FACULTY OF
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
AND COMPUTER SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF MARIBOR
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The Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (UM FERI) is an internationally recognised, ambitious technical Faculty, which transfers top technical knowledge successfully into industry. It is the largest Faculty of the University of Maribor, existing for more than 20 years. Over all this time, we can boast of more than 9,000 graduates, 380 Masters of Science and 300 Doctors of Science.

Even though the Faculty has a tradition, our scientific disciplines create the world of yesterday, today and tomorrow. We are dealing with dynamic fields that are developing rapidly. The arena of deep knowledge from various disciplines collated at the same place is the main advantage of our Faculty. The successful research work of our staff forms the basis of a good university education. The efficient transfer of scientific achievements in the pedagogic process, involving the students actively in the various research projects, is a guarantee that our graduates and post-graduates will manage to solve the challenges along their professional paths. Our students have proved at various professional international competitions that the excellence of their knowledge and their professional skills are competitive with their colleagues from other universities. This is even more obvious from their working situations worldwide.

The Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science has grown all the time since its constitution - by the surface, by the number of students and employees, by the achievements and, last but not least, in terms of recognisability and quality. It has grown into a reputable institution, and we are proud to present ourselves as an open Faculty to foreign students, teaching staff, different projects and collaborations.

I am sure that everyone can find something interesting in this booklet. I invite you to come and join us to grow together!

Prof. Borut Žalik, PhD
Dean of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, University of Maribor
ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARIBOR

The University of Maribor is an autonomous scientific, research and educational institution, with the purpose of discovering and nurturing knowledge, as well as transferring it into the community through the all-connected fields of Humanities, Social Sciences, Engineering, Economy, Medicine, Natural Sciences, Law, Pedagogical Sciences and Arts.

The University of Maribor is the second largest and the second oldest Slovene university, founded in 1975. Approximately 15,000 students study at one of the 17 Faculties, where they are being taken care of by around 1,800 employees. It carries an extremely important role in the region, and plans to develop further in the direction of attracting the most talented students and providing a development context where excellence is at home at all levels. It is turning into a central development institution in constant connection with the economy and, together with its partners, creating a centre of sustainable development for the wider region. The University Library Maribor and Student Dormitories Maribor are also members of the University of Maribor.

The mission of the University of Maribor is based on honesty, curiosity, creativity, freedom of spirit, cooperation, and knowledge transfer in the fields of Science, Art and Education. Concerned with mankind and sustainable development, the University of Maribor expands knowledge, raises awareness, and promotes humanistic values, as well as the culture of dialogue, quality of life and global justice. The University of Maribor shall become a globally recognised innovation ecosystem, inspiring the creativity of both employees and students.
WHY STUDY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARIBOR?

- High level of graduate satisfaction in terms of study and obtained knowledge;
- Possibility of numerous International Mobility Programmes;
- Efficient tutoring system;
- Intensive connections with the economy;
- Usage of E-study materials (E-study environment Moodle) and partial performance of certain Study Programmes in the form of E-study;
- Various extracurricular activities;
- Opportunity to be a part of student competition teams which regularly achieve top results at numerous international student competitions (Demola, Imagine Cup, Formula Student, TechCrunch Disrupt, Reimagine Imagination, etc.)
ABOUT THE FACULTY OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

The Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at the University of Maribor (UM FERI) is one of the leading teaching and research institutions in the field of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science in Slovenia. UM FERI provides students with knowledge based on internationally recognised scientific research work, thus enabling them to be integrated within future working environments successfully in Slovenia and/or abroad.

The history of teaching at our Faculty dates back to 1959, when the then Higher Technical School was founded, which, in 1973, turned into a High Technical School, and in 1985, into a Technical Faculty. In 1995, the Faculty of Engineering was divided into four independent Faculties, including today’s Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Computer Science and Informatics (FERI).

STUDY YEAR 2017/2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Freshmen</th>
<th>Graduates</th>
<th>Study Programmes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,903</td>
<td>578</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>19</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teaching Staff</th>
<th>Researchers and Junior Researchers</th>
<th>Technical Staff</th>
<th>Administrative Staff</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>147</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>31</td>
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Research assumes a vital place in the activities of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. An important element in the current, quality pedagogical work is following the latest events in the world, and being creative and cooperative in the development of our own scientific research work.

STRATEGIC AIMS

- Improvement of teaching based on scientific research work,
- Achievement of internationally-comparable scientific research excellence,
- Increasing our share of motivated students from Slovenia and abroad,
- Preserving the areas of applied tasks, and developing tasks and resources further,
- Modernization of teaching and research infrastructures,
- Promoting the transfer of knowledge and technologies within our environment.

KEY VALUES

- Academic responsibility,
- The quality of teaching, scientific research, and development work,
- High ethical standards,
- Social responsibility and sustainable development.

VISION

- To strengthen the positions of our internationally-recognised university education and research institutions within the fields of Electrical Engineering, Computer Science, Information Technology, Communications, Media, Telecommunications and Mechatronics, throughout Central Europe,
- To maintain high quality and be of interest for undergraduate and graduate students from Slovenia and abroad.
UNDERGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMMES

3-year full time study
6 Study Programmes

First year University Bologna Study Programmes offer basic education in a certain field, and provide proper foundations for graduates’ further studies and careers. They provide the foundations for educating a new generation of experts, researchers, teachers, as well as for the development of the field itself in the future.

We also offer 4 Professional Study Programmes, but they are not educated in English.

"Joining FERI became my dream ever since I was fascinated by the marvellous presentation of a project carried out by FERI. Particularly, Dr. Iztok Kramberger made a great impression on me when he talked about micro-satellites which were used to scan the surface area of Slovenia. After that I just set my goal and haven't looked back since. The Professors are just outstanding, and have understanding for each and every student. Notably and rarely seen, many of them speak from the heart and are truly inspired by the subject they teach."

- Student from Serbia
**UNIVERSITY PROGRAMME IN COMPUTER SCIENCE AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES**

The purpose of the University Study Programme in Computer Science and Information Technologies is to provide students with breadth of knowledge across the subject areas of Computer Science and Information Technologies. Students take courses in areas such as Programming Techniques, Systems Programming, Computer Architecture, Analysis of Algorithms, Parallel Programming, Artificial Intelligence, Human-Computer Interaction, Computer Graphics and Animation, Multimedia, Signal and Image Processing, Embedded Systems, Geographic Information Systems, Web and Mobile Applications. Students acquire skills to design, build, test, and maintain software systems. The programme prepares students for careers in various industries (especially high-tech), and for the second and third cycle Bologna process.

**UNIVERSITY PROGRAMME IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING**

The first-cycle Study Programme provides necessary knowledge of the basic subjects i.e. Mathematics, Physics, Theory of Electrical Fields, Electrical Machines, Control Theory and Electronics. Additionally, the Study Programme promotes practical student work in the laboratories that include individual or group projects and seminars. The main goal of the studies is to provide expertise in the field of Electrical Engineering that will enable the graduates to work successfully in the fields of Design, Manufacture, Maintenance and Management or use of electrical devices, systems and processes, or continue their studies on the second and third cycles.
The University Study Programme in Informatics and Technologies of Communication develops world-class expertise through the acquisition of fundamental theoretical aspects of Informatics, Information and Communication Technologies, and Information Systems, as well as practical know-how. The programme has been created with the intention of preparing its graduates for modern Information Technology-oriented future jobs that require knowledge of the development of information solutions, information security, project management, network management and information management. The aim of the programme is not just the preparation of students for working at a low system level, but the focus is on mastering the entire spectrum of software development and ICT solutions in business and other environments. The graduates will, thus, be able to work in high-tech ICT firms, government, and in scientific research.

UNIVERSITY PROGRAMME IN INFORMATICS AND TECHNOLOGIES OF COMMUNICATION

The University Study Programme in Informatics and Technologies of Communication develops world-class expertise through the acquisition of fundamental theoretical aspects of Informatics, Information and Communication Technologies, and Information Systems, as well as practical know-how. The programme has been created with the intention of preparing its graduates for modern Information Technology-oriented future jobs that require knowledge of the development of information solutions, information security, project management, network management and information management. The basic goal is to educate a widely trained graduate who, in addition to knowledge and understanding, will also demonstrate autonomy, creativity, innovation and criticality in solving engineering problems in the field of Mechatronics. The study of Mechatronics is project-oriented, since students in groups solve practical mechatronic problems in university laboratories.

UNIVERSITY PROGRAMME IN MECHATRONICS

The first-cycle Bologna Study Programme Mechatronics, enables graduates to obtain solid competences from modern interdisciplinary engineering in the field of Mechatronics, which combines Mechanical Engineering and Electrical Engineering synergistically with Electronics and intelligent computer control for development of modern mechatronic systems, such as robot systems, hybrid and electric cars, etc.
Telecommunications Engineering is a dynamic and rapidly developing field, and is becoming one of the fastest growing professions today. The Study Programme covers the fields of Communication Systems, Communication Networks, Mobile Ecosystems, and software systems. It provides a firm grounding in the fundamentals of ICT engineering, a broad range of cross-disciplinary technical competences, practical and multidisciplinary training in various communication technologies, oriented toward communication systems, networks, multimedia communications, and communication services. As communication technologies are crucial in any industrial, as well as in innovation and research sectors, Telecommunications Engineering is a profession with high demand on the part of employers. The graduates' professional opportunities are, therefore, wide-ranging, including a broad range of technical and management tasks, as well as entrepreneurial projects.

The basic goal of University Study Programme in Media Communication is the education of high quality and professionally well-trained staff with wide interdisciplinary knowledge in the areas of Informatics, Visual Production, Social Sciences, Audio and Visual Communication.

The Programme is designed to give graduates all the technological and organisational skills they will need in their professional work and further professional development. The Study Programme is also niche oriented in certain segments, which contributes to exploiting the potential of mobility as one of the key goals of the Bologna guidelines.
The second-cycle Bologna Study Programmes build upon the first cycle studies. With a large amount of elective content students can specialise in the profile they want. The Programme also encourages interdisciplinary and international collaboration. Graduates are prepared for leading positions in the industry or private sector, as well as to work in an academy environment.

“I have seen an impressive unparalleled support received from all the staff members and lecturers, who are experts in their fields, and passionate about what they're teaching. They are treating us with respect and dignity, and offering us guidance and encouragement. In FERI we can get access to many useful resources which help improve our academic skills and help with our professional progress."

- Student from Egypt
MASTER’S PROGRAMME IN COMPUTER SCIENCE AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

The purpose of the Master’s Programme in Computer Science and Information Technologies is to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary for a professional career or Doctoral studies. This is done through course work, deepening their knowledge in the areas such as Cloud Computing, Mobile and Internet Computing, Ubiquitous Computing, Quantum Computing, Web Technologies, Big Data, Model-driven Engineering, Software Theory and Systems, Intelligent Systems, Agent-based Systems, Evolutionary Computation, Natural Language Processing, Computer Vision. Students develop further skills needed to build software intensive systems of the future.

"Interesting and innovative Study Programmes contain not only theory but also fascinating practical excercises. The fact that I am a foreign student didn’t make the process of studying harder, since everyone speaks English fluently and not only 'can' but 'wants' to help you. There are many benefits for the students in Slovenia, but even without this benefits I strongly recommend University of Maribor - it is a great start of your career and really gives you the education of the highest quality."

- Student from Kazakhstan

MASTER’S PROGRAMME IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

The second-cycle Study Programme provides an in-depth knowledge of Electrical Engineering and its narrow disciplines, in conjunction with knowledge of Computer Science and Information Technology. Graduates can work successfully on the development of electrical devices and systems, as well as on the planning / designing and management of complex technological processes. Knowledge and skills obtained are also an appropriate basis for further, Doctoral studies.
MASTER’S PROGRAMME IN MECHATRONICS

The second-cycle Bologna Study Programme in Mechatronics is based on current needs and contemporary trends of the Slovenian, European industry and the world-wide industry. It enables students to obtain advanced competences in modern interdisciplinary engineering from the field of Mechatronics aiming at comprehensive management of the development, manufacture, use and maintenance of modern mechatronic components and systems, such as robots, hybrid and electric cars. The basic goal is to educate a postgraduate who will be able to cope autonomously with special engineering challenges in the field of Mechatronics. The Study Programme is project-oriented, since students in groups are involved in practical Mechatronic Engineering and research in university laboratories.

MASTER’S PROGRAMME IN INFORMATICS AND TECHNOLOGIES OF COMMUNICATION

The Master's Programme in Informatics and Technologies of Communication offers a broad range of knowledge and skills that the future Masters will use to help in creating the future. Modern IT platforms and architectures, software development, advanced information security, intelligent information solutions, IS/IT auditing, Business Process Management, ERP, SOA, innovations, service science, communication and collaboration. There are several options to become an outstanding professional. Graduates will acquire academic knowledge and professional know-how in Informatics, Information Technologies and Information Systems, as well as practical expertise and skills for the development of the whole spectrum of advanced information solutions, upon which they will effectively build their careers. The Programme is built on the synergy of industrial and academic, supported by the active role of the economy, which, together, provide suitable jobs at home and abroad.
MASTER’S PROGRAMME IN MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS

The Master Programme is the upgrade of the University Study Programme, and the main goal is the education of high quality and professionally well-trained staff with wide interdisciplinary knowledge in the areas of Computer Science, Media Technology, Social Sciences, Media Production and Visual Communication. The Study Programme enables students to deepen their knowledge in wider fields of expertise, and trains them to find new knowledge sources in a professional and scientific field. In addition, the Study Programme enables students to develop creativity to prepare media content and a critical attitude to media content.

 MASTER’S PROGRAMME IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Modern Communication Technology is an integral part of today’s information society and affects our daily lives significantly. The Study Programme aims to train highly qualified specialists in the area of Telecommunications Engineering, and provides the students with the abilities, aptitudes, and advanced knowledge in the fields of Communication Systems, Broadband Networks, Mobile Communications, Ubiquitous Computing, Internet and IoT technologies, as well as Communication Services. The students will get a comprehensive insight into limitless potentials of converged, global, pervasive, and mobile connectivity. As Telecommunications are the backbone of virtually all industry sectors, and are inevitably present in our everyday life, the skills acquired will be highly valued by employers.
DOCTORAL STUDY PROGRAMMES

3-year study
3 Study Programmes

Doctoral Study Programmes educate professionals with in-depth theoretical knowledge for solving the most demanding problems. The focus is on individual research work, where skilled mentors guide the candidate into scientific research. Doctoral study is of high quality and doctoral theses are recognised internationally.

"Teachers and assistants at FERI try to be as helpful as they can be for foreign students. My classmates are really friendly and easy going, to the point of having such a casual conversation that I even forget that we are from different places and cultures, and they are also very helpful with anything that I might be struggling with at the university."

- Student from Portugal
DOCTORAL PROGRAMME IN COMPUTER SCIENCE AND INFORMATICS

The purpose of the Doctoral Study is to educate professionals with in-depth theoretical knowledge for solving the most demanding problems. The focus is on conducting individual research work, where skilled mentors guide students into scientific research. Through course work and guided research, this Doctoral Programme prepares students to make original contributions in Computer Science and Informatics.
Some recent PhD theses investigated: A parameter-free algorithm for digital terrain model generation from LiDAR data, blind separation of multichannel surface electromyograms during dynamic muscle contractions, a memetic algorithm for context-free grammar inference and its use in domain-specific language design, quality evaluation of domain specific XML schemas.

DOCTORAL PROGRAMME IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

The purpose of the Doctoral Study is to educate professionals with in-depth theoretical knowledge for solving the most demanding problems. The focus is on conducting individual research work, where skilled mentors guide students into scientific research. Through course work and guided research, this Doctoral Programme prepares students to make original contributions in Electrical Engineering.
Some recent PhD theses investigated: Micromachining and micro devices from optical fibers based on the selective etching and P2O5 doping, impacts of control on the power losses of a resistance spot welding system, soft switching for improving the efficiency and power density of a single-phase converter with power factor correction, increase the information transfer rate of brain computer interfaces based on visual evoked potentials with binocular stimuli.

DOCTORAL PROGRAMME IN MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS

The purpose of the Doctoral Study is to educate professionals with in-depth theoretical knowledge for solving the most demanding problems. The focus is on conducting individual research work, where skilled mentors guide students into scientific research. During the PhD study, the students will become experts in their chosen, and very narrow specific field of Media Communications through course work and guided research. This Doctoral Programme prepares students to make original contributions in Media Communications.
Some recent PhD theses investigated: The deaf and hard of hearing on social networking sites: Identity, community building and connections between communities, model of privacy effects on the information disclosure of users of the social networking site Facebook.
The Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science has grown all the time since its constitution. At the beginning, FERI had only 6,527 m², but, in 2006, the modern building named G2 was finished. With new 7,702 m², it represented a real turning point in solving the spatial problems of the Faculty. In 2015, we have renewed building G3, the so-called Baroness’s House, which spawns new energy to the whole Faculty. Today, we are performing study and research processes on 22,261 m².
The Baroness's house, which is one of the most beautiful and cleanest preserved secession buildings in Maribor, is an extremely ambitious architecture of Fritz Friedriger. The main objective of renovation was the preservation of the house and the establishment of the primary visual and material appearance of the monument, as well as the adaptation of the building to today's time and standards and its new purpose for research and study activities UM FERI.

The high and modern standard of the equipment of the rooms, lecture rooms and laboratories, makes the study even more interesting and quality.

The Baroness's House has been declared as an artistic and architectural monument, and is registered in the Register of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia.
Research assumes a vital place in the activities of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. The Faculty offers a great variety of different and developing fields and, as such, the only possible way to be successful is with the strength of the scientific research work of our Professors, Assistants and Researchers. That is why the most important element in the current, quality pedagogical work is following the latest events in the world, and being creative and cooperative in the development of our own scientific research work.

The Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science is registered with the Ministry of Science and Technology as a research organisation incorporating 14 research units. Research work at the Faculty is predominantly organised into 8 Research Programmes, which are non-competitively publicly funded:

- Mechatronics systems
- Computer systems, methodologies and intelligent services
- Information systems
- Telematic
- Advanced methods of interaction in telecommunication
- Applied Electromagnetics
- Control of electromechanical systems
- Optical sensors and advanced interactive interfaces

Although it is difficult to highlight all the technologies where our scientists can show their excellence, we have identified topics which we recognise as niche technologies at this moment, and whose penetration in our opinion is playing the role of industrial shift trigger. Therefore, topics we would like to explore in our future interdisciplinary projects are related to Big Data, IoT, Earth Observation, Renewables, Mobility, Creative Industries, Communication, Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, Telecommunication, Mechatronics, Robotics, Automation, Telematics, Sensors, Fiber Optics, Programming, Signal Processing, Power Systems, SmartX.
Most students get involved in the research work of laboratories already at the time of undergraduate studies, where they meet their first research challenges. By being involved in the work of research groups, they acquire knowledge and experience in solving larger and more demanding research tasks, with the help of experienced Researchers. The best students present the results of their research at international scientific meetings.

Our students have, for the past several years, achieved the first three places in the Student Articles Competition IEEE, which is a part of the International Electrotechnical and Computer Science Conference ERK. In the past, our students have also been successful at the Imagine Cup competition in Slovenia, and they have often been qualified in the finals of the world competition. We are also proud of our University Programmers champions, and the FERI sports teams that are also very successful in the University Sports League.

"The professors are great and very kind, very helpful and friendly, and their assistance is always available. They also provide information regarding projects we can participate in. I can say that FERI is the place where students can achieve their goals."

- Student from Pakistan

SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS
13TH CONFERENCE OF SLOVENE ELECTROENERGETICS CIGRE-CIRED
Best student report

6TH COMPETITION IN E-BIKES PRODUCTION
1st place in both categories

DAYS OF SLOVENIAN INFORMATICS 2017
1st place in Competition for best student project

ERK 2017
1st place, Competititon of students articles IEEE
3rd place, Competititon of students articles IEEE

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE EUROCON-2017
1st place, Competititon of students articles IEEE Region 8;
also first female winner in the history of the competition

UNIVERSITY PROGRAMMING MARATHON
1st place at University of Maribor

UNIVERSITY SPORTS LEAGUE
1st place for Football team FERI
2nd place for Basketball team FERI

ADRIATIC FINTECH HACKATHON
Winners of Bitstamp challenge

UNIVERSITY PROGRAMMING MARATHON
1st place at University of Maribor

ERK 2016
1st place, Competititon of students articles IEEE
2nd place, Competititon of students articles IEEE
COMPETITION OF RESEARCH PROJECTS »CITA SMART COLLABORATION CHALLENGE 2014«
1st place

EXHIBITION OF INVENTIONS IN SEOUL
Bronze medal

ERK 2014
2nd place, Competititon of students articles IEEE

RECOGNITION FOR MICROSOFT’S MOST VALUABLE PROFESSIONAL FOR AREA OF WEB TECHNOLOGIES

UNIVERSITY SPORTS LEAGUE
1st place for Football team FERI

2013

IMAGINE CUP 2013
2nd place in the final(s)
1st place in the Slovenian competition

ERK 2013
1st place, Competititon of students articles IEEE
3rd place, Competititon of students articles IEEE

BEST STUDENT OF UNIVERSITY OF MARIBOR

IMAGINE CUP 2012
2nd place in Slovenian competition:
Project Intelliderm
3rd place in Slovenian competition:
Footure

DAYS OF SLOVENIAN INFORMATICS 2012
1st place in Competition for best student project

2012

2014
ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME

The Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science began its participation in Mobility Programmes from the very beginning (after Slovenia was invited to the Programme) in the academic year 1999/2000, with the signed Cooperation Agreements with first 10 partner universities in 7 different countries. Currently, 131 Cooperation Agreements are signed for student mobility with the foreign partner institutions from 25 European countries in the Erasmus+ programme.

At the University of Maribor, FERI is one of the most successful Faculties regarding student exchange. The number of incoming students is around 70, but it is increasing over recent years and has, in 2016/2017, reach app. 90. In the study year 2017/18 we already have 85 incoming students (only in winter semester). There is still room for improvement for the outgoing students; the numbers in the last years are from 30 to 50 students per year. We are also successful at staff exchanges. The number of Bilateral Agreements is also increasing constantly. The more intensive exchange is with Spain, Portugal, Turkey, the Slovak Republic, Finland, and Belgium; over recent years amongst the outgoing students Austria and Germany are popular.

Incoming students adapt to the new student’s life at our Faculty quickly. In the free time, they explore the city, its surroundings, (Slovenia, as well as other countries), and keep company with local and foreign students. Without exception, for all of them, the time spent in Maribor runs out too fast, so many of them prolong their stay or/and are happy to come back. Students are impressed by the city, the country and the study possibilities, which are, in some cases, superior to those found at their home universities.
The University City of Maribor is the centre of Slovenia’s Styria (Štajerska) region. Maribor is the second largest city in Slovenia, nestled along the river Drava in the embrace of the green forests of Pohorje and picturesque wine-growing hills.

Maribor prides itself with profound history and a long wine tradition, which is particularly marked by the Old Vine, the oldest vine in the world, which has been growing here for more than 400 years. The city is also known as a university and metropolitan city and the economic, financial, administrative, educational, cultural, culinarian, commercial and tourist centre of the north-eastern part of Slovenia. It was the Alpine City in 2000, the European Capital of Culture in 2012, the European Rafting City 2012 and the European Youth Capital 2013.

Maribor is also known for some famous Festivals and events, such as Lent Festival, Maribor Festival, Borštnik Meeting, Old Vine Festival, Ski event Golden Fox,... The important part of the city is sport, especially the Football Club NK Maribor, which has competed in the Europa League and Champions League a few times.
The economy of Slovenia is small, open, and export-oriented, and has been influenced strongly by international conditions. On average, the main economic field is Services, followed by Industry and Construction. However, lately, our economy has been oriented smarter through Smart specialization strategy with the following focus areas: Smart Cities and Communities, Mobility, Sustainable Tourism, Circular Economy, Factories of the Future, Smart Buildings and Homes with a Wood Chain, Materials and End Products, Sustainable Food Production.

ABOUT SLOVENIA

Slovenia is located in the heart of Europe at the crossroads of the main European cultural and trade routes. It covers 20,273 km² and has a population of 2.06 million. There are many natural attractions all over the country. The country is one of the most water-rich in Europe, while over half of the territory (56%) is covered by forest, which places Slovenia among the three most wooded countries in Europe.

It is a parliamentary republic and a member of the United Nations, European Union, and NATO. The capital and largest city is Ljubljana, the second biggest city is Maribor, where UM FERI is located.
Historically, the current territory of Slovenia was part of many different State formations, including the Roman Empire and the Holy Roman Empire, followed by the Habsburg Monarchy. During World War II, Slovenia was occupied and annexed by Germany, Italy and Hungary. Afterwards, it was a founding member of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia, later renamed the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

In June 1991, after the introduction of multi-party representative democracy, Slovenia split from Yugoslavia, and became an independent country. In 2004, it entered NATO and the European Union; in 2007, it became the first formerly communist country to join the Eurozone; and, in 2010, joined the OECD, a global association of high-income developed countries.