

Introducing Inclusivity and Assistive Technologies in Engineering Education

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Short description:

The lecture discusses integrating inclusivity into engineering education through topics such as digital barriers faced by people with disabilities, universal design, and assistive technologies. It presents a teaching methodology based on project-based learning and the use of emerging technologies, involving multidisciplinary collaboration among engineering students and faculty, social science experts, and the active participation of end users. Examples of student-developed technological solutions from computer science and electrical engineering are provided, that are applied in speech and language therapy, educational rehabilitation, and for public awareness raising. These initiatives provide multiple benefits, including students' mastery of technology, real-world application of solutions, and the long-term development of awareness of accessibility as an essential component of future engineering practice.

More about Željka Car:

Željka Car is a full professor at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, University of Zagreb. She is the head of the scientific Laboratory for Assistive Technologies and Augmentative and Alternative Communication at the same faculty and the coordinator of the multidisciplinary Competence Network ICT-AAC. She actively promotes the integration of socially relevant topics into engineering education and raises awareness of universal design and accessibility implementation in digital solutions.