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Sustainable development and economic competitiveness

The J. Stefan IPS: The fastest way of learning is by doing science

In the last decade everybody stressed the urgent need for sustainable development on one side and for an increased economic competitiveness on the other side. Both have the same vision which is prosperity for the present and for future generations. However as Paul Z. Pilzer said: 'Prosperity belongs to those who learn new things the fastest.'

In the area of postgraduate studies, this has several implications:

- We have to offer cutting edge knowledge - this is possible only in a research based university or postgraduate school.
- Time has become an essential component of educational quality - we have to learn fast. The fastest way of learning on the graduate level is by doing science.
- Knowledge is only a potential source of prosperity. It has to be transferred into practice and applied to bear fruits.

The J. Stefan International Postgraduate School from Ljubljana (www.mps.si) is educating postgraduates by integrating studies with basic research and innovation, and developing knowledge transfer through joint projects in direct cooperation with employers. Established in 2004 by the Jozef Stefan Institute with the support from major industries it has at present 15 industrial partners. It offers master and doctoral studies in the fields of Nanosciences and Nanotechnologies, New Media and E-sciences and as well as Eco-technology. Students from all countries are welcome. At present 96 students are enrolled. The study program is custom made for each student. In addition each student is involved into a research project. The faculty is international and 18 visiting professors from leading European and American universities were also teaching in the year 2004/2005. The staff of the school published 519 research papers in leading international journals in the last school year. International lecturers included a Nobel prize winner.

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