

PERSONAL INFORMATION

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| Surname(s) / First name(s) | Labak Irena |
| Address(es) | Stjepana Radića 18, 31000 Osijek |
| Telephone(s) | 031/399-913 |
| E-mail(s), Web address(s) | ilabak@biologija.unios.hr |
| Nationality(-ies) | Croatian |
| Date of birth | 21.9.1979. |
| Gander | F |
| Identification number from Records of Scientific Workers | 287650 |

WORK EXPERIENCE

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| Dates (from – to) | 2022- |
| Type of business or sector | Associate Professor |
| Main activities and responsibilities | Teaching activities (Didactics of Biology, Methodological Exercises in Biology, Didactics, Pedagogy, and Neurobiology) and scientific research activities in the interdisciplinary field of biology and pedagogy. |
| Name and address of employer | Department of Biology J.J. Strossmayer University of Osijek. |
| Occupation or position held | Science and education |
| Dates (from – to) | 2017-2022 |
| Type of business or sector | Assistant professor |
| Main activities and responsibilities | Teaching activities (Didactics of Biology, Methodological Exercises in Biology, Didactics, Pedagogy, and Neurobiology) and scientific research activities in the interdisciplinary field of biology and pedagogy. |
| Name and address of employer | Department of Biology J.J. Strossmayer University of Osijek. |
| Occupation or position held | Science and education |
| Dates (from – to) | 2005 –2017 |
| Type of business or sector | Senior research assistant |
| Main activities and responsibilities | Didactics of Biology, Methodological Exercises in Biology |
| Name and address of employer | Department of Biology J.J. Strossmayer University of Osijek. |
| Occupation or position held | Science and education |

EDUCATION

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| Date | 2011 |
| Title or qualification awarded | PhD |
| Name and type of organisation providing education | Postgraduate study of Protection of Nature and Environment at J. J. Strossmayer University of Osijek and Ruđer Bošković Institute Zagreb |
| Date | 2007 |
| Title or qualification awarded | M.Sc. |
| Name and type of organisation providing education | Postgraduate study of Protection of Nature and Environment at J. J. Strossmayer University of Osijek and Ruđer Bošković Institute Zagreb |
| Date | 2002 |
| Title or qualification awarded | Professor of Biology and Chemistry |
| Name and type of organisation providing education | J.J.Strossmayer University of Osijek, School of Educational science |

| PERSONAL SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Mother tongue(s) | Croatian English | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Other language(s) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Self assessment | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4">Understanding (listening and reading)</th> <th colspan="4">Speaking</th> <th colspan="2">Writing</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>C2</td> <td>Experienced user</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(*) Zajednički europski referentni okvir za jezike</p> | Understanding (listening and reading) | | | | Speaking | | | | Writing | | C2 | Experienced user |
| Understanding (listening and reading) | | | | Speaking | | | | Writing | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| C2 | Experienced user | C2 | Experienced user | C2 | Experienced user | C2 | Experienced user | C2 | Experienced user | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Organizational and other skills | <p>2006 – present: member of Organizing committee and leader of domestic scientific and expert meetings in organization of Department of Biology, J. J. Strossmayer University of Osijek and Croatian Education and Teacher Training Agency.</p> <p>2011 – present: member of Exam committee for professional exams (for elementary and high school);</p> <p>2014 – 2023.: member of Committee for State Biology competing</p> <p>2014 – present: member of editorial board of journal for education of Biology “<i>Educatio Biologiae</i>”, published by the Croatian Society for Biology.</p> <p>2014- present: lecturer and workshop leader on popularization projects for biology as a science: <i>Biolog-i-ja</i> (Department of Biology), <i>Brain Awareness Week</i> (HIIM), <i>Science Festival</i> (MZIO)</p> <p>2015 - 2016: participating in the Overall curricular reform as a member of the working group of interdisciplinary topic <i>Learning how to learn</i> and working group of curricula for subject <i>Nature</i>.</p> <p>Member of the Committee for the Advancement and Quality Assurance of Higher Education, Department of Biology, Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Scientific Papers | https://www.bib.irb.hr/pregled/znanstvenici/287650 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Conference proceedings | https://www.bib.irb.hr/pregled/znanstvenici/287650 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Research and other projects Completed projects: | <p>Pathophysiological consequences of lipid raft changes – Raft Tuning (IP-09-2014-2324, principal investigator prof. Marija Heffer, MD).</p> <p>Lipid rafts and glycoconjugates in development and regeneration of nervous system (MZOS #219-0061194-2158) 2007-today, principle investigator Marija Heffer-Lauc, MD</p> <p>Think unthinkable (The Dana Foundation) 2009, principle investigator Marija Heffer-Lauc, MD, PhD</p> <p>Welcome to Leonardo’s World of Handiness (The Dana Foundation), 2007, principle investigator Marija Heffer-Lauc, MD, PhD</p> <p>Competence of students in biology education (MZOS #119-0091361-1223), principle investigator prof.dr.sc. Ines Radanović</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| | <p>Natural Sciences are In (project holder: M.A.Reljković Gymnasium) Role in the project: team member Source of funding: European Social Fund, Human Resources Development Operational Programme, 2007-2013. Managing authority: Ministry of Science, Education and Sports.</p> <p>Development of Modern Study Programme for Education of Teachers of Informatics, Technics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics on the ground of development of Croatian Qualification Framework (STEMp). Role in the project: team member Source of funding: Project co-financed by the EU from European Social Fund.</p> <p>Project “Drava Story Visitor Centre – an Interactive, Innovative and Accessible Nature Experience”, Noskovci: Public Institution for the Management of Protected Natural Areas and the Ecological Network of Virovitica–Podravina County – collaborating partner / associate.</p> <p>Collegial Observation and Professional Development of University Teachers” (institutional project), Project Leader: Assist. Prof. Irena Labak, PhD.</p> <p>Learning Biology in an Epidemiologically Adapted Inquiry-Based Environment” (IP-CORONA-2020-12-3798), Principal Investigator: Ines Radanović, PhD, Associate Professor – within the project, served as a collaborating researcher responsible for the development of interactive components of biology education courses for students preparing for the teaching profession.</p> <p>Professional Development of Teachers with the Purpose of Improving the Learning Outcomes in Natural Sciences and Mathematics (IP-01-2018, principal investigator Branko Bogнар, associate professor). Role in the project: team member.</p> <p>Development and Neurobiological Basis of the Action of Natural Mosquito Repellents for Sustainable Development: Linking Scientific Knowledge and Teaching Practice”; NextGenerationEU – Call for Funding of Institutional Research Projects, financed from source 581 – Recovery and Resilience Facility (2025) – Project Leader: Assoc. Prof. Irena Labak, PhD.</p> <p>Identifying the Needs of Nature Science Teachers for Improving Teaching that Develops Students’ Scientific Literacy”; Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek – institutional funding (own resources) – Project Leader: Assoc. Prof. Irena Labak, PhD.</p> <p>Metabolomics of Target Tissues in Sex-Specific Risk Prediction for Type 2 Diabetes and Neurodegeneration in Response to Western and Ketogenic Diets” (IP-2025-02-7869), Principal Investigator: Marija Heffer, PhD.</p> |
| <p>Active projects:</p> | |
| <p>Professional Development</p> | <p>2024 Professional training in statistics: Multiple and Hierarchical Regression Analysis; Mediation and Moderation Effects. Norvel Statistics (Statistics and Methodology Training Programme). 2020 Applied methodology for research and development, Lifelong Learning Program, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Osijek. 2016 Workshop: creative thinking development, Associations „Klikeraj“ . 2015 Applied Statistics - Lifelong Learning Program, Department of Mathematics, J. J. Strossmayer University of Osijek. 2003 – 2005 Certification program in Osijek III. Gymnasium in Osijek resulted with Professional certificate. 2003 Reading and Writing for Critical Thinking – RWCT, professional development course.</p> |
| <p>Graduation thesis</p> | <p>Supervisor of 21 master’s theses in Didactics of Biology and of 1 master’s thesis in Neurobiology; immediate supervisor of 11 master’s theses in Didactics of Biology and of 1 master’s thesis in Neurobiology. Supervisor of 2 bachelor’s theses in the field of Biology and immediate supervisor of 1 bachelor’s thesis. https://www.bib.irb.hr/pregled/znanstvenici/287650</p> |
| <p>Educational materials</p> | <p>Labak, Irena; Meštrović, Ozrenka; Meštrović, Jasenka (2023). Holistic Learning and Teaching [in Croatian]. Osijek: Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, Department of Biology. https://www.bib.irb.hr/pregled/znanstvenici/287650</p> |