

REPORT

TwINSol-CECs Training on Soft Skills *Public Speaking Skills in the Academic World*

University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Technology Novi Sad (TFNS)
Novi Sad, Serbia
July 11, 2023

The lecture of Dr. Petar Vrgović, professor of the Faculty of Technical Sciences, entitled "Public Speaking Skills in the Academic World" was held in the TFNS Blue Hall, on 11 July 2023, starting at 11 a.m. This soft skill-training was organized within the TwINSol-CECs Work Package 5 "Strengthening the research management and administration capacities of TFNS" with a specific aim on the researchers' communication skills.

Prof. Petar Vrgović completed his basic studies in psychology, and he obtained the title of Doctor of Science in the field of engineering management. At the intersection of psychology and technical sciences, he deals with human behavior aspects in engineering environment, focusing on communication as a basic tool and an irreplaceable link in the success of an individual's work in Company. In his work as a lecturer and consultant, he emphasizes the importance of developing personal communication skills, but also the importance of communication management at the organization/university level.

During the lecture, Prof. Vrgović has highlighted the importance of public speaking skills in the academic world as an undeniable role in the success of the work of professors and researchers, enabling them to present their ideas, research, and conclusions.

Prof. Vrgović gave guidelines of public speaking since the public performance also plays a key role in the success of professors' and researchers' work, allowing them to present their ideas, research hypothesis, and conclusions in a clear and convincing manner. These skills not only help in imparting knowledge, but also in building personal self-confidence and abilities to make an impact on the audience. He talked also about the skills of attraction and retention listeners' attention, concise expression, complex presentation conclusions in an understandable way, using effective non-verbal communication and dialog management are just some of those it is on need to work constantly. He gave recommendations on how to keep the listeners' attention. Also, he explained the process of receiving information from a psychological aspect. He explained how to communicate with elder generations, and how younger people receive information. He gave instructions on how to give a good lecture for different type of audience. A lot of examples from experiments on groups of people

are presented. He also highlighted body language, which differs by nationality, and explained some basic rules of the correct body language.

After his lecture there was open a discussion within the subject of the lecture, which was very dynamic.

The lecture was last approximately two hours.

There were 38 attendees, majority of them are from TFNS, with few guests from other institutions belonging to the University of Novi Sad. Before signing the attendance list, the participants were informed about the possible use of email addresses, photograph(s) or electronic media images taken/made during the event for further project activities, so they could decide whether to give a consent on the data collection by signing the list.



Details from the TwiNSol-CECs training on communication skills by Prof. Petar Vrgović

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