

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)  
Enabling the Future - Developing the Space Workforce (5)

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SPACE EDUCATION FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS IN A NON-SPACE FARING NATION: A CASE  
STUDY ON THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

**Abstract**

This paper proposes an informal educational program for young professionals of non-space faring nations who have passion and aspirations to grow a career in the space industry.

In this paper, a non-space faring nation is a country without independent access to space that does not own satellites and is unable to launch astronauts into space, such as the Republic of Croatia. Young professionals here are defined as university students and university graduates between 18 and 35 years of age who have already decided their field of study and expertise. When considering a country's needs and constraints, the governments of non-space faring nations usually do not have enough resources to decide to set space as a strategic goal. Despite that the New Space movement has introduced many opportunities to enter space more quickly, space activities are still more costly than other research and innovation projects in other sectors such as information and communication technologies. While governments will need time to align their national strategies and operational programs to enable space capacity building and workforce development, today's young professionals are not being given the chance to attain knowledge and experience to compete for space jobs locally or internationally.

The proposed educational program should start with an outreach campaign about interdisciplinary fields of space activities, which should be followed by a short interdisciplinary course. The course should be held in a local language, accessible from a country of residence, and delivered by local experts in respective fields. References for additional individual research should be provided during the course. The program should be reviewed by respectable space institutions such as the European Space Agency, UNOOSA, and the International Space University, and approved by the national ministry of education. In the Republic of Croatia, the first step has been made with a series of eight space webinars organized in collaboration with the Space Generation Advisory Council and the Adriatic Aerospace Association to promote space science, technology, policy, applications, entrepreneurship, and other relevant subjects. Based on the conducted case study, the paper will show how such an education program could easily be adapted and implemented in every other non-space faring nation to make space accessible to youth and for all.