

Teaching about plagiarism at higher education level

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Abstract:

The University of Zagreb is the biggest Croatian university – it consists of 30 faculties with 310 study programs on undergraduate and graduate level in all scientific fields. The objective of the paper is to find out which topics connected with plagiarism are part of codes of ethics and study programs at the university. Based on the data, new courses could be recommended to raise research integrity awareness among students and scientists. In the first part of the survey, codes of ethics of the university and of the faculties were analysed. In the second part, all the courses that mention topics connected with plagiarism were detected and their content was analysed. The topics connected with plagiarism are included in 24 courses. Their syllabi were analysed according to the following parameters: year of study, scientific field, compulsoriness, ethical issues that are covered (plagiarism, authorship, citation), and how old is the newest bibliographic reference in the recommended literature. We believe that all the study programs should have at least one compulsory course that would teach students how to avoid plagiarism. With many new challenges in communicating in science, e.g. “predatory” journals or gifted authorship, it is important for students to learn how to use information. It is necessary to enhance faculty programs at the University because today’s students are future scientists, authors of books, papers, chapters, educational materials etc.

Keywords: Authorship, code of ethics, courses, plagiarism, University of Zagreb.