding four-year period (2021–2025), the Faculty, as a lead institution or partner, had a total of four successful project applications for grant funding submitted to competitive sources of research funding (Korea Seed 2, LOTE; Adris Foundation; Croatian Science

Foundation (HRZZ) – available at <https://www.ffst.unist.hr/znanost/projekti>), the successful further implementation of which is expected during the forthcoming period covered by this Strategic Programme. The main reasons for the relatively small number of funded projects in the preceding period are as follows:

- fewer opportunities to apply for projects in the humanities and social sciences compared with other scientific areas
- the specific nature of research activities in certain fields of the social sciences and particularly the humanities, which generally do not require substantial funding for research equipment, although such equipment is often a major component of project funding; consequently, calls for such projects are not tailored to research activities in the humanities and often not to certain fields of the social sciences either
- the small number of researchers in individual scientific fields, which makes it difficult to form research teams within the Faculty, with some employees in research and teaching positions therefore preferring to participate as collaborators in projects led by other institutions
- the excessive teaching workload of some employees in research and teaching positions.

In this context, with the aim of enhancing the Faculty's research activities, the Regulations on Competitive Research Projects of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split were adopted in July 2024. The Regulations govern the funding of the Faculty's institutional competitive research projects from funds allocated for research activities, based on a call for institutional project proposals and two independent reviews by researchers employed outside the Faculty and its parent University. (<https://www.ffst.unist.hr/download/repository/Pravilnik%20o%20kompetitivnim%20znanstvenim%20projektima.pdf>). In this way, employees are encouraged to prepare and submit competitive research project proposals, while the publication of research papers in journals indexed in the WoS and Scopus databases is also promoted (which is also an obligation of project leaders pursuant to the Regulations and the conditions of the Call). This will have a positive impact on the visibility of the Faculty and its researchers and, consequently, improve conditions for future cooperation with Croatian and international researchers, creating the prerequisites for applications to new competitive calls for research project funding from the Croatian Science Foundation (HRZZ), Horizon and other sources. Under the 2024 call, nine institutional projects were positively evaluated and approved for funding, with a total funding amount of EUR 50,000 for a two-year period (2025–2026). Following their completion, the continuation of research activities initiated during this first call cycle is expected. Given that, pursuant to the Regulations, calls for projects are generally launched every two years, at least two new regular call cycles should be implemented during the 2026–2030 period, while the Regulations also provide for more frequent calls where financial conditions permit. In the 2024/2025 academic year, the Faculty, as a partner, received funding for the new IANUS research project (Horizon), scheduled for implementation from 2025 to 2029 (https://www.ffst.unist.hr/images/50023318/IANUS%20web_hr.pdf). Another positively evaluated project, CIRCE (Horizon), in which the Faculty participates as a partner institution, is being implemented from January 2026 to January 2030 (<https://www.ffst.unist.hr/images/50023318/CIRCE.pdf>).

The Faculty will continue to encourage employees to submit research project proposals, including by awarding one-off financial rewards for successful project applications submitted to external funding sources.

The Faculty successfully applied to the University of Split's Call for Funding Institutional Research Projects (NPOO, NextGenerationEU, June 2025) with three project proposals – MEDHRID (Mediterranean–Croatia–Identity: Historical and Cultural Interconnections), PIVO TIPS (Postdigital and

Inclusive Higher Education: Transformation and Well-being of Individuals and Systems), and SKVO (Hidden Curriculum in Higher Education) – receiving a total of EUR 384,000 in funding for the implementation of project activities during the 2025–2029 period.

In the forthcoming period, the Faculty plans to increase the number of applications to competitive calls by strengthening the administrative services responsible for the Faculty's research activities and enhancing researchers' competencies for applying to competitive calls. This approach already produced results in the 2024/2025 academic year, and further activities are planned:

- as of the 2025/2026 academic year, a Head of the Department for Quality, Research and Projects has been employed, which will significantly strengthen administrative support for researchers, given that until then the Faculty's administrative services had only one employee responsible not only for the Faculty's research activities but also for its publishing activities
- the engagement of the Head of the aforementioned Department in monitoring open calls for competitive projects in the research areas and fields in which the Faculty employs researchers and in continuously disseminating relevant information
- the provision of targeted training for Faculty researchers on opportunities to apply for external funding; training in open science; and training in preparing high-quality applications for research project funding calls.

Within the context of this challenge, the need to increase the number of internationally visible publications in the forthcoming period should also be emphasised. Compared with previous academic years, in 2024 the Faculty recorded an increase in research papers published in journals indexed in the WoS and Scopus databases (N = 86). However, despite the increase in the number of publications in 2023/2024, according to data from the University of Split, the Faculty ranks near the bottom among University constituents in terms of the number of published WoS/Scopus articles per employee in a research and teaching position, clearly indicating the need to strengthen employees' research output in internationally visible publications.

In addition to the measures and activities already introduced and most recently further developed, an increase in the number of top-category research papers published in journals indexed in relevant citation databases is planned for the forthcoming period. Under the new four-year funding model implemented through programme agreements, which enters into force from the 2025/2026 academic year, the internally regulated procedure for allocating basic individual research funds to each employee has been retained alongside other planned funding items for research activities. As an additional incentive, a supplement to the basic amount is allocated according to the number of WoS/Scopus papers published during the preceding academic year. The Regulations on Competitive Research Projects of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split require project leaders whose projects commenced in 2025 under the first call cycle to publish papers arising from project activities in journals indexed in the WoS/Scopus databases. A significant increase in the number of research papers during the 2026–2030 period is also expected as a result of project activities conducted within the three new FFST institutional research projects approved following the University of Split call (NPOO, NextGenerationEU, June 2025), which are scheduled for implementation over the four-year period from the 2025/2026 to the 2028/2029 academic year. In this respect, these objectives are also consistent with the recommendations of the Expert Panel issued as part of the Faculty's 2021/2022 re-accreditation procedure, which state that *although the number of publications produced by Faculty staff is impressive, there is room for improving the quality of publications and excellence should be pursued in order to achieve better positioning within the global research community.*

Faculty teaching staff occasionally co-author papers with students and encourage them to participate in scientific conferences. Several examples from the past two academic years include:

- a psychology student as a co-author of a paper presented at the 6th Croatian Congress of Psychodermatology in June 2025
- six psychology students presenting posters at the 27th Bujas Days of Psychology in May 2025
- a Croatian Language and Literature student receiving an award for the best student presentation at the 7th International Conference on Rhetoric Ivo Škarić Days in May 2025
- psychology students participating in the 3rd International Lifestyle Medicine Congress as volunteers involved in the organisation of the Congress
- psychology students volunteering at the 35th FICE International World Congress in October 2024
- nine psychology students presenting posters at the international congress Modern Perspectives on Mental Health: Integrating Evidence-Based Medicine for Effective Care in October 2024
- psychology students participating with two oral presentations and three posters at the international conference Days of Psychology in Zadar in May 2024
- a psychology student giving a presentation at the Heritage and New Horizons: Croatia and Croatians in a Global Context Conference in Sydney (Australia) in February 2024
- a psychology student and a philosophy student winning third place at the 5th Millennium Competition in Creative Industries in Osijek in May 2024
- an Art History student receiving the Croatian Society of Art Historians (DPUH) award for an outstanding Master's thesis in 2024
- a philosophy student giving a presentation at the international conference Metaphysics in Dubrovnik in 2024.

Students are also encouraged to participate actively in projects. Several examples from the past two academic years include:

- seven students from the Department of Italian Language and Literature participating in the ERASMUS BIP project *Cultura e formazione per un futuro sostenibile e inclusivo* at the University of Bologna-Forlì, Italy, in 2025
- a psychology student participating in the Peer Violence Prevention project and the initiatives *ŽIVIMO MIR* and *Budi glas, a ne tišina*, funded by the Ministry of Science, Education and Youth (MZOM) and the NATO Charity Bazaar
- two psychology students participating in the Erasmus+ project The Art of Support! Psychological First Aid for Youth Workers, held in Tsaghkadzor (Armenia) in April 2024
- a psychology student participating in the Giving Voice project (led by MEFST)
- within the Erasmus+60 project, students from the Department of Pedagogy and the Department of Psychology participating in the design and implementation of an intergenerational learning project connecting higher education and the local community.

The practice of these and similar initiatives will continue to be encouraged in the forthcoming period.

It should be emphasised that one of the Faculty's objectives for the 2026-2030 period is to reduce the teaching workload of Faculty employees whose teaching workload is significantly above average. This would bring the teaching component of their overall workload into better balance with the research component, thereby creating optimal conditions for research activities.

3.3. Implementation of Digital Transformation Principles to Increase Research Output

According to the Faculty's defined vision, the Faculty seeks to strengthen and promote the humanities, social sciences and interdisciplinary sciences in the local, national and European context, as well as to attract outstanding international researchers and students through excellence and the introduction of innovations in teaching, learning, research, and the exchange of knowledge and skills. The Digital Transformation Strategy of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split 2026-2030 (https://www.ffst.unist.hr/news/46172/Digitalna%20transformacija%20FFST_final.pdf) sets out principles and guidelines for enriching the Faculty's development priorities with a digital component. Although the Faculty already provides a modern digital environment, this development should be continued in order to enable high-quality teaching, innovative learning, and interdisciplinary research. A strategic dimension of this process is the Faculty's participation in the e-Universities project, which began in 2021 and runs until the end of 2026. Digitalisation should extend across a wide range of processes, starting with the digitalisation of teaching and teaching materials and the strengthening of teachers' digital competences, followed by the digitalisation of business processes and, of particular importance to the research component, the digitalisation of publications and the implementation of the Open Science Policy. Having adopted the Open Science Policy (<https://www.ffst.hr/download/repository/POLITIKA%20OTVORENE%20ZNANOSTI%20FFST.pdf>) as an overarching document, the Faculty should actively implement measures to promote open science in the coming period, as discussed in greater detail below. Furthermore, with the support of the ZNAK digital application, the Faculty continues to monitor the research activities of its employees, which has facilitated strategic planning in the area of research. In addition to enabling the Faculty to continuously monitor the quality of its employees' overall research output, the digital tool is also used to keep records of the individual financial resources allocated for research activities to all employees holding associate, teaching, and research-and-teaching positions.

3.4. Doctoral study

In the next five-year period, the development of the Doctoral Study in Humanities will be pursued through several clearly defined directions:

- **Further thematic profiling and interdisciplinarity:** In line with the Faculty's strategic documents, which emphasise its essential role in the development of a knowledge society and the humanities and social sciences, the Doctoral Study Programme in Humanities, delivered at the Faculty, will seek to position itself more clearly as a central regional doctoral programme for Mediterranean and Adriatic studies, cultural heritage, education and languages, while developing an additional interdisciplinary module (e.g. humanities and digital technologies, heritage and tourism, language and society). This would enable better use of networking opportunities within the SEA-EU framework and European strategies (EUSAIR, Erasmus, EU missions), which the University identifies as reference frameworks in its strategic plans.
- **Strengthening internationalisation and research excellence at the doctoral level:** In line with the current research and development strategies of the University and the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split, which emphasise the need to increase research productivity, international visibility and participation in competitive projects, the Doctoral Study will seek to systematically introduce a greater number of courses taught in English, co-supervision with international universities, the promotion of co-tutelle doctorates, and mandatory mobility (short-term stays at partner institutions for the purpose of research and the exchange of good practices in research).
- **Strengthening mobility:** Four mobility periods have been completed to date, but there is scope for encouraging further research mobility. In addition, one co-tutelle doctorate with the

University of Tours, France, is currently under way, with opportunities for further cooperation in this area. In this respect, consideration will be given to linking individual modules with research groups and projects at the Faculty, as well as at other faculties, with the aim of integrating doctoral candidates into existing research teams from the first semester onwards, as already envisaged in the Faculty's Strategic Programme for Research.

- **Structuring doctoral education and strengthening the culture of quality:** In light of the strategic documents of the University and the Faculty, which set out development priorities for the coming period, as well as those relating to the quality assurance system, the Doctoral Study will seek to further formalise individual development plans for doctoral candidates (IDPs), regular annual progress evaluations before a committee, mandatory workshops on research methodology, academic writing, open science and research ethics, as well as systematic preparation of doctoral candidates for competitive project applications, professional research profiling and postdoctoral research positions. Particular emphasis will be placed on open science (open access to publications, research data management, science communication and "public humanities"), thereby further contributing to the Faculty's and University's mission of engaging with the local community and enhancing the visibility of the humanities in the public sphere.
- **Establishment of a Doctoral School:** As part of the further development of the Doctoral Study Programme, the establishment of a Doctoral School at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split will also be considered, in accordance with European best practices and the strategic priorities of the University of Split. The Doctoral School would provide unified organisational and administrative support for all humanities disciplines, strengthen interdisciplinary links between modules, and ensure more systematic preparation of doctoral candidates for research. By introducing joint research workshops, methodology courses, mobility programmes, and workshops on academic ethics, open science and career development, the School would provide an integrated framework that would enhance the quality and international visibility of the Doctoral Study. The establishment of the Doctoral School would also contribute to stronger networking with international partners, particularly within the SEA-EU Alliance, and facilitate joint doctorate arrangements, co-supervision and mobility. This would create a coherent system of support for doctoral candidates, from the submission of the dissertation topic to the completion of the doctoral dissertation, thereby strengthening the Faculty's research capacity and increasing the competitiveness of doctoral candidates in the European knowledge market.

4. ANALYSIS OF CURRENT AND FUTURE STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS (SWOT)

The SWOT analysis of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split, conducted in accordance with the areas defined by the ESG standards, also considers, among other areas, research activity.

Research activity

STRENGTHS

- Regular participation of employees in international scientific conferences and symposia, as well as in science popularisation activities
- Regular organisation and co-organisation of scientific conferences and artistic events
- Research activities of the Faculty's research centres

- Regular publication of scientific monographs by Faculty employees
- Open-access availability of the Faculty's scientific journals and bachelor's, master's and doctoral theses as a contribution to open science
- Internal system for allocating individual research funds to employees, with additional financial support based on the number of scientific papers published in WoS/Scopus-indexed publications
- Regular funding of competitive institutional research projects at the Faculty from funds allocated for research activities

WEAKNESSES

- Low number of applications for competitive research projects in which the Faculty acts as the lead institution or a partner
- Insufficient alignment of research topics with the needs of the economy
- Insufficient involvement of external stakeholders in the Faculty's research activities
- Relatively low annual number of scientific papers published in WoS/Scopus-indexed publications per employee holding a research-and-teaching position compared with other constituent units of the University of Split (0.69 in the 2023/2024 academic year)

OPPORTUNITIES

- Funding of UNIST institutional research projects within the framework of Programme Agreements
- Open science policies at the level of the competent ministry, the University of Split and the Faculty itself
- Calls for proposals issued by the Croatian Science Foundation (HRZZ) and other bodies as an opportunity to strengthen the Faculty's research activity and visibility

THREATS

- Inability to recruit new research staff as an obstacle to strengthening research output
- Fewer opportunities to apply for projects in the humanities and social sciences compared with other scientific fields

5. OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH STRATEGY

Based on the analysis of the Faculty's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats presented above, as well as the brief analysis of its main development challenges and needs, the following specific objectives related to research activity have been identified within the strategic objectives set out in the Plan of the Development and Performance-Based Budget Component of Public Higher Education Institutions/Public Research Institutes for the 2025–2029 Programme Period:

1. Enhancing research excellence

- 1.1. Increasing the participation of public higher education institutions and public research institutes in competitive project funding
- 1.2. Reorganising research activities and implementing organisational reform
- 1.3. Strengthening international research cooperation and research activity
- 1.4. Strengthening human resources for research

1.6. Improving research infrastructure

1.7. Contributing to open science

1.8. Strengthening interdisciplinarity in research

2. Strengthening cooperation with the companies and fostering the development of national and regional identity and culture

2.1. Promoting the implementation of applied research activities, including projects involving cooperation with the economy

2.3. Improving the provision of scientific, research or technological services on the open market, including services supporting the development of culture and education

2.4. Institutional objective: *Implementation of research activities aimed at fostering the development of national and regional identity and culture - Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split*

3. Increasing the relevance, quality and efficiency of study programmes

3.3. Increasing international cooperation in higher education

4. Strengthening social responsibility

4.6. Popularisation of science and the arts

1. Increasing Research Excellence

1. 1. Increasing the Faculty's Participation in Competitive Project Funding

Result indicator: Number of successful project applications submitted to competitive funding sources

The Faculty will undertake activities aimed at increasing its participation in competitive project funding, as successful applications for competitive funding have been identified as one of the Faculty's weaknesses. In the previous four-year period (academic years 2020/2021–2023/2024), the Faculty, as the lead institution or a partner, submitted a total of four successful project applications for grant funding from competitive sources for research activities (Korea Seed 2, Life on the Edge (LOTE) – Future Leaders UKRI; Adris Foundation; Croatian Science Foundation (HRZZ) – available at <https://www.ffst.unist.hr/znanost/projekti>). For the Croatian Science Foundation-funded project (Cro Veterans), the Faculty has a total of EUR 51,635.00 available for the period from 2025 to 2027 (the total project budget is EUR 88,649.46); under the LOTE project, the Faculty has EUR 20,420.00 available until 2027 (total project budget: EUR 51,050.00); under the IANUS project (Horizon), the Faculty has a total of EUR 213,193.28 available, of which EUR 60,255.48 in 2025, EUR 52,744.12 in 2026, EUR 65,297.76 in 2027 and EUR 34,965.92 in 2028.

Under the Call for Funding Institutional Research Projects issued by the University of Split (NPOO, NextGenerationEU), the Faculty was awarded funding for three projects in the total amount of EUR 384,520.24.

The Faculty's participation in competitive project funding will be further increased by:

- strengthening the capacities of academic staff whose responsibilities, as defined by the job classification framework, include designing project activities in accordance with the Faculty's affiliation

- identifying funding sources for the implementation of research activities and project activities at the Faculty
- coordinating professional and administrative tasks related to project implementation
- participating in activities related to the implementation and monitoring of project agreements
- corresponding with Croatian and international universities and with national and European bodies responsible for providing financial support for projects from various national and international sources (Head of the Department for Quality, Research and Projects), including identifying potential funding sources for project activities at the Faculty
- carrying out administrative and technical tasks related to the preparation of project application documentation and project implementation
- carrying out professional tasks related to the application, implementation and monitoring of project activities
- facilitating communication with and providing support to project leaders (associate in the Department for Quality, Research and Projects)
- assigning employees of the aforementioned Department to monitor calls for competitive projects in the scientific areas and fields in which the Faculty employs researchers
- continuously disseminating information on open calls to employees holding research-and-teaching positions
- providing targeted training for Faculty researchers on opportunities to apply for external funding and on preparing high-quality applications for research project funding calls (organised by the Croatian Science Foundation, the Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes, etc.)
- reducing the teaching workload of employees whose excessive teaching commitments limit their opportunities to apply for research projects
- rewarding employees who submit successful project applications for external funding.

In the next programme period, a total expenditure of EUR 152,000.00 is planned within the performance-based component (with Faculty co-financing from its own and earmarked sources amounting to EUR 30,000.00) for competitive institutional research projects of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split. The expenditure covers the evaluation of project applications by two independent reviewers and the implementation of project activities in accordance with the provisions of the Regulation on Competitive Projects of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split. Furthermore, in the next programme period, a separate expenditure of EUR 49,000.00 is planned within the performance-based component (with Faculty co-financing from its own and earmarked sources amounting to EUR 10,800.00) for competitive institutional research projects of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split intended for employed early-career researchers.

Result indicator: Increase in the number of scientific papers published in Scopus- and WoS-indexed journals, A1 journals and internationally peer-reviewed conference proceedings in the social sciences and humanities and the arts

Over the past four years, the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split (which had an average of 90 FTEs in research-and-teaching positions during this period) published a total of 303 scientific papers indexed in WoS and Scopus, 177 articles in A1 journals, 31 authored scientific monographs (published by the Faculty), 21 edited volumes (published by the Faculty), and 192 chapters in various scientific books and conference proceedings. Publication trends over the past four years are presented in Figure 2, showing the highest number of scientific papers indexed in WoS/Scopus to date in 2024,

as well as the highest number of authored scientific books published in 2024 and a continuous increase in the number of chapters published in scientific books and conference proceedings.

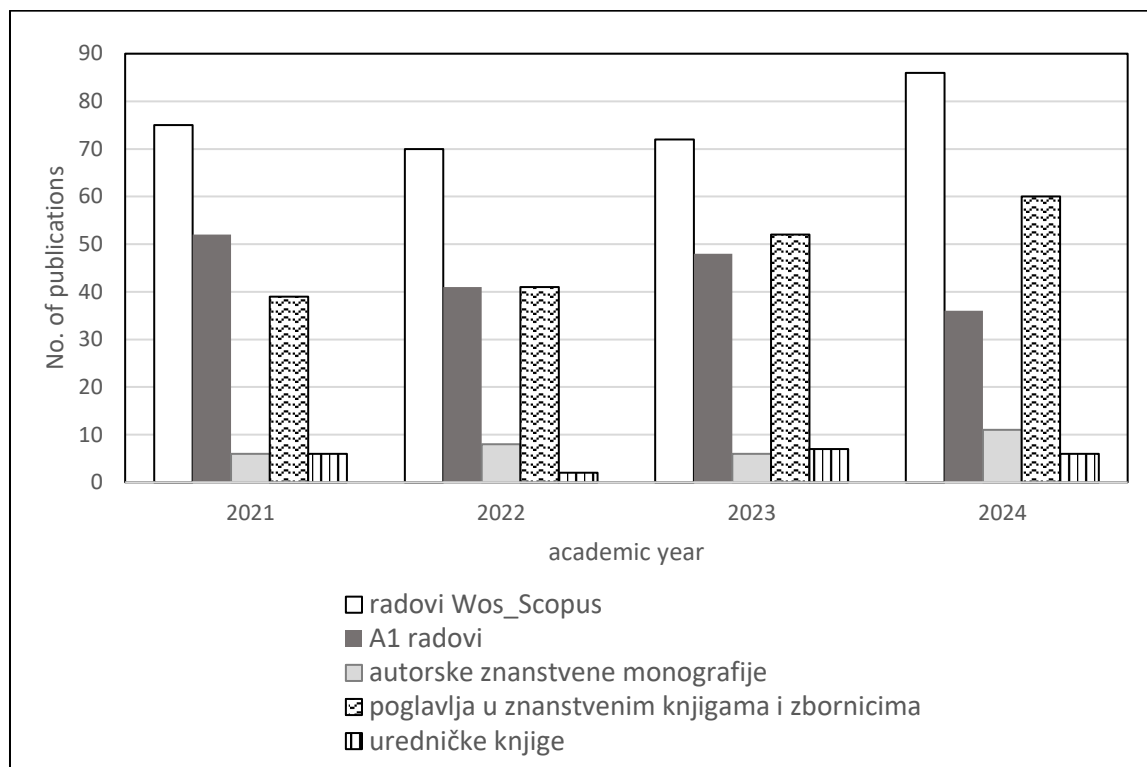


Figure 2. Number of Publications Published from the 2020/2021 to the 2023/2024 Academic Year

The Faculty plans to increase the number of scientific papers published in Scopus- and WoS-indexed journals, A1 journals and internationally peer-reviewed conference proceedings in the coming period. This will be achieved through:

- Institutional research projects of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split (nine currently active under the 2025 call, with the requirement to publish at least nine scientific papers indexed in WoS/Scopus by 2027)
- Institutional research projects funded under the University of Split Call, NPOO, NextGenerationEU (with a total of 45 WoS/Scopus/A1 scientific papers and five scientific monographs planned for publication during the project period ending in 2029)
- Other ongoing projects implemented at the Faculty (IANUS Horizon, LOTE, CIRCE, Psychology in the Heritage of Marko Marulić, Cro Veterans)
- Employees' regular independent research activities that are not necessarily linked to project funding.

Within the performance-based component, a total amount of EUR 40,000.00 is planned to cover open-access publication costs for papers resulting from project activities that are not funded from other sources, as well as publication in internationally peer-reviewed conference proceedings. Of this amount, the Faculty will provide EUR 4,000.00 in co-financing from its own and earmarked sources.

1.2. Reorganising Research Activities and Implementing Organisational Reform

Result indicator: Number of implemented organisational reform activities (scope) aimed at functional integration

In the previous period, research centres were established at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split as organisational units aimed at conducting research and organising activities involving researchers and teachers from different departments of the Faculty, thereby strengthening interdisciplinarity in research. The introduction of an internal application for monitoring the research activities of Faculty employees has enabled systematic monitoring of both planned and completed research activities of all employees, thus facilitating appropriate planning of financial and other resources for research activities.

For the next programme period, three projects have been submitted under the University of Split call (NPOO, NextGenerationEU), each involving researchers from different organisational units and scientific fields. This brings together the Faculty's research potential, encourages interdisciplinary cooperation and networking among researchers, and shifts individual research activities at the institution towards project-based research. Accordingly, further reorganisation of the Faculty's research activities is planned for the coming period, with both the current project call (NPOO, NextGenerationEU) and the Faculty's competitive institutional projects being used to promote interdisciplinarity and the funding of research activities within projects. This approach represents a reform, given that the research activities of Faculty employees in the previous period (since the establishment of the Faculty) were predominantly individual. This has resulted both from the nature of the scientific areas in which Faculty researchers predominantly work (the humanities) and from the relatively small number of researchers working on individual research topics, which has made it difficult to form research teams, as well as from the existing criteria for academic advancement in the humanities.

Equipping a laboratory for research in the field of psychology and in the interdisciplinary scientific area will also enable the integration and further upgrading of the Faculty's existing research equipment, thereby facilitating research activities and encouraging new research initiatives.

1.3. Strengthening International Research Cooperation and Research Activity

Result indicator: Number of collaborations with international partners

The Faculty cooperates with several international research and higher education institutions. In the previous four-year period (2021–2024), the Faculty had formalised cooperation with the following international partners:

1. Sapir Academic College, Ashkelon, Israel (Memorandum of Understanding, from 26 September 2023 to 26 September 2025)
2. Teacher Education Faculty, University of Belgrade, Serbia (Cooperation Protocol, from 20 April 2023 to 20 April 2028, with the possibility of extension)
3. University for Foreigners of Siena, Italy (from 7 December 2022 to 7 December 2027)
4. Faculty of Philosophy, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University of Skopje, North Macedonia (from 29 November 2019)
5. University of Gdańsk, Gdańsk, Poland (for the PEER-EDU project, from September 2024 to September 2026)

In the next programme period, in addition to the collaborations that remain active, new cooperation is planned through the signing of Memoranda of Understanding with at least three international

research institutions within the framework of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split project proposals (NPOO, NextGenerationEU). The target value of the indicator at the end of the programme period is seven.

Result indicator: Number of researchers participating in research mobility activities

Over the past four academic years, a total of four Faculty employees participated in research mobility lasting longer than one month:

- two professors from the Department of English Language and Literature, one in the 2022/2023 academic year and one in the 2023/2024 academic year, under the Fulbright Scholarship Programme, during which they stayed at universities in the United Kingdom and the United States of America
- one professor from the Department of Philosophy in the 2023/2024 academic year, under the Fulbright Scholarship Programme, during which she stayed at universities in the United States of America
- one assistant employed in an associate position in the 2021/2022 academic year, who undertook a research stay at Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen.

Within the project proposals (NPOO, NextGenerationEU), the Faculty has planned a total of six research mobility periods, including four research mobility periods of 30 days each within the Hidden Curriculum in Higher Education project (Czech Republic, Spain, Portugal and the United Kingdom, as well as Slovenia for a period of 20 days) and two research mobility periods of 30 days within the Mediterranean – Croatia – Identity: Historical and Cultural Interconnections project (Germany and Italy).

1.4. Strengthening Human Resources for Research

Result indicator: Number of researchers who have obtained a postgraduate qualification or completed postdoctoral training outside their home public higher education institution or public research institute

In the previous four-year period (2021–2024), a total of 13 employees obtained a postgraduate qualification (doctoral degree) outside the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split. Within the Institutional Research Projects submitted under the University of Split call (NPOO, NextGenerationEU), at least three Faculty employees are expected to obtain doctoral degrees outside their home public higher education institution.

Result indicator: Number of completed doctorates (of which doctorates completed by international doctoral students)

In the previous four-year period (2021–2024), a total of 18 Faculty employees obtained doctoral degrees. By the end of the programme period, given the current number of employees holding assistant positions who do not yet have a doctoral degree (nine employees), at least six Faculty employees are expected to obtain doctoral degrees.

Result indicator: Number of researchers employed from earmarked/own funds

Currently (academic year 2024/2025), four research associates are employed at the Faculty from the Faculty's earmarked and own funds (two at the Department of Psychology, one at the Department of Early and Preschool Education, and one at the Department of Pedagogy). For an additional three researchers associates employed from the Faculty's earmarked and own funds (one at the Department of Croatian Language and Literature, one at the Department of English Language and Literature, and one at the Department of Art History), the University of Split reimburses salary costs pursuant to an Agreement. During the next programme period (2025–2029), regular career advancement of employees funded from the Faculty's earmarked and own funds is planned; therefore, seven researchers employed from the Faculty's earmarked and own funds are also expected at the end of the programme period.

In addition, the Programme Agreement is intended to strengthen human resources for research, primarily within the Institutional Research Projects submitted under the University of Split call (NPOO, NextGenerationEU). The projects envisage training for a total of 18 researchers in qualitative research data analysis using MAXQDA (EUR 9,040.00), training for a total of 22 researchers in open science (EUR 1,000.00), and training for six researchers in statistical analysis of research data (EUR 2,800.00).

1.6. Improving Research Infrastructure

Result indicator: Total investment by the public higher education institution or public research institute in research equipment from its own funds

The Faculty made no major investments in research infrastructure during the previous four academic years. Given that approximately two thirds of the researchers employed at the Faculty work in the humanities, the research infrastructure required has primarily consisted of laptop computers for fieldwork. Over the previous four-year period, the Faculty invested a total of EUR 79,025.22 of its own and/or earmarked funds in research equipment. The Programme Agreements are intended to further strengthen the Faculty's research infrastructure. Accordingly, the projects proposed under the University of Split Call for Funding Institutional Research Projects (NPOO, NextGenerationEU) envisage EUR 93,651.69 for research equipment, as well as an additional EUR 26,666.50 for various software packages for the transcription of qualitative data, quantitative and qualitative data analysis, and similar purposes.

Within the development component, as part of the adaptation of premises and equipping of a laboratory for research in psychology and the interdisciplinary scientific area, the Faculty proposed funding for equipment not covered by the NPOO, NextGenerationEU project. This includes a physiological parameter monitoring system, installation of one-way observation glass, procurement of optical instruments and computer software for cognitive ability testing, and equipment for psychomotor ability testing.

Result indicator: Total investment by the public higher education institution or public research institute in research infrastructure from its own funds

In 2017, the Faculty moved into the building at Poljička cesta 35 (owned by the University of Split since 2017), having used various premises throughout the city of Split since its establishment (owned by the University, the City or the State), primarily for the delivery of study programmes. Significant

investment in research infrastructure had not been possible due to inadequate premises, insufficient financial resources and the specific research needs of researchers in the humanities and social sciences. After moving into the new building, priority was given to the refurbishment of classrooms, since the building had originally been designed for commercial purposes and was not suitable for teaching. A total of 28 classrooms, with capacities ranging from 20 to 70 students, were therefore refurbished using joint funding from the University of Split and the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split.

Through self-financing study programmes and lifelong learning programmes (Croatian language and culture programmes for international learners, programmes leading to partial qualifications for teachers, and training programmes for university teachers), as well as responsible financial management, the Faculty accumulated its own funds and invested them in the adaptation of the second floor of the building, where a multifunctional hall with a capacity of 250 persons was completed in the 2024/2025 academic year. During the previous four-year period (excluding investments made in 2024/2025), the Faculty invested EUR 743,927.50 of its own funds in the new hall, thereby providing suitable premises for scientific and professional conferences, graduation ceremonies, teaching for the largest student groups (shared courses within graduate teacher education programmes), and other activities arising from the Faculty's functions.

Due to all the above, investment in research infrastructure in the form of dedicated facilities or premises for research activities has not previously been a priority. It should also be emphasised that the need for such premises and equipment was limited due to the nature of the scientific fields in which Faculty researchers work and in which students pursue their studies. Researchers in the humanities primarily use archives, documentation centres, digital tools and field research, while researchers and students in educational sciences and certain areas of the social sciences (such as pedagogy) have conducted research activities in the field (schools, preschool institutions and other institutions within the education and social services systems) or on the Faculty's existing premises. With the establishment of the Department of Psychology and the introduction of study programmes in psychology, a need arose for a research laboratory, both for conducting research and for supporting the teaching requirements of these study programmes.

Given the need to strengthen the Faculty's research activities, the establishment of study programmes in psychology, and the recommendations of the Expert Panel in the 2021/2022 Faculty re-accreditation procedure and of the Expert Panel in the 2024 initial accreditation procedure for the graduate study programme Psychology, the Faculty's objective for the programme period (by 2029) is to equip a Laboratory for Research in Psychology and the Interdisciplinary Scientific Area. Its financing is envisaged partly through the performance-based component of the Programme Agreement (research equipment included in project applications) and partly through the development component, with co-financing from the Faculty's earmarked and own funds. The total estimated cost of EUR 560,000.00 (including EUR 60,000.00 in co-financing from the Faculty's own and earmarked funds) includes the preparation of the conceptual and detailed designs, construction works, and equipping of the laboratory.

1.7. Contribution to Open Science

Result indicator: Number of measures implemented and tools introduced to promote the Open Science Policy

The Faculty adopted the Open Science Policy of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split as an overarching document and has been actively implementing measures to promote the Open Science Policy. Over the previous four academic years (2020/2021–2023/2024), an average of one training session per year in the field of open science was held at the Faculty (five training sessions in total) for Faculty employees. In addition, several activities have been organised as part of the Faculty's science popularisation events:

- *Open Science* Workshop – Principles and Application (Faculty in cooperation with the University Library in Split, 2021)
- Workshop for doctoral students *Research Work and Information Sources* (Faculty in cooperation with the University Library in Split, 2023)
- Lecture *Why Is Scientific and Research Integrity Important to Me?* (Friendships in May 2024)
- Workshop for students *Ethical Challenges in the Use of ChatGPT and Related AI Tools: On Academic Integrity and the Issue of Authorship* (May Gatherings 2024)
- Lecture on open and reproducible science (Advent 2024)
- Lecture on predatory journals (Faculty in cooperation with the University Library in Split, 2025)
- Lectures *Authenticity of Research Papers* (Faculty in cooperation with the University Library in Split, May Gatherings (Svibanjska druženja) 2025).

In the next programme period, within the project proposals submitted under the University of Split Call for Funding Institutional Research Projects (NPOO, NextGenerationEU), targeted training in open science is planned for a total of 22 researchers who are members of project teams (the estimated project cost is EUR 1,000). The proposed projects also envisage the publication of research results in open-access articles, as well as the publication of all resulting publications (reports, guidelines, recommendations, etc.) in an open knowledge base linked to the websites of the proposed projects.

In relation to the Open Science Policy and contemporary standards, all titles resulting from the publishing activities of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split from 2026 onwards will be made available in PDF format on the Faculty's website. Authors will also be required to sign a statement of consent to this effect. Accordingly, print runs will be reduced from 100 to a maximum of 50 copies, with the possibility of additional printing if necessary.

Bachelor's and master's theses defended at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split are deposited in the Dabar Digital Repository and made available in open access. Students, as authors of bachelor's and master's theses, sign a consent form allowing their thesis to be permanently made publicly available in open access in the Digital Repository of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Split, and in the repository of the National and University Library in Zagreb (in accordance with the provisions of the Act on Higher Education and Scientific Activity, Official Gazette No. 119/22). Exceptionally, where there is a need to delay publication, and in accordance with the provisions of the Act, the student may, with the supervisor's consent, submit a reasoned request to the Dean. The proportion of theses subject to delayed publication in the previous period was less than 5%.

1.8. Strengthening the Interdisciplinarity of Research

Result indicator: Number of successful project applications for interdisciplinary research projects

In February 2022, the Faculty obtained a licence to conduct research activities in the interdisciplinary scientific area (it had held licences for the social sciences and humanities since its establishment). In

addition to study programmes in the interdisciplinary scientific area being offered at the Faculty (integrated teacher education study programme, undergraduate and graduate study programmes in Early and Preschool Education, and the doctoral study programme Humanities), the Faculty employs nine researchers appointed in the interdisciplinary scientific area. Interdisciplinary work is also promoted through research centres (<https://www.ffst.unist.hr/znanost/centri>), such as the Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage, which brings together researchers appointed in the fields of philology, history, art history and pedagogy; the Centre for Integrative Bioethics, which brings together researchers appointed in the fields of philosophy, philology and history; the Centre for Transdisciplinary Research and Promotion of a Culture of Health, which brings together researchers appointed in the fields of sociology and pedagogy and in the interdisciplinary scientific area; the Centre for Transdisciplinary Promotion of Sustainable Development, which brings together researchers appointed in the fields of biology, philosophy and sociology and in the interdisciplinary scientific area; and the Centre for Research and Education in Human Rights, which brings together researchers appointed in the fields of philosophy, sociology and philology.

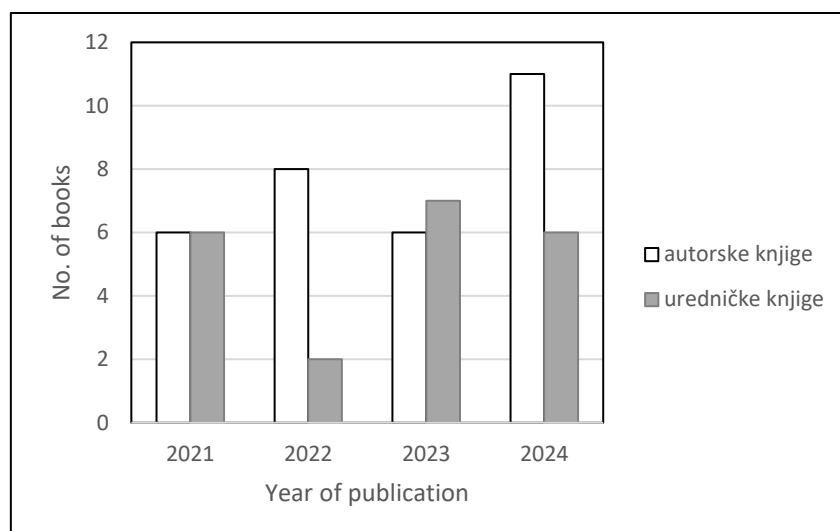
In the previous period (from the 2020/2021 to the 2023/2024 academic year), research projects implemented at the Faculty, in which the Faculty acted as project coordinator or partner, such as *Establishment of the Institute of Korean Studies and Training Plans for the Experts of Koreanology at the University of Split in Croatia* (Academy of Korean Studies, Ministry of Education of the Republic of Korea), were interdisciplinary. Projects whose implementation will continue in the next period, such as Life on the Edge – Studying the Coastal Zone of the Late Palaeolithic – LOTE (UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship), IANUS (Horizon) and CIRCE (Horizon), are also interdisciplinary in nature.

In the next programme period, three research projects funded under NPOO, NextGenerationEU, coordinated by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split, will be implemented, all of which are interdisciplinary in nature. Given that two new calls for institutional competitive projects of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split are planned for the 2026–2030 period, at least two new interdisciplinary projects are envisaged.

Result indicator: Number of scholarly books, including those in the arts

Over the previous four years (2021–2024), a total of 52 books were published by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split, comprising 31 authored scholarly monographs and 21 edited volumes. Figure 3 shows the trend in book publication over the past four years.

Figure 3. Trend in Book Publication by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split from 2021 to 2024



In the next programme period, the positive trend in book publication is expected to continue. Within the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split's current institutional projects (2025–2026), a total of 13 books are planned for publication (12 authored books and one edited volume), while five scholarly monographs are planned for publication within the Institutional Research Projects (NPOO, NextGenerationEU) by 2029. The target value by the end of the programme period is 53. The total funding envisaged under the performance-based component amounts to EUR 100,000.00, with the Faculty providing EUR 16,250.00 in co-financing from its own and earmarked funds. Publishing costs include the costs of peer review, language editing and proofreading, graphic design and printing of the Faculty's scholarly publications and textbooks where such costs have not been planned as part of project or conference activities.

2. Strengthening Cooperation with the Companies and Developing National and Regional Identity and Culture

2.1. Promoting the Implementation of Applied Research Activities, Including Cooperation Projects with the Economy

Result indicator: Number of formal collaborations with business entities and cultural and educational institutions

Over the previous four-year period, the Faculty formalised cooperation with 29 educational institutions, museums, galleries and cultural institutions in Split and Split-Dalmatia County. The formalisation of cooperation involved agreements on the implementation of professional placements at teaching bases, with each individual placement involving curators and professional staff of cultural institutions on the one hand and Faculty staff acting as placement supervisors on the other. In addition, the Faculty maintains formal cooperation with several cultural institutions on research activities (Kaštela Town Museum, Archaeological Museum in Split) and exhibition projects (Gallery of Fine Arts, Arts Academy of the University of Split, Croatian Association of Visual Artists, Brešan Gallery), implemented through one-year activities funded under the annual programmes of local and regional government units and the Ministry of Culture and Media.

In the next period, such activities are planned to continue, together with active applications for and implementation of annual programmes in the fields of culture and the arts. The target value of the indicator by the end of the programme period is 32.

2.3. Improving the Provision of Scientific, Research or Technological Services on the Open Market, Including Services for the Development of Culture and Education

Result indicator: Number of contracted projects for the provision of services to business entities and public bodies in the development of culture and education

Over the previous four-year period, the Faculty prepared one expert study analysing the needs of Split-Dalmatia County concerning children and young people with developmental difficulties and adults with disabilities (2023).

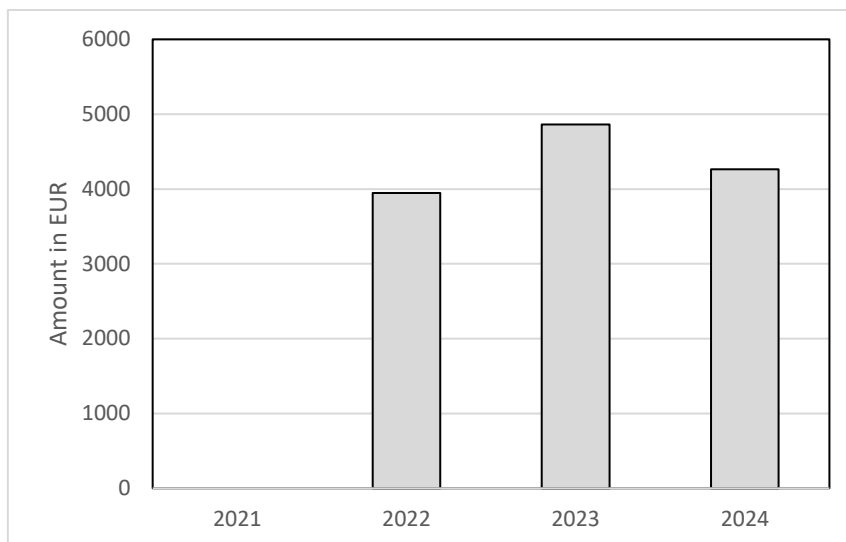
The largest number of contracts for the provision of services to public bodies was concluded with constituent units of the University of Split for the provision of educational services, specifically training for higher education teachers on teaching competencies in higher education. From the 2020/2021 to the 2023/2024 academic year, a total of 10 contracts were concluded with institutions within the science and higher education system: two contracts in 2022 (Faculty of Maritime Studies in Split; University of Applied Sciences of Rijeka), four contracts in 2023 (University of Split; Faculty of Kinesiology in Split; Arts Academy in Split), and four contracts in 2024 (Faculty of Civil Engineering, Architecture and Geodesy in Split; University of Split; Faculty of Kinesiology in Split). The total value of the contracted training programmes amounted to EUR 13,072.11.

In the next programme period, cooperation with institutions within the science and higher education system is planned to continue, along with the conclusion of new contracts for the provision of training services for higher education teachers. At least three contracts per year are expected to be concluded. The target value of this indicator by the end of the programme period is 14.

Result indicator: Value of projects for the provision of services to business entities and public bodies in the development of culture and education

The value of the contract concluded with Split-Dalmatia County for the preparation of an expert study analysing the needs of the County concerning children and young people with developmental difficulties and adults with disabilities (2023) amounted to EUR 6,208.00. In addition, for the purpose of providing training to higher education teachers at University constituent units, the Faculty concluded contracts on an annual basis, the values of which are presented in Figure 4. The target value of this indicator by the end of the programme period is EUR 17,000.00.

Figure 4. Value of Contracts between the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split and Institutions within the Science and Higher Education System for the Provision of Training Services for Higher Education Teachers



2.4. SPECIFIC INSTITUTIONAL OBJECTIVE: Implementation of Research Activities Aimed at the Development and Preservation of National and Regional Identity and Culture

Explanation: The necessity to include a specific INSTITUTIONAL OBJECTIVE arises from the fact that the specific objectives within Strategic Objective 2. *Strengthening Cooperation with the Economy and Developing National and Regional Identity and Culture*, as well as the indicators proposed under the three specific objectives within this strategic objective, are not fully appropriate. Although the strategic objective refers to the development and preservation of national and regional identity and culture, among the specific objectives (2.1. *Promoting the Implementation of Applied Research Activities, Including Cooperation Projects with the Economy*; 2.2. *Improving Institutional Management of Intellectual Property*; 2.3. *Improving the Provision of Scientific, Research or Technological Services on the Open Market, Including Services for the Development of Culture and Education*) and their indicators, we have found none that adequately address the development and preservation of national identity and culture through research, scholarly publications and the dissemination of research results in the fields of history, art history, philosophy and philology. Cooperation projects with the companies, intellectual property and the provision of services on the open market represent only some of the possible ways of achieving the objective of developing and preserving national and regional identities and culture. For many years, the Faculty has conducted research, published scholarly works and organised conferences and other forms of dissemination of research results concerning national and regional identity and culture, which constitute one of the main areas of the Faculty's activities. We therefore consider it necessary to include this institutional objective, particularly given that national/regional identity and culture, as well as all the categories and factors that shape them, are a permanent focus of research interest in the humanities, providing an impetus for interdisciplinary research and research excellence. The development of national and regional identity and culture is one of the objectives forming an integral part of the mission and vision of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split.

Over the previous four-year period, the Faculty carried out a range of professional and research activities, as well as science popularisation activities, aimed at developing and preserving national and regional identity and culture and disseminating research results concerning national and regional identity to both the academic community and the wider public. These activities are quantified through the following indicators:

Result indicator: Number of conferences held at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split for which one of the main objectives is the development and preservation of national and regional identity and culture

Over the past several years, the Faculty has hosted a number of scientific and professional conferences at which research results and theoretical considerations concerning issues of regional and national identity and culture were presented. In addition to researchers employed at the Faculty, participants included researchers from Croatian and international research institutions and other experts from relevant institutions:

- *Mediterranean as identity card: literature, new media, language and culture* (marking the twentieth anniversary of the Department of Croatian Language and Literature), 22–23 October 2021, Split; Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split - Department of Croatian Language and Literature
- *Mediterranean as identity card II*, 30–31 October 2025, Split; Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split – Department of Croatian Language and Literature
- International Scientific Conference on the Occasion of the Centenary of the Birth of Krsto Pribitić, 28–29 September 2022, Split; Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split - Department of Art History; Literary Circle of Split; Gallery of Fine Arts in Split; Institute of Art History; Croatian Society of Art Historians
- *From heritage to identity – days of local traditions*, 20–22 October 2022, Stari Grad and Hvar; Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split – Department of Early and Preschool Education and kindergartens on the island of Hvar
- XV. *Mediterranean roots of philosophy*, 26–28 August 2021, Split; Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split – Department of Philosophy; Croatian Philosophical Society
- XVI. *Mediterranean roots of philosophy*, 2022, Split; Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split – Department of Philosophy; Croatian Philosophical Society
- XVII. *Mediterranean roots of philosophy*, 13–15 April 2023, Split; Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split – Department of Philosophy; Croatian Philosophical Society
- XVIII. *Mediterranean roots of philosophy*, 11–13 April 2024, Split; Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split – Department of Philosophy; Croatian Philosophical Society
- XIX. *Mediterranean roots of philosophy*, 3–5 April 2025, Split; Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split – Department of Philosophy; Croatian Philosophical Society
- IX. *National congress of the Croatian Sociological Society*. Croatia: double society? Sociological papers for discussion, 19–20 May 2023, Split; Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split - Department of Sociology; Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar; Croatian Sociological Association
- ESA RN15 Midterm Conference 2025. Fragmented Societies & Fragmented Science: Theory and Methods for Global Sociology in Turbulent Times, 18–19 September 2025, Split; European Sociological Association (ESA); Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split – Department of Sociology
- Spaces for Change in Literature, History and the Cultural Imagination: Korea, the Mediterranean, and Other Europes, 5–7 July 2023, Split; Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split – Centre for Comparative and Korean Studies; Second East European Consortium for Korean Studies (EECKS); KSPS Korean Studies Promotion Service
- Cross-Cultural Mediterranean: The 2023 Studia Mediterranea Conference, 15–16 September 2023, Split; Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split – Centre for Comparative and

Korean Studies; Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split – Studia Mediterranea Centre

- Mediterranean Crossings: A Studia Mediterranea Conference, 19–20 September 2025, Split; Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split – Studia Mediterranea Centre and Centre for Comparative and Korean Studies
- *Antun Vrančić – život, djelo, suvremenici – znanstveni skup o 450. obljetnici rođenja*, 25–26 September 2023, Split; Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split – Department of History; Literary Circle of Split
- *Marko Marulić i hrvatska renesansa*, 22–23 April 2024, Split; Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split – Department of History and Department of Croatian Language and Literature; Literary Circle of Split; Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb – Department of Classical Philology; University Library in Split; Institute for Scientific and Artistic Work of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Split
- *Međunarodni znanstveni skup Početci kraljevstva. Splitski crkveni sabori, Tomislav i njegovo doba – o 1100-oj obljetnici*, 8–10 May 2025, Split; Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split; Catholic University of Croatia; Catholic Faculty of Theology in Split; Old Church Slavonic Institute; Archaeological Museum in Split; Museum of Croatian Archaeological Monuments; Literary Circle of Split; Croatian State Archives in Zagreb.

In the next programme period, the research activities of Faculty employees aimed at developing and preserving regional and national identity and culture will continue, together with the organisation of scientific and professional conferences (at least two per year). Within the performance-based component, EUR 50,000.00 is planned for the organisation of scientific conferences addressing national cultural heritage and identity, of which EUR 4,000.00 will be co-financed by the Faculty from its own and earmarked funds. The target value of the indicator by the end of the programme period is 15.

Result indicator: Number of scholarly and edited books published over the previous four years by or in co-publication with the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split (authored by Faculty employees), for which one of the main objectives is the development and preservation of national and regional identity

Over the previous four years, a total of 52 authored and edited books were published at the Faculty, the majority of them in the humanities, particularly in the fields of philology, history, art history and philosophy. The following is a selection of publications in which the authors or editors are Faculty employees and the Faculty is the sole or principal publisher, and which specifically concern the development and preservation of regional and national identity and culture:

- Božanić, J., Marasović Alujević, M. (2020). *Toponimija otoka bivšega života - Svetac i Šćedro*.
- Bezić, M. i Bralić, S. (2021) (ur.). *Hrvatsko-talijanske filološke studije u čast profesorici emeriti Ljerki Šimunković. Studi filologi croato-italiani*.
- Runjić Stoilova, A. (2021). *Ante Trumbić: Čovjek gvozdene riječi*.
- Barbarić, V. (2022). *Sakralna topografija otoka Brača*.
- Odža, I. (2022). PUCA NIZ NIDARCA - *Žena u usmenoj književnosti i tradicijskoj kulturi Dalmatinske zagore*.
- Basić, I. i sur. (ur.) (2024). *Fortunatus ligo. Zbornik povodom sedamdesetog rođendana Ante Miloševića*.

- Petrović, I. (2024). *Engleski i hrvatski u dodiru: govor hrvatskih iseljenika u Kanadi*. Torlak, A. (2024). *U potrazi za izgubljenim: antički spomenici Salone u povijesnim vrelima od X. do XIX. stoljeća*.
- Tomelić Ćurlin, M. i Brešan Ančić, T. (ur.) (2024). *Mediterran kao identitetska odrednica. Zbornik radova s međunarodnoga znanstvenog skupa*.
- Nigoević, M. i Runjić-Stoilova, A. (ur.) (2024). *Smojinih 100*. Monograph on the Occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the Birth of Miljenko Smoje.
- Varezić, N. i Trogrlić, M. (ur.) (2024). *Stijepo Obad/Dalmacija u modernosti*.
- Armanda Šundov, L. (2023). *Propovijedi dominikanca Frane Baldića (1830. - 1900.)*.
- Rimac, M. (2022). *Bitka za Imotski 1717*.
- Rimac, M. (2022). *Povijest jednoga agrarnog krajolika u osvit modernosti - sela Donji i Gornji Bitelić*.
- Vidović Schreiber, T. i Odža, I. (ur.) (2022). *Vinjeta za zavičaj*.
- Laco, G. (2021). *Jezičnostilske značajke hrvatskih narodnih bajka*.

The total number of publications addressing national and regional identity and culture would be significantly higher if all publications authored or edited by Faculty employees and published by other publishing houses (*Književni krug, Matica Hrvatska, Školska knjiga, the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, etc.*) were included, as well as publications co-published by the Faculty but authored or edited by persons who are not Faculty employees. Nevertheless, the available data clearly demonstrate the Faculty's commitment to the development and preservation of regional and national identity and culture, which constitutes one of the fundamental features of its professional, teaching and research activities. In the next programme period, the target value of this indicator is 16.

Result indicator: Number of successful project applications to competitive calls for research projects addressing the development and preservation of national and regional identity and culture

Four institutional projects of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split concerning the development and preservation of national and regional identity and culture are currently being implemented (2025–2026):

- *Tragom rimske ceste: via Gabiniana od Salone do Klisa (ViaG)/ Via Gabiniana from Salona to Klis (ViaG)*
- *German-Croatian film connections between expressionism and escapism*
- *Historiografski prilozi za modernu povijest Dalmacije (HIPRIL)/ Historiographic Contributions to the Modern History of Dalmatia*
- *Dalmatian Grammarians of the 19th Century project (DALGRA19)*

In addition, an Institutional Research Project (NPOO, NextGenerationEU), for which funding of EUR 122,540.00 has been approved, will be implemented during the next programme period under the title *Mediterran - Hrvatska - Identitet: povijesna i kulturna prožimanja* (MEDHRID). The project aims to investigate and analyse the presence and significance of the Mediterranean and Central European regions in Croatia's historical experience in the broadest sense, encompassing cultural, social, political and linguistic aspects. The specific objectives of the project are: 1) to investigate specific historical processes (the influences of the Republic of Venice, the Habsburg Monarchy and the Ottoman Empire) in relation to the Mediterranean and Europe that contributed to the formation of Croatian cultural identity; 2) to analyse, through micro-historical studies, strong intercultural influences at the local level while also identifying global influences reflected at that level; 3) to investigate the historical development of the Croatian language and literature through various forms of intercultural interaction

and how this development influenced the formation of Croatia's cultural identity as part of the European and Mediterranean area; and 4) to systematically collect, analyse and interpret oral history and local narratives as part of intangible cultural heritage in order to gain a clearer understanding of the processes involved in shaping national and regional identity.

Within the project, the following main results are planned: publication of 16 WoS/Scopus/A1 research papers; formalisation of two collaborations with international partners; two research stays abroad (lasting more than 30 days); publication of five scholarly monographs; organisation of one scientific conference at the Faculty; and 15 instances of participation by Faculty researchers in national and/or international conferences.

3. Increasing the Relevance, Quality and Efficiency of Studies

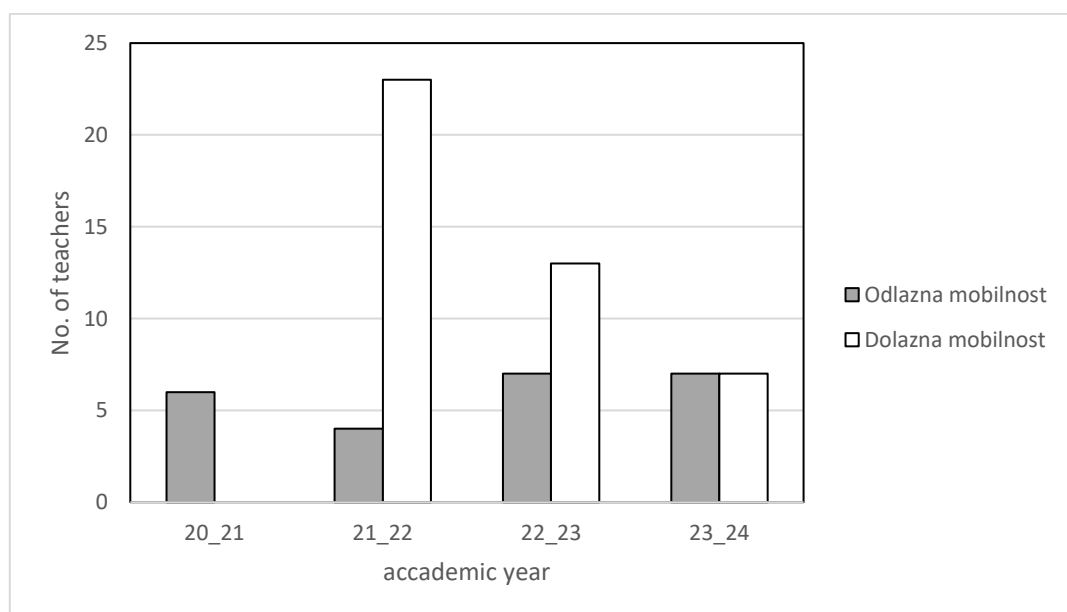
3.3. Increasing International Cooperation in Higher Education

Result indicator: Number of teaching staff participating in international exchange

The Faculty continuously participates in the international exchange of teaching staff through incoming and outgoing mobility, which contributes to the networking of the Faculty's teaching and research staff within the international research community and can certainly contribute to intensifying the Faculty's research activities. It is therefore necessary to encourage the practice of international exchange. With regard to mobility periods lasting longer than one month, two Faculty employees participated in such mobility, one in the 2022/2023 academic year and one in the 2023/2024 academic year. During the same period, the Faculty hosted two researchers at the Department of English Language and Literature. In all cases, the mobility was undertaken within the Fulbright Scholarship Program.

A total of 24 Faculty teaching staff members participated in short-term mobility (including a minimum of 5 hours of teaching) over the past four academic years. During the same period, the Faculty hosted 43 teaching staff members from abroad who provided a minimum of 5 hours of teaching. The trend in teaching staff mobility is presented in Figure 6.

Figure 6. Teaching Staff Mobility over the Past Four Academic Years



In the next programme period, the Faculty's objective is to continue the international exchange of teaching staff for teaching purposes. Given the trend to date, the objective is to achieve a minimum of seven outgoing teaching mobilities per year (28 Faculty teaching staff members over the entire programme period).

Within the performance component, the following is planned for the next programme period:

1. financing of travel expenses and fees for external associates from international institutions engaged in regular teaching (as course coordinators in the undergraduate and graduate university study programme Psychology, delivered in English – two in 2026 and 2027, and four in 2028 and 2029)
2. an amount of EUR 30,000.00 (with co-financing by the Faculty from its own and earmarked funds in the amount of EUR 2,000.00) for launching a programme to finance the costs of short-term incoming international mobility for teaching at the Faculty outside the existing mobility schemes, e.g. ERASMUS or CEEPUS. The planned funds cover travel, accommodation and fees for 5 teaching staff members per year.
3. an amount of EUR 10,000.00 (with co-financing by the Faculty from its own and earmarked funds in the amount of EUR 2,000.00) for organisational costs related to the coordination and hospitality of incoming students and teaching staff, as well as the costs of disseminating information about and promoting mobility among the Faculty's students and teaching staff.

4. Strengthening Social Responsibility

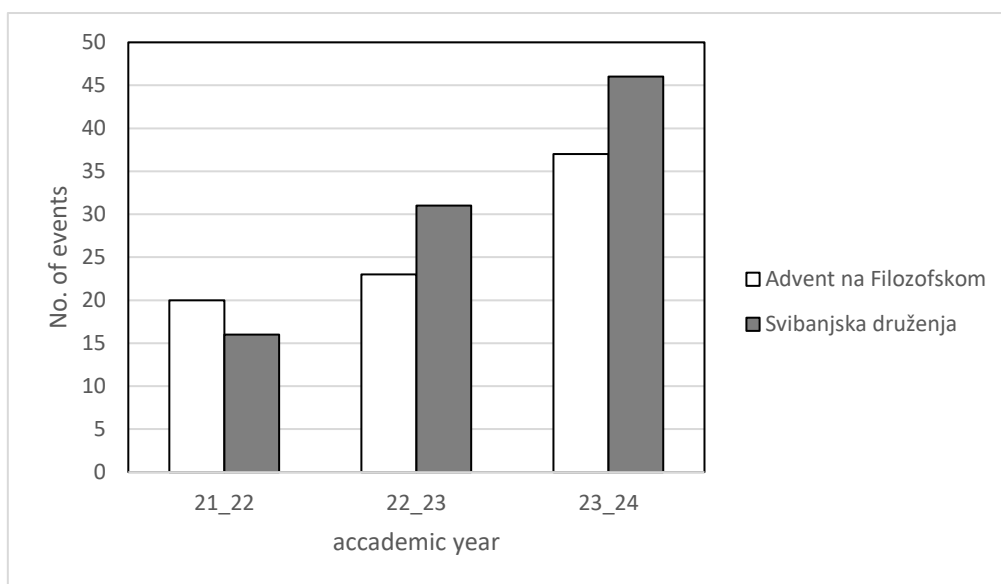
4.6. Popularisation of Science and Arts

Result indicator: Number of science and arts popularisation activities

The Faculty has continuously invested efforts in the popularisation of science and the arts through a range of activities and events intended for members of the academic community as well as the general public. The largest number of activities is organised within the framework of two traditional events – *Advent na Filozofskom/ Advent* at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (organised since 2021) and *Svibanjskih druženja/ May Gatherings* (organised since 2022). Every December and May, the Faculty organises a large number of activities (cultural and artistic, scientific and humanitarian), through which the Faculty engages with the local community, promotes its activities, and disseminates scientific knowledge to the public.

Figure 7 presents the number of science and arts popularisation activities organised as part of the Advent at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and May Gatherings events.

Figure 7. Number of Science and Arts Popularisation Activities within the Advent at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and May Gatherings Events



In addition to the activities organised within the framework of the Faculty's two events, the Faculty has maintained long-standing cooperation with the Croatian Association of Visual Artists Split (HULU) and organises exhibitions or artistic interventions in or on the Faculty building. In the 2020/2021 academic year, the REPER project was organised in cooperation with HULU. In 2021, Viktor Popović's work "Untitled: ST3 Archive- Content" was installed on the façade of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split. In the 2022/2023 academic year, the exhibition project *Rastavi/sastavi/nastavi* (en. Disassemble/Assemble/Continue) was organised in cooperation with the Arts Academy in Split and the Gallery of Fine Arts Split, with active participation by students of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split. In 2022, Eric del Castillo's artistic intervention "Voice of Silence" (2022) was installed on the glass walls of the Faculty's entrance hall. In January 2024, in cooperation with the Croatian Association of Visual Artists Split, the artistic installation AMBIS by Vice Tomasović was presented in the basement of the Faculty building. In December 2024, the artistic intervention *Aforizmi na rukohvatu autora* by Hrvoje Marko Peruzović was presented at the Faculty. In October 2025, the artistic light intervention *Sve odjednom/All at Once* by Neli Ružić was realised at the Faculty.

In cooperation with the Brešan Gallery, every December the Faculty organises an exhibition of Croatian painters and artists in the basement of the building, which is open to all visitors. In December 2021, the exhibition *Everyone on Their Own Side* by two Croatian artists was organised; in December 2022, the exhibition *Po(r)uke Transarta* was organised, presenting works by seven Croatian and international artists; in December 2023, the exhibition *Veličanstveni s margine* was organised, presenting works by lesser-known Croatian artists; in December 2024, the exhibition *Pet slikara s Kvarnera* was organised, presenting works by Croatian artists from the Kvarner region. In December 2025, the exhibition *Ante Kaštelančić: Jedra razapeta nadom* was organised, while the Faculty, as part of its publishing activities and in co-publication with the Brešan Gallery, published the exhibition catalogue of the same title.

In 2023, the exhibition *10 words (Povijest Irske u 100 riječi)*, by Sharon Arbuthnot, Máire Ní Mhaonaigh and Gregory Toner) was held at the Faculty in cooperation with the Embassy of Ireland and under the auspices of the Royal Irish Academy.

All exhibitions and artistic interventions lasted for approximately one month on average, and admission was open and free of charge to all visitors. The aforementioned cooperation with HULU, the Arts Academy in Split and the Brešan Gallery resulted in a large number of visitors to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split, which also uses its premises to popularise the arts among

members of the academic community and the general public. Through these collaborations, the Faculty maintains a continuous presence in the cultural life of the City of Split, promoting art and the creative work of predominantly Croatian artists, thereby contributing not only to the popularisation of the arts but also to the promotion and preservation of Croatian cultural heritage.

In addition to the visual arts, the Faculty also promotes music and has organised several concerts open to the public on its premises over the past four years – a concert by the Brodosplit City Choir; two concerts by the Silvije Bombardelli University Academic Choir; a concert by the Filip Dević Cultural and Artistic Association; two gatherings of the Dalmatian *klapa*/ a capella groups (featuring a total of 10 female and male *klapa* groups); a concert by the Libertas Mandolin Ensemble of the Arts Academy in Split; a concert by the saxophone student ensemble of the Arts Academy in Split; and other musical events.

The Faculty also marks important anniversaries and commemorative dates in Croatian culture and history with special events, organising annual events on the occasion of Croatian Language Days, Marko Marulić Days, the Day of Remembrance for the Victims of the Homeland War and the Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Vukovar and Škabrnja, among others.

In cooperation with the Alumni Association, through its activities the Faculty seeks to encourage humanitarian and volunteer engagement, primarily among students but also within the local community, with a focus on helping others and protecting the environment. Each year, it therefore organises voluntary blood donation campaigns, swap fairs, educational activities on sustainable development, charity quizzes and other activities through which the Faculty strengthens its social role and encourages members of the academic community to act responsibly.

In the next programme period, the Faculty will continue its activities aimed at the popularisation of science and the arts, with the intention of maintaining the existing number of activities per year (a minimum of 50).

Furthermore, within the project proposals (NPOO, NextGenerationEU), an additional 22 activities are planned with the aim of popularising science and project results and increasing understanding and awareness among the general public, as follows: two public lectures on change and inclusiveness in the higher education system; one panel discussion on the meaning and implications of post-digital higher education; two panel discussions on student mental health; two workshops for students, higher education teaching staff and the public on the hidden curriculum in higher education; and a total of 15 science and arts popularisation activities focusing on the historical and cultural aspects of national and Mediterranean identity.

APPENDIX 1

LIST OF COMPETITIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS AT THE FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES IN SPLIT

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS

Life on the Edge: Studying the Coastal Zone of the Late Palaeolithic – LOTE (UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship)

Lead Institution: University of Bradford

Partner institutions: University of Split, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ)

Project timeframe: June 2022 – June 2027

Research Description: The Life on the Edge project is an interdisciplinary project which, through the application of innovative research methods, conducts archaeological research into Late Palaeolithic landscapes (20,000–10,000 BC) submerged following the end of the last glacial period. The activities of the Life on the Edge project will encompass sites in the North Sea and the Adriatic Sea (Kaštela Bay/Split maritime area). The implementation of the project will provide data on submerged landscapes and information that will significantly contribute to understanding the local dynamics of the process

Integrative MSCA Achievements and Networks for Unified Strategies, Acronym: IANUS (HORIZON)

Lead Institution: University of Agder

Partner Institutions: University of Milan (Italy), University of Split, School of Medicine (Croatia), University of Split, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (Croatia), Sustainable Transition – SUTRA (Italy), EURODOC – European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers (Belgium), Steinbeis Zi GmbH (Germany)

Project timeframe: April 2025 – April 2028

Research Description: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions are part of the European Research Area, a policy framework that promotes cross-border cooperation among researchers. The IANUS project will explore how such cooperation can be further enhanced. The IANUS project focuses on three key areas: a) how to ensure higher-quality training and better career opportunities for researchers; b) how cooperation between universities, industry and the public sector can be strengthened; c) how research can make a greater contribution to addressing major societal challenges. To find answers, the researchers will analyse MSCA projects implemented since 2014, conduct surveys, and examine selected projects focusing on cancer research and smart cities. Based on these analyses, they will develop recommendations for improving the programme. An important part of the project is the involvement of all stakeholders – researchers, universities, industry and policymakers – to ensure that the recommendations are beneficial to all.

InClusive valorisation model foR Controversial cultural hEritage in the Mediterranean Harbours and beyond - CIRCE (HORIZON)

Lead Institution: Università degli studi di Macerata (UNIMC)

Partner institutions: Università degli studi di Macerata (UNIMC), Universidad Nacional de Educacion a Distancia (UNED), Università degli studi di Genova (UNIGE), Université de Tunis, APPRODI SRL, Groupement professionnel de la Medina (MDINTI), Croatian Association of Fine Artists (HULU SPLIT), University of Split, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Project timeframe: January 2026 – January 2030.

Research Description: CIRCE analyses contested or neglected cultural heritage in Italy, Spain, Croatia, Tunisia and Kenya from the medieval and early modern periods, with a particular focus on the heritage of Jewish, Muslim and Black histories in the Mediterranean and Indian Ocean regions. CIRCE is structured around three research objectives: 1. to develop a framework for identifying and interpreting contested cultural heritage; 2. to co-create tools for its valorisation (including a multilingual glossary and an Atlas of Contested Cultural Heritage); 3. to implement training programmes for professionals in the fields of cultural heritage and tourism, including a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) and guidelines for cultural institutions. By adopting a participatory and decolonial approach, CIRCE seeks to transform contested cultural heritage from a source of division into a shared cultural resource that fosters inclusivity and dialogue. Through artistic collaboration and community engagement, the project promotes new ways of narrating and visualising heritage, ensuring its responsible preservation and meaningful reinterpretation in the context of global change.

Transformation of Competencies at the University: Peer-Tutoring as a Key Element of Student Development Support - Peer-EDU (NAWA - Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange)

Lead Institution: University of Gdańsk

Partner Institutions: University of Split, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences; University of Malta

Project timeframe: 1 September 2024 – 31 August 2026

Research Description: The project aims to establish an institutional framework for the development of new roles and competencies for students in Poland, similar to those already existing at European universities. The concept of peer teaching among students is already present at leading universities in the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany. Such a system provides numerous benefits to the academic community at the substantive, logistical and economic levels. The support provided to students, particularly first-year students, by their more senior peers facilitates various aspects of competency transformation at the university and enables competencies to be developed in line with the requirements that the labour market places on graduates. The aim of the Peer-EDU project is to provide comprehensive and professional training for students who will assume the role of peer educators.

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS

Iz rata u mir: hrvatski branitelji u tranziciji – CRO VETERANS (Croatian Science Foundation)

Lead Institution: University of Split, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Lead Researcher: full prof. Aleksandar Jakir, PhD

Project timeframe: 18 December 2023 – 17 December 2027

Research Description: The research project envisages a series of field studies and the preparation of a systematic presentation of the research results, as well as the publication of a monograph and scientific articles on the adaptation of Croatian war veterans during the transition period and the formation of identities and narratives concerning the Homeland War. Particular attention will be devoted to the culture of remembrance associated with Croatian war veterans. A number of dissemination events will also be organised, including an international scientific conference, round tables/forums and public lectures.

Psichologia u baštini Marka Marulića (Adris Foundation – Knowledge and Discoveries Programme)

Lead Institution: University of Split, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Lead Researcher: full prof. Goran Kardum, PhD

Project timeframe: 25 October 2024 – 31 December 2026

Partner Institutions: Marulianum – Split Literary Circle, University Library of the University of Split, OFM - Franciscan Province of St Jerome in Dalmatia and Istria.

Research Description: This project has two objectives: (1) to contribute new insights into the fundamental understanding of the psyche and the soul and to contribute to the understanding of the development of the history of psychology at the scientific level; (2) to apply contemporary digital humanities methods and new technologies through an interdisciplinary approach to the study of written heritage and, on the basis of this project, to establish numerous further interdisciplinary research projects on cultural heritage, ultimately enabling the application and development of digital humanities and new technologies in the social sciences and humanities. Within the digitised corpus, digital tools and an interdisciplinary approach will be used to examine in particular all concepts and annotations that can be associated with the field of psychology, thereby providing new insights into the context in which Marulić explained and interpreted the concept of psychology in his well-known work

Psihologija, o naravi ljudske duše (1510–1517), as well as all other concepts that can be associated with the field of psychology.

INSTITUTIONAL COMPETITIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SPLIT (NPOO) - NextGeneration EU)

Hidden curriculum in higher education (SKVO)

Lead Researcher: Assoc. Prof. Morana Koludrović, PhD

Implementation Period: 1 October 2025 – 30 September 2029

Project Description: The hidden curriculum is an interdisciplinary concept that encompasses values, beliefs and norms that are not part of formal curricula but influence the quality of the teaching process as well as students' values, norms and behaviour in personal and professional contexts. Existing findings on the hidden curriculum in different educational systems indicate its continuous presence, whether more or less unconscious or unintended, and its transformation in accordance with social and economic circumstances, personal and generational attitudes and beliefs, and the meanings attributed to it by individuals. Some authors emphasise that the hidden curriculum in higher education may have a greater influence on shaping students' behaviour and attitudes than the formal curriculum. Given the lack of systematic research on the hidden curriculum in higher education in Croatia, the main objective of the project is to investigate and operationalise the concept of the hidden curriculum within this system. In addition to examining the characteristics of the hidden curriculum from the perspectives of teaching staff, students and members of university management, the project will also investigate the relationship between the formal and hidden curricula in higher education, with particular emphasis on elements recognised as integral components of hidden curricula, including academic freedom and ethics, critical thinking and bioethical sensitivity, students' career orientations, norms, values and interaction and communication processes in higher education, as well as the characteristics of the hidden curriculum in e-learning and computational thinking.

Mediterranean - Croatia - Identity: historical and cultural interplay (MEDHRID)

Lead Researcher: Ass. Prof. Nikša Varezić, PhD

Project timeframe: 1 October 2025 – 30 September 2029

Project Description: The aim of the project is to thoroughly investigate and analyse the presence of the Mediterranean and Central European regions in Croatia's historical experience in the broadest sense, encompassing cultural, social, political and linguistic aspects. The project seeks to provide a well-founded account of how contemporary Croatian identity has been shaped and positioned within the Mediterranean and Central European spheres as a result of various forms of political, cultural and social interaction within this geographical space, thereby creating enduring patterns of identity and belonging.

Additional/Specific Objectives: 1) to investigate specific historical processes (the influences of the Republic of Venice, the Habsburg Monarchy and the Ottoman Empire) in relation to the Mediterranean and Europe that influenced the formation of Croatian cultural identity; 2) through microhistorical studies, to analyse strong intercultural influences at the local level while also identifying global influences reflected at that level; 3) to investigate the historical development of the Croatian language and literature through various forms of intercultural interaction and how this development influenced the formation of Croatia's cultural identity as part of the European and Mediterranean space; 4) to systematically collect, analyse and interpret oral history and local narratives as part of intangible cultural heritage, with the aim

of gaining a clearer understanding of the processes involved in shaping national and regional identity. The focus will be on the valorisation of everyday experiences, collective memory and the intergenerational transmission of knowledge within local communities, as well as their role in constructing cultural identity within historical and contemporary social frameworks.

Postdigital and Inclusive Higher Education: Transformation and Well-Being of the Individual and the System (PIVO: TDPS)

Lead Researcher: full prof. Ina Reić Ercegovac, PhD

Project timeframe: 1 October 2025 – 30 September 2029

Project description: Today's higher education faces a number of challenges arising from rapid global changes, technological advancement, labour market dynamics, and social inequalities. Higher education institutions need to transform into innovative and flexible systems that are responsive to the communities in which they operate. The key stakeholders in the system are students and employees, as well as leaders at various levels (members of management bodies, heads of teaching, research and professional units, and team leaders). Empowering them to build the resilience of the entire system to continuously emerging challenges is a defining feature of a successful higher education institution. The project will connect different levels of the system (education policy; the structural level; philosophy and values; practices and behaviour; and individuals' personal experiences) and different stakeholders (students, teachers/researchers, and leaders), with the aim of generating new knowledge about the elements at the core of this project: change, inclusion, and well-being in higher education in the postdigital era. From critical-constructivist and positivist perspectives, and through the application of qualitative and quantitative methods (document analysis, interviews, focus groups, questionnaires, and experiments), the project aims to analyse education policies in higher education; examine various aspects of change within the system; conceptualise transformative and inclusive leadership in higher education and examine its correlates and the possibilities for implementing transformative and inclusive practices; examine students' mental health; and develop recommendations and other supporting materials that can facilitate the practical implementation of educational interventions and institutional support systems for student well-being.

INSTITUTIONAL COMPETITIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS OF THE FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES IN SPLIT

Following the Roman Road: Via Gabiniana from Salona to Klis (ViaG)

Lead Researcher: Assoc. Prof. Ivan Matijević, PhD

Project timeframe: 1 January 2025 – 31 December 2026

Project description: Via Gabiniana was a key communication route connecting ancient Salona with the Dalmatian hinterland. Numerous ancient monuments have been discovered along the road. It continued to be used after Late Antiquity, and important medieval monuments were also erected alongside it. Connecting two important early medieval sites from which the present-day towns of Solin and Klis developed, the road was gradually and almost entirely covered by early modern and subsequently modern urban development, leading to its marginalisation and near disappearance. The importance of this road has long highlighted the need to investigate both the road itself and the monuments discovered in its vicinity. The aim of the project is to examine in detail the multilayered topography of this section of the Roman road, determine its extent and development, interpret the archaeological material discovered, and establish its typological and chronological characteristics. The research will include all

previously published finds, as well as planned field surveys and new archaeological excavations. Research conducted within the project will contribute to a better understanding of the significance of this monument as a spatial whole and of the individual finds discovered alongside it. All finds will be plotted on contemporary maps, thereby facilitating the planning of its future protection.

German-Croatian Film Connections between Expressionism and Escapism

Lead Researcher: full prof. Marijana Erstić, PhD

Project timeframe: 1 January 2025 – 31 December 2026

Project description: The aim of the project is to systematise, classify, and analyse Croatian-German film connections spanning the period from the interwar years of the 20th century to the present day, as well as the relationships reflected in documentary films, feature films, television films, and film and television series. To date, no such systematisation and classification of the above-mentioned corpus has been undertaken, and this project seeks to address and fill this gap in research. Based on the available material, the project also examines the concepts of “New Objectivity,” “Expressionism,” and “Escapism.”

Historiographic Contributions to the Modern History of Dalmatia (HIPRIL).

Lead researcher: full prof. Josip Vrandečić, PhD

Project timeframe: 1 January 2025 – 31 December 2026

Project description: The project is aligned with the strategic research objectives of the current Development Strategy of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split (2021–2025), across all objectives within the strategic area. It should be emphasised that this ambitious two-year programme, which envisages the publication of as many as six books, promotes “interdisciplinary research into the Adriatic-Mediterranean cultural and historical heritage with the aim of preserving, valorising, and promoting the Croatian language, history, cultural heritage, and Mediterranean studies in the European context” (5.2.2.). All of the proposed books may be used as core or supplementary literature, thereby contributing to the objective of research in the field of lifelong learning and professional development (5.2.3.). Furthermore, the publication of these titles will “strengthen the Faculty’s research position within the Croatian and European Research Area” (5.2.4.). As the project also includes a doctoral student, it will contribute to the enhancement of postgraduate doctoral studies (5.2.5.).

Dalmatian Grammarians of the 19th Century (DALGRA19)

Lead Researcher: Assoc. prof. Tanja Brešan Ančić, PhD

Project timeframe: 1 January 2025 – 31 December 2026

Project description: The aim of this project is to reconstruct and describe selected 19th-century Dalmatian grammars. In the context of the 19th century, linguistic research largely focused on northern Croatia, where most lexicographic and grammatical work was undertaken. As a result of this approach, however, a considerable number of grammarians who originated from Dalmatia or whose scholarly activity took place in Dalmatia have remained unexplored. Given their large number, it will not be possible within the scope of this project to describe the grammatical work of all 19th-century Dalmatian grammarians. The research will therefore focus on Ivan Danilo (1820–1895) and his two conceptually contrasting grammars (*Grammatica della lingua illirica* (1855) and *Slovnica za srednja učilišta* (1873)); Šime Starčević (1784–1859) and part of his manuscript legacy; and the previously undescribed works of the prominent linguist Ante Kuzmanić (1807–1879).

The Pedagogue as a Mentor in the Professional Development of Educators in Kindergartens and Schools (PuMPa)

Lead Researcher: Assoc. Prof. Ines Blažević, PhD

Project timeframe: 1 January 2025 – 31 December 2026

Project description: Mentoring plays a key role in the professional development of education professionals, particularly when introducing trainees to their professional roles. The effectiveness of the mentoring process depends on the mentor's professional competencies, communication skills, and personal characteristics. In addition to sporadic studies on the professional development of education professionals, there is a lack of systematic research into the role and responsibilities of mentors in introducing trainees to educational practice. The role of pedagogues in this process is particularly unclear, although the professional development of education professionals constitutes one of their core areas of work. Therefore, the aim of this research is to examine how preschool teachers, primary school teachers, and secondary school teachers assess the role of mentors in terms of their personal, professional, and pedagogical characteristics, and to determine the role of pedagogues in the mentoring process. This research contributes to a deeper understanding of the professional development and lifelong learning of education professionals and provides guidelines for improving the quality of the educational process.

Literary Representations of Coexistence (KRS)

Lead Researcher: Assoc. Prof. Brian Willems, PhD

Project timeframe: 1 January 2025 – 31 December 2026

Project description: Our planet is home to the complex coexistence of a multitude of worlds. In recent times, the difficult nature of living together with other people and of ecological coexistence with other species has begun to approach a point of crisis. In theoretical discourse, one important aspect of improving ecological, ethical, racial, and gender relations is the recognition that every life coexists with a multitude of other lives, yet we are increasingly losing sight of our interconnected worlds. Understanding how different worlds coexist is an essential component of improving life for the greatest possible number of beings, whether through appreciating the differences of others by means of empathy, political recognition, or equality among species. The aim of this project is to contribute to scholarly discourse by demonstrating how literature imagines new spaces and new techniques for living together in creative, productive, peaceful, and sustainable ways. More specifically, this will involve defining and building a corpus of texts, developing reading methodologies that establish solid scholarly foundations for future research in this field, and connecting literary practices—including “literary” texts such as novels and poetry, as well as video games, moving images, and critical analysis—with key contemporary issues of inclusivity, openness, transculturality, tolerance, knowledge, and excellence. The aim of the *Literary Representations of Coexistence* project is to outline literary strategies for using texts to represent the multiple interconnectedness of worlds and the different lives of numerous individuals, cultures, and species, as well as to begin the challenging task of mapping the relationship between literary insights and the most pressing contemporary issues. The research seeks to identify and understand a diverse range of literary strategies for representing difference within what is familiar, arguing that greater cultural awareness of what is “not-us” will lead to better lives for a greater number of beings.

Manipulative Strategies in Political Discourse: A Linguistic and Rhetorical Approach (MASPOD)

Project Leader: full prof. Anita Runjić-Stoilova, PhD

Project timeframe: 1 January 2025 – 31 December 2026

Project description: The aim of the project is to gain new insights into Croatian and international political discourse, specifically in English-, German-, and Italian-speaking contexts. Excessive manipulation by politicians can have a significant impact on public opinion and democratic processes. The project will therefore investigate and identify specific linguistic, rhetorical, and communication strategies used by politicians to manipulate audiences with the aim of misleading them or shaping their perceptions. The corpus will encompass a range of socio-political contexts, including presidential and local elections, war and migration crises, increases in the number of foreign workers, and similar issues. The ultimate aim is to use the

knowledge gained about manipulative techniques in the political arena to raise public awareness of exposure to such techniques, thereby contributing to the strengthening of critical thinking in society.

Professional Training in Evidence-Based Psychotherapy (Psy EduPro)

Lead Researcher: assist.prof. Ivan Buljan, PhD

Project timeframe: 1 January 2025 – 31 December 2026

Project description: Mental health and quality of life are key issues of the 21st century. Nevertheless, the standardisation of psychotherapeutic procedures and decision-making processes remains insufficiently researched (Cuijpers, 2019). Psy EduPro has three main objectives: to analyse decision-making processes in psychotherapy, examine the use of evidence-based methods in practice, and develop an online intervention aimed at improving the standardisation of therapists' practice. The first phase involves investigating decision-making in psychotherapy through qualitative analysis and conducting at least 10 in-depth interviews with therapists from different psychotherapeutic approaches, followed by thematic analysis of the data. The scientific literature will also be analysed in order to develop an educational programme based on the best available clinical guidelines. The second phase involves the implementation of an online training programme, which will be attended by at least 500 therapists from Croatia. Participation will be free of charge and accredited by the relevant professional chambers. Prior to the training, participants will complete a questionnaire concerning their working methods. Upon completion of the training, they will take a knowledge test and evaluate the quality of the programme. The third phase involves evaluating the effects of the training three months after its completion, when participants will complete the same questionnaire in order to assess the extent to which the intervention has influenced their practice, particularly with regard to decision-making, the use of scientific evidence, and the standardisation of therapeutic methods. In addition to its research activities, the project includes the dissemination of results through two conferences in Croatia and the publication of two scientific papers, thereby increasing the visibility of the research group and the Faculty and facilitating the recruitment of new collaborators and students. The project is expected to make a significant contribution to the development of standardised psychotherapeutic practice in Croatia, with potential international relevance given the global practice of psychotherapy. The results will provide a better understanding of decision-making processes in therapy, identify barriers to the use of scientific evidence, and provide training that can improve the quality of psychotherapeutic practice.

Psycholinguistic Aspects of Task-Based Teaching (PLAPZA)

Lead Researcher: full prof. Mirjana Matea Kovač, PhD

Project timeframe: January 2025 – 31 December 2026

Project description: The primary aim of the project is to gain new insights into the effects of the gradual increase in task complexity on oral and written performance in a foreign language. The objectives include the following: 1) establishing generally accepted standard procedures for research into the effects of increasing task complexity on the development of oral and written performance, thereby enabling comparisons of results across different studies; 2) examining the superiority of Robinson's (2015) model of task complexity; 3) designing tasks of varying levels of complexity based on cognitive and performance factors; 4) examining the manipulation of performance factors (+/- planning, +/- task repetition, etc.) in reading and speaking tasks in relation to different measures of fluency (speech and articulation rate, frequency of filled pauses, mean syllable duration, phonation-time ratio, and mean length of utterance), as well as perceived fluency; 5) examining perceived task complexity using retrospective questionnaires and independent assessments of the degree of complexity of individual tasks; 6) examining processing load using eye-tracking (Conklin and Pellicer-Sanchez,

2016) and dual-task methodology; and 7) examining the effects of increasing task complexity on syntactic complexity, lexical diversity, and accuracy in writing tasks.

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DEAN

full prof. Ina Reić Ercegovac, PhD

