

## Experiences and impressions from the JCSE in Tirana, 2008.

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08-September-2008

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## Our preparation before this course ( 1<sup>st</sup> year & 2<sup>nd</sup> year of master )

- Both of courses had attended a full course (of one semester) of SE during bachelor studies.
- In that course we have taken the basic knowledge of SE.
- But the students of 1<sup>st</sup> year of master, had few difficulties because they had not yet attended some subjects like Compiler Construction, or UML.
- Nevertheless, students preparation was almost sufficient to attend with success the JCSE in master studies.

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## What we had during the lessons

- Very well structured lessons.
- Good description of the main topics of SE
- Good reference materials.
- Concrete work (assignments, metrics suite, examples-TechWare, XCTL).
- Very good interaction with the lecturers during the lessons, but lacked their presence for solving the assignments.

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## The used literature

- The slides were very useful, but the students needed to read the complete materials beside the slides.
- One of the most used books (of H. Balzert) was in german language and could not be used by the students.
- It was nessecary to search in the internet for extra materials especially for the assignments.

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## The experience with foreign professors

- First time for us to attend a course with foreign professors.
- In the begining, the students were reserved in making questions and even giving the answers.
- Later, these difficulties were overcome due to the lecturers ability to communicate with us.
- The way the lecturers explained the lessons was interesting, filled with examples and concrete situations from personal experience.

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## The experience with foreign professors

- The lecturers made maximal effort in the way that the lesson was understood by everyone.
- They kept alive our curiosity during the lessons by conducting them in question-answer way.
- Very good communication with the students which allowed us to make questions in a free way.
- The lecturers never discouraged us even when the answers were wrong.

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## The difference between our professors and foreign ones

- The Albanian professors don't interact very much with students during the lesson.
- It was a new and a very good experience for us the way the lecturers conducted the course of SE.
- During the lesson, the slides had many questions demanding for our answers and opinions.
- This made the students stay focused, and more interested in the lessons.

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## Following the lessons in english

- It was the 1<sup>st</sup> time for us to attend a whole course in english.
- Some difficulties with the language, deeper concentration was required.
- Sometimes the students were “shy” in making questions and giving the answers.
- Despite the problems, the general opinion of the students is that it’s good to have the subjects in english.

## The assignments

- There were four assignments during the course.
- They were interesting and concrete, refering to the theoretical part of the lessons.
- We had enough time for solving the assignments
- The most difficult one was the first, as it was given before the lessons started.
- The assignments kept us engaged with the subject even after the course completed.

## The organization of the groups

- Mean number of members in a group was four.
- Not the same leader every assignment.
- For some assignments the members worked individually and then joined the work.
- For some others, the work could not be divided individually, so they were solved in cooperation.

## The exam

- The final exam was long, but we had all the time to answer all the questions.
- The questions covered all the topics of the lessons.
- The questions were short, and the key concepts were asked.
- The exam contained both theory questions and exercises.

## Conclusions

- It was a very interesting and a well structured course.
- A very good experience for all the students.
- We had a good explanation of key concepts of SE (theory and examples).
- Very good interaction with the lecturers.

## Few suggestions

- Longer duration of the course.
- The possibility of concluding the course with a full project in SE.
- It would have been interesting to integrate this course with another which covers the project management phases in SE.
- We would be very grateful if this course will continue in the future.

Thanks to all of you for listening.

Special thanks to both Prof.Bothe, Prof.Putnik, and  
Prof.Çiço for making this course possible.