

# NÁŠ ČAS

MAGAZINE OF CONSTANTINE THE PHILOSOPHER UNIVERSITY IN NITRA

SLOVO, ČO UM  
AJ SRDCE VAŠE  
POSILNÍ...

Konštantín Filozof: Proglas

2018 | číslo 3  
ročník XXII.

## NATIONAL QUALITY AWARD

UNIVERSITY AWARDED FOR QUALITY  
WORK IN THE ECONOMIC  
AND SOCIAL SPHERE

## RESEARCH IN AGRO-BIO-MEDICINE

RESEARCH TEAM ACCOMPLISHED UNIQUE  
EXPERIMENTAL MODELS IN BIOLOGY



## EDITORIAL

Dear reader,  
after a well-deserved summer break, we stand on a threshold of a new academic year full of expectations and hope it is a good one. Whether you are freshmen or senior, teacher assistant or well-established professor, we are all full of expectations. Teachers look forward to their students, students to their classmates, knowledge and events that happen at the university all year around. No matter what their nature is – educational, social or cultural – they are prepared with best intentions and a hope to increase their levels of knowledge and social skills. Therefore, in this issue of the journal we are going to look at a few interesting happenings our university experienced in the last year.

The Romani Culture Week, organized at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care on the occasion of the International Roma Day, comprised workshops, discussions, and presentation of traditional handicrafts, arts, and cuisine. The fact that students of this faculty are preparing for a profession that requires complete devotion confirmed the act of Jakub Medved, who did not hesitate to help a driver trapped in a traffic accident and his intervention saved human life.

Kids - participants of the IT Academy project, held at the Faculty of Natural Sciences, could spend one summer week doing experiments in physics and informatics to enhance their interest in natural sciences. Energy is everywhere around us was the theme of one of the traditional camp for kids interested in physics.

Young artists from the Department of Music, Faculty of Education, prepared a Slovak premiere of The Jazz Passion from the US authors David Abrahamson, Andy Tecson, Bobby Lewis, and Bobby Schiff. Critical and creative thinking is an essential skill of each teacher. For this reason, the faculty organized an international conference on this topic where participants exchanged their experiences on the issue.

An invitation to a lecture on "brown gold" held at the Faculty of Central European Studies lured not only all lovers of chocolate, but also all fans of fair entrepreneurs. Karol Stýblo from Lyra Chocolate based at Nitra is the only distinguished Slovak designer of chocolate recipes. In his interesting lecture, he explained that cocoa powder is a secondary product of cocoa mass.

The Faculty of Arts has been proved by organizing translation competitions and its new double diploma study program. Department of Translations Studies regularly organized Young Translator, a unique competition for students of secondary schools who like foreign languages and translation into the Slovak language. Examples of beneficial cooperation are agreements on two dual study programs in Mass Media Studies with the University of Lorraine in France and the University of Economics in Poland.

Naturally, the abovementioned happenings are just a little taste covering a few of them from each faculty. Upon reading the following pages, you will get acquainted with many other interesting events that our students and academic staff experience. We hope this academic year will be at least as rich with events as the previous one. Therefore, I wish my colleagues and all students most of the luck, so that this academic year proves again our university is on the right track, giving the best education and opportunities to all.

PhDr. Ľuboš Török, PhD.

Vice-dean for International Cooperation and Development

# NÁŠ ČAS

ČASOPIS UNIVERZITY KONŠTANTÍNA FILOZOFA V NITRE

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## MASTHEAD

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# A WEEK OF ROMANI CULTURE

A dozen of various activities, from discussions to the presentations of Romani art, held on the occasion of the International Romani Day.

“Stories of successful Romani people”, a live library happening, marked the beginning of a traditional event called “A Week of Romani Culture” held at the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra on 3rd of April 2017. Students from Párovská 1 Grammar school in Nitra visited the premises of The Regional Library and met publicly fewer known representatives of the Romani culture, Mr. Edo Čonka, Peter Pollák jr., Ivan Rác and Miro Balog, who shared their experiences with them. The aim of the event was to inform the students about the struggles and pitfalls of the Romani people in Slovakia when trying to be successful. The week of Romani culture continued with a dozen of various activities aimed at the students and employees of the university



as well as the public. Besides discussions and workshops the organizers of the event offered the activities featuring the presentation of Romani craftwork, art, and traditional dishes. “The issue of Romani people, currently resonating within the public of Slovakia, is an underlying topic of our workplace and by this event we have decided to celebrate the International Romani Day, this year held on 8th of April.”, informed us Mgr. Jurina Rusnáková, PhD., the director of the Institute of Romance studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care of the Constan-



tine the Philosopher University in Nitra. On Wednesday, 5th of April, a discussion was held with Zuzana Kumanová, an ethnographer, featuring a topic of Romani Holocaust, which is still ascribed as “unknown”. On Thursday, 6th of April, during the workshop with Mariša Oláhová, an executive of Romani dance group “Rómka z Detvy”, the students of our university had a chance to learn a couple of elements of Romani dance. On the same day the students of the Private secondary school in Kežmarok along with a music group “Sendreiovci” presented Romani craftwork at CENTRO NITRA shopping mall in Nitra. “Traditional Romani craftwork is the part of Romani culture. The presentation of the elements of Romani culture can be the way of convergence of Romani people with the majority public. That is why this year we have decided to address the public with several events.”, said Jurina Rusnáková. Those who were interested could see the products of blacksmiths, carvers, and dowzers, as well as the products of women’s craftwork, and listen to fine music. The teachers from the Institute of Romane Studies prepared a mini-course of Romance language which



children found the most attractive. On Friday, 7th of April, in the evening hours, the Univerzum gallery organised a vernissage called “Romani people and art”. The exhibition of the works of fine art by Romani artists from the Slovak National Museum in Martin and the works of the artist blacksmiths from Dunajská Lužná was opened by the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Mr. Rastislav Rosinský, and the director of th Institute of Romance Studies, Mrs. Jurina Rusnáková. The exhibition was enriched by music performed by Barbora Botošová and Ľubomír Gašpar, and the recital of a poem in Romance language by Kamila Mitrášová. A Week of Romani Culture continued on 10th of April by the workshop about assisting and helping with Janette Mottlová Mazíniová, the author of the novel “Cigánka”. On 12th

of April the ensemble of social-cultural events was closed by a moderated discussion about the cooperation of Romani people and non-Romani people called “Examples of good practice”. The moderator of the discussion, Michal Havran, hosted Zuzana Balážová from Roma Advocacy and Research Center, Vladimír Ledecký, the Mayor of Spišský Hrhov, and Tivadár Berky, the Mayor of Nitra nad Ipľom. For almost two hours the guests were discussing with students on how things can be done and not why they cannot be done, why it is possible that some people can be successful even within the environment that is not very friendly to them and how they deal with the pitfalls. A Week of Romani Culture brought many inspirations, laid out possible problem solutions, taught us and entertained us, too.

-red-,  
Photography: Lubo Balko



← a Workshop with Mariša Oláhová

↑ a → Presentation of traditional Romani crafts and culture in shopping mall OC Centro







*“We are training universal helping professionals.”*

A talk with Mgr. Jurina Rusnáková, PhD., the Director of the Institute of Romance Studies of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care at the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra.

**April 2016 marked the 25th anniversary of the Institute of Romance Studies. What has changed during those years?**

The Institute of Romance Studies was founded in 1990 under the name “Department of Romani Culture”. Its main aim was to train for practical life future teachers of Romani children and later also other helping professionals. The workplace had the ambition to bring to the university environment topics related to Romani people, increase the number of Romani people with university education, and contribute to the development of tolerant and inclusive society. These aims are still up-to-date and I think that we are successful in fulfilling them, the fact which is supported by a vast number of successful graduates and the focus of the study at our faculty. Since the beginning of existence of our workplace each study programme contains a block of the so-called Romance studies disciplines (Romance languages, history of Romani people etc.), as well as the subjects aimed at the multicultural education. Through the years, of course, the workplace underwent several changes, from those most visible to the public, such as the change of the name, to

the changes of the focus within the pedagogical activity. Currently the applicants are offered a study programme called Social services and Consulting which was opened more than ten years ago at our Institute as the first study programme of this type in Slovakia. We are getting very good results from the area of science and research; our creative employees are regularly authors of interesting scientific projects. Besides pedagogical and scientific activities, we consider the connection with practice to be the third most important pillar of our work. I might be a bit immodest when I say that our employees belong to the group of recognized professionals within various fields related to the Romani people or marginalized Romani communities. The proof of this is that our employees stand for the experts at the Ministries, at the Slovak Government Plenipotentiary for Romani Cultures, and other national and foreign or international institutes. Of course, we are aware of the deficiencies, which we find necessary, because these create a space for new goals. The dynamic of changes within the society brings new challenges and I hope that we are able to react to these changes the best we can.

**Since 2011 the Institute of Romance Studies offers a study programme called Social Services and Consulting. According to you, what is the main benefit of such programme? Do your students have possibilities for practical training or what kind of out of school activities do you offer?**

The study programme Social Services and Consulting is one of the programmes which we can call “social”. Its importance was caused by the changes in the social system as well as the formation of a legislature for social services. Our students are trained for practical life within the facilities of social services which can be found in almost every city and town in Slovakia. There is an individual block of subjects aimed at the work with Romani people or, to be more precise, with marginalized Romani communities and those social services which help them the most – that is a social field work and community centre. To improve the chances of our graduates in finding a job we do not specialize only in this target group. On the contrary, for practice we are training universal helping professionals. Our study plans contain the subjects of social work and methods of social work, social consulting, as well as pedagogy and other related disciplines. We are focusing on the development of skills, we train the students how to elaborate the projects, we also cooperate with various organisations in order to provide our students with new methods of work – for example we cooperate with EDUMA organisation in which our students can learn how to work with live libraries. We offer a number of extra-curricular courses; this semester it was a training for activists and the students could attest their acquired skills at secondary schools. We belong to the workplaces with the highest endowment of practical experience; our students complete 400 hours of practical training within Bachelor studies and 200 more within Master studies. That is why we cooperate with many facilities of social services in Nitra and its surrounding.

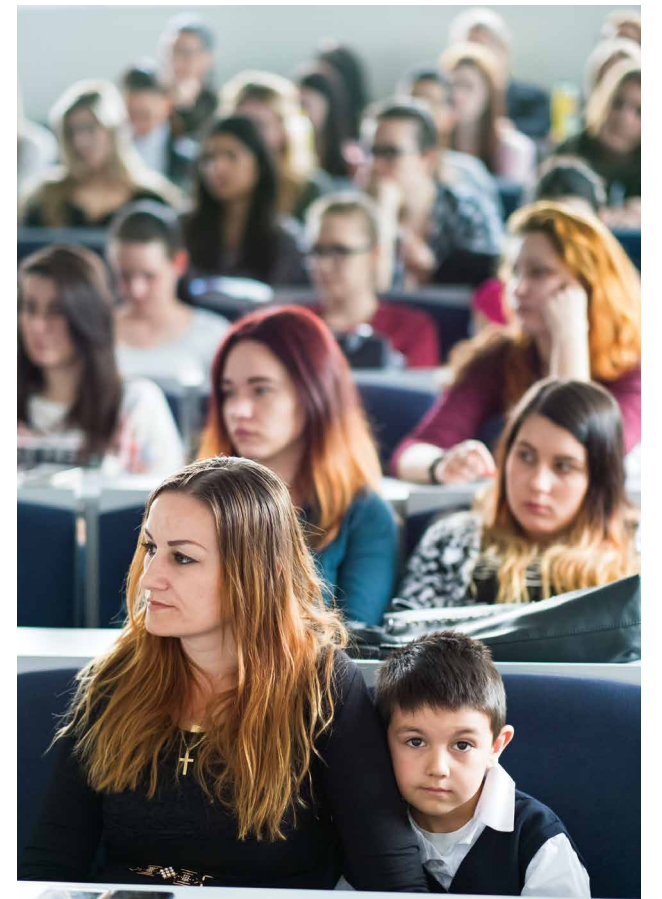
*“Our employees belong to the group of recognized professionals within various fields related to the Romani people or marginalized Romani communities.”*

**At your institute you try to teach young people about ethnical tolerance and national open-mindedness. According to you, has the perception of national or ethnical minorities in Slovakia improved?**

This is a very complex question. We live in times which are not very friendly to the minorities, or at least it seems to be so. On the other hand, with the big number of guards of democracy and human rights, represented by the international and European agreements which must be respected, brings a certain but still relative feeling of safety. In regard to this, I am not very optimistic, but I believe that if you ask me the same question next year, I will respond to it smiling and knowing that the problem has been solved. If I am to talk specifically about our work, I think that within this field we are successful in working with young people. Students are interested in activities and subjects aimed at the education within cultural tolerance and otherness, their feedback is positive. Many graduates contact us during their practice and express their gratitude for this spe-

cial education, because such education is highly respected and welcome by the employers. We are certainly planning to offer such subjects to other faculties of our university.

↓ Examples of good practice, event within the Week of Romani Culture



**Mgr. JURINA RUSNÁKOVÁ, PhD.,**

*Mgr. Jurina Rusnáková, PhD., is the Director of the Institute of Romance Studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care at the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. She studied Social work with the aim at Romani community and she has pursued this field for her entire career. She has experience in work in non-governmental sector, social work, as well as the field of education for Romani students. She worked at the Institute for Sociology of Slovak Academy of Sciences and currently works as an expert for the Slovak Government Plenipotentiary for Romani Cultures. Within her pedagogical work she focuses on the field forms of social services, she was a co-author of the standards for field social work and community centre. In science she focuses on the research of poverty and social segregation, as well as evaluative research.*



# A LECTURE ON BROWN GOLD

## With Karol Stýblo from Lyra Chocolate (not only) about the making of chocolate

A fascinating lecture by Karol Stýblo, held at the Faculty of Central European Studies of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra (organizer: Department of Tourism) on 13th of February 2017 as the part of the course "Sommelierism", was not only about the making of chocolate. Mr. Stýblo, a successful but humble man, proves that successful business does not originate in an exalted careerism and the pursue of wealth and that it does not need to be all about monetary profit. Karol Stýblo is the leading master chef – chocolatier with many awards and the only recognized Slovak designer of chocolate formulas. His products are sold by his team in his own company Lyra Chocolate. His company also delivers cocoa from South America to Europe under a commercial name Casa Lucer Europe. The company was founded by three citizens of the city of Nitra. The above-mentioned Karol Stýblo – a hotel-keeper, Martin Dukát – a businessman, and Milan Lukáč – former accountant. At the beginning of their enterprise they were offering Belgian chocolate pralines (2008), at the times when, according to Stýblo, "chocolate in Slovakia was still considered monotonous". Thus, him and his colleagues began to look for something new and different. Besides several small awards in 2014 they, as first in Slovakia, received the

Great Taste Award in London. Great Taste Award is considered to be an Oscar of gastronomy where each year the greatest gastronomical specialties are being awarded. The prize was awarded to them for their chocolate Lyra Mandala Dark, the name of which relates to its shape. The golden star award was given to them by the probably most strict committee counting 400 members who try and taste 10,000 specimens for more than 1000 hours. The key of success lies in the use of a unique Colombian cocoa. The cocoa from South America is the world's finest despite the fact that it stands for only 8% of the worldwide production.

Of course, the master of chocolate, showed us to the backstage of particular production of brown gold. The final value of cocoa is determined by precision and punctuality derived from a demanding work carried out with passion. To our biggest surprise Mr. Stýblo revealed to us that the cocoa powder is a mere secondary product of the cocoa mass: "Something similar to an orange peel." It definitely does not contain such number of vitamins and antioxidants as cocoa mass because most of the finest matter, cocoa butter, is excluded – especially in case of mass producers who try to substitute the cocoa butter with cheap

vegetable fat. Besides the quality of the product between small family companies in South America and widespread mass producers – mainly in Africa which produces approximately half of the worldwide production of cocoa – the main difference lies in the living standard of local workers. The wholeproducers usually employ small children in exchange for food who work in terrible work conditions, while small family farms in South America the main priority is the needs and rights of local people. As a member of World Cocoa Foundation, a family company Casa Luker partakes in protection of the environment as well as social, economic and environmental development of the communities of cocoa farmers. The company is not big, but it is successful even without covering the entire cocoa market. Instead of expanding, they focus on quality and innovations, because their main aim is not to get rich, but rather make quality, creativity and, generally speaking, do what they are good at. They do not focus on masses but rather on clients who are interested in what the product is made of and how it was made. Their products are not sold in supermarkets but in smaller companies, shops with healthy groceries, cafeterias, and candy shops. Of course, compared to mass products, the price of their products is higher, but they believe

that a man should not buy chocolate because of its price, but rather pleasure it provides. Chocolate is not a thing of everyday consumption, it should not be a part of an ordinary diet, but it stands for a treat on unique occasions. Thus, the price which, compared to real competition (competition being non-mass producers), is completely acceptable, is not the key factor. Cheap chocolate is therefore a pointless article on the market.

A successful business and success in general are motivated by the will of doing what we enjoy doing with passion in order to give the society a part of us, something of high quality. In mass production it is hard to focus on quality; in other words, the mass producer does not seek quality, but rather quantity, and a continuous rise of financial earnings with low costs. The moral of the lecture: chocolate sold in supermarkets is not chocolate.

Another part of the lecture was an on-site tasting of quality chocolate made of genuine Dominican cocoa.

Adriana Chovanová,  
Faculty of Central European Studies  
Photography: author







dancers.”, informed us doc. Mgr. art. Elena Zahoráková, the teacher from the Department of Music. “To accustom ourselves to the polyrhythmic music rich in a variety of improvisation and dynamic changes for such a long time (60 minutes) made us to search for an original set of movements. The Jazz Passion contains a mixture of jazz, modern, classic, and even hip-hop dance styles. The choreography evolves

trying to find an inspiration for a new project. Solely by chance I discovered a website of St. Luke Parish in Chicago which displayed an eighty seconds long preview of Jazz Passion. I contacted Andy Tecson who authorized us to present the work under no special conditions. Being able to offer you the scenic concert-dance performance, with the help of the conductor Marek Štrbák and the choreographer



# Jazz Passion

## The end of the pre-Easter season

Young artists from the Department of Music at the Faculty of Education of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra prepared the very first Slovak performance of Jazz Passion by David Abrahamson, Andy Tecson, Bobby Lewis and Bobby Schiff, which followed the successful presentation of the sacral composition Missa in Jazz by Peter Schindler. The work the producer of which was a civic association “Konfrontácie” in cooperation with Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra and Nitra Self-Governing Region, was presented four times a week before Easter. The first concert performance took place on 8th of April in the Virgin Mary’s Assumption Church on the Calvary in Nitra. The next day, on Palm Sunday, 9th of April, the scenic version of the performance took place at the University Pastoral Centre of the St. Josef Freinademetz in the Ľudovít Štúr Campus, Mlynská Dolina, Bratislava. Next two performances

took place on 11th and 12th of April at the premises of the District House, in a Concert Hall, attended by guests from Chicago, Andy Tecson, Bobby Schiff, and their colleague Mr. Ken Jandes. “This was the first Slovak presentation of the work; the first European performance of this exquisite work took place on 5th of March 2017 in Berlin.”, said Mgr. Alena Čierna, PhD., the Head of the Department of Music at the Faculty of Education of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, who was the executive producer of the Jazz Passion. She additionally informed us that Jazz Passion – the scenic oratory for chamber jazz orchestra, solos and the choir – was founded in 2009 in Chicago in cooperation with the authors, A. P. Tecson, D. G. Abrahamson, B. Schiff, and B. Lewis. These authors dedicated their lives to jazz interpretation and production. Two of them – B. Schiff and



B. Lewis – began their careers as the members of the orchestra accompanying Frank Sinatra, one of the most significant musical artists of the 20th century. In the context of modern sacral production Jazz Passion stands for an exceptional work – it combines the legacy of traditional jazz with the theme of passion and crucifixion of Jesus Christ. In this context this work represents a challenge not only to the musicians, but also theatre performers who are participating on the project of this

stage-managed oratory. Since Middle Ages until these days the theme of passion has inspired hundreds of authors – composers and theatre performers. However, in this form the audience is a witness of a distinctive musical-dramatical profile which merges the theme of passion with expressive means of jazz. A well-recognized team which took care of the performances is the guarantee of quality. “To create a choreography for Jazz Passion was quite an adventure for me and for the

within individual scenes along the music; sometimes it stands in opposition to it, at some points it employs both solo and group improvisation. However, everything is united by the story of crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ.” The director of this exquisite work was prof. PhDr. Pavol Smolík, ArtD., who was also the one who discovered it: “After many successful musical and theatrical productions of our Department we were



Elena Zahoráková, is the result of generosity of its authors.” The project is the product of participation of eighty Slovak musicians, singers, and dancers, and it significantly contributed to cultural life not only of Nitra region.

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Photography: Lubo Balko





## HISPANIC LIFE AND CULTURE

### 9th Year of the Days of Hispanic Culture at the Department of Romance Studies of the Faculty of Arts at the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra

Between 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of April 2017 the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra hosted the 9th year of the Days of Hispanic Culture. The event is organized yearly by the Department of Romance Studies of the Faculty of Arts at the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. Its main aim is to introduce the life and culture of Spain as well as Hispanophone countries of the Latin America. The Days of Hispanic Culture feature a number of lectures, seminars, and activities joined by the students of our university and the students of secondary schools. On the occasion of a life jubilee of prof.

PhDr. Ladislav Franek, CSc., this year the Days of Hispanic Culture were opened by a scientific event and the presentation of his latest book called *Interdisciplinárnosť v symbióze literárnej vedy a umenia II*. The event was introduced by doc. Mgr. Magda Kučerková, PhD., who also greeted and introduced the guests, among which was also the Dean of the Faculty of Arts at the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, prof. PaedDr. Bernard Garaj, CSc., a representative of French Embassy in Slovakia and the French Institute, an attaché for education and language collaboration, Mrs. Emmanuelle Daill, the Head of the Department of Translation Studies at the Institute of World Literature of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, prof. PhDr. Mária Kusá, CSc., and the Head of the Department of Romance Studies of the Faculty of Arts at the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, doc. Eva Švarbová, PhD. The participating representatives of the institutes honoured prof. Franek by original speeches and commemorative gifts. The representatives of the Embassy of Spain in Slovakia could not attend the event in person, however, Esther Martínez

Urbán, an intern of the Embassy, congratulated prof. Franek on their behalf. The second day of the Days of Hispanic Culture featured various activities. In the morning hours it was a lecture of Franciscan brother Lorenzo (Juraj Vadkerti) who was talking about his long-term missions in Bolivia; Dr. Katarzyna Szoblik from the University of Bielsko-Biala informed the students about the strategies of evangelization of the Natives of Central Mexico. Another speaker was Joaquín Támara Espot, a consusellor for education at the Embassy of Spain in Slovakia, Poland, Czech Republic, Russia, and Ukraine. In his speech called *Language and communication as a means of understanding he inspired and motivated the students to study Spanish language and at the same time he pointed at the significance of tolerance within the intercultural communication*. Other lectures followed, especially the ones related to Spanish culture and language pedagogy. On behalf of the lecturers from Nitra the lectures were delivered by Carlos Roberto Morales (Department of Romance Studies of the Faculty of Arts at the Constantine the Philosopher

*Joaquín Támara Espot, in his contribution Languages and Communication as a tool of communication, encouraged and motivated students to study Spanish, and at the same time pointed to the importance of tolerance in intercultural communication.*

students from the Secondary School of Martin Hattala in Trstená called *El señor de Pigmalión* (Mr. Pygmalion). Later the students had a chance to join a quiz for which they could get various prizes. Another event featured a projection of a film directed by Spanish director Icíar



University in Nitra) and Carlos Villaverde Bjorgvinsdottir (Párovská 1 Secondary School in Nitra). The Secondary School of Martin Hattala in Trstená was represented by Julio Ruiz Monteagudo. The afternoon featured a theatre performance of the

Bollaín called *También la lluvia* which took place at the premises of the photo gallery in Trfačka in Nitra. The film focuses on the problems of privatization of water resources in Bolivia. The program of the Days of Hispanic Culture continued also in

the evening hours with the talk in Spanish language provided by a language school Inlingua Nitra. The last day of the Days of Hispanic Culture took place at Párovská 1 Secondary School in Nitra. At the beginning of the day the students of Spanish language from the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra prepared various language workshops for the students of the secondary school. The program also continued with the series of interesting presentations about Erasmus stays in Ovieda and Madrid. The students of our university, namely Barbora Špetková, Soňa Hrubošová, and Adriana Dedíková, talked about their experiences, adventures, and struggles regarding the processing of a foreign internship. The girls were replaced by Andrés Cortés, an intern from Mexico and a student from Párovská 1 Secondary School, who introduced the guests to his motherland. Leonardo Mora, an intern of SAIA and a doctoral student from the Department of Romance Studies of the Faculty of Arts at the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, talked about a Mexican holiday called *Día de los Muertos* (the Day of the Dead). The students from secondary school had a chance to prove their skills in a quiz prepared by the second-year students from the Department of Romance Studies, led by Carlos Roberto Morales and they also had a chance to try and taste various dishes prepared by the teachers and students from our university and from the secondary school. Another part of the programme was a speech of the counsellor from the Embassy of Spain who expressed his gratitude for spreading of Spanish culture in Slovakia. Later that day the participants could enjoy an artistic performance of the students from Párovská 1 Secondary School. The students prepared recital and musical performances as well as the Spanish dance called "sevillanas". Rosario Colomina Moratal, a Spanish lecturer, introduced a castanet play and several techniques of the above-mentioned dance. The organizers of the 9th year of the Days of Hispanic Culture would like to thank the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport as well as the Embassy of Spain in Slovakia for their patronage of the event. A big thanks also belongs to our partners – Párovská 1 Secondary School in Nitra, Secondary School of Martin Hattala in Trstená, language school INLINGUA Nitra and the Photo gallery Trfačka.

Monika Brezováková, Faculty of Arts Photography: Zuzana Kormaňáková



## EXPANSION OF SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

During the academic year of 2017/2018 the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra created a system of centralised counselling in order to improve the studies and after-school activities for students.

The need of counselling for students was identified within the Long-Term Plan of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra for the years of 2007-2017. By means of the concept of consulting and service centre, elaborated in 2015 by the Vice-Rector, PhDr. Miroslava Líšková, PhD., the university initiated a process of centralisation of counselling for the students of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra.

In order to fulfil this plan the university created a team of solvers involving PhDr. Miroslava Líšková, PhD as the responsible solver and coordinator, Ing. Alojzia Kováčová, PhD. – the guarantor of the completion of the building, Mgr. Miroslav Tvrđík, PhD. – manager of the Consulting and Service Centre, doc. ThDr. Ľubomír Hlad, PhD. – specialist guarantor of the spiritual counselling, Ing. Dana Buchová – specialist guarantor of the financial consulting, doc. PaedDr. Marta Zatková, PhD. – specialist guarantor of the career and psychological counselling, doc. PaedDr. Erik Žovinec, PhD. – specialist guarantor of the special pedagogical consulting and support for the students with special education needs, PhDr. Alica Slamková, PhD. – specialist guarantor of the health counselling, JUDr. Katarína Burdová – specialist guarantor of legal counselling, PhDr. Miroslava Čerešňíková, PhD. – specialist guarantor of social counselling, Ing. Peter Vítek – investment activity correspondent I., Ing. Ľudmila Lampertová – investment activity correspondent II., Ing. Zita Tomanová – public procurement correspondent, Ing. Martina Gregušová – financial manager, Alexandra Oborčoková – project administrator, Mgr. Tímea Kamenická – Office for Public Relations and Social Affairs correspondent. The abovementioned team based its goal on the long-term cooperation with the students and their needs required by the difficulties and specifics of the study. According to the monitoring of the needs



carried out by means of questionnaires and focus groups the team proved the importance of the centralisation and improvement of counselling for students. These needs were concretised and thanks to the development project of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research, and Sport of the Slovak Republic - "Centralisation and Improvement of Counselling for Students of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra" - as the part of supporting services for students during the academic year of 2017/2018 the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra prepared a centralised system of counselling.

The counselling will be provided by the experts from the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra as well as the external experts in the following areas: spiritual counselling, financial consulting, career counselling, psychological counselling, counselling and support for the students with special education needs, health counselling, legal counselling, social counselling. In the meantime, the students can contact the counsellors by e-mail or they can send their requests for counselling, questions or suggestions on the e-mail address of Mgr. Miroslav Tvrđík, PhD. For more information about individual counsellors visit the following web page: <https://www.ukf.sk/služby-studentom/poradenske-a-servisne-centrum>.

PhDr. Miroslava Líšková, PhD.,  
Vice-Rector for Public Relations and Social Affairs at the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra,  
Mgr. Miroslav Tvrđík, PhD., Consulting and Service Centre manager,  
Mgr. Tímea Kamenická, Office for Public Relations and Social Affairs, foto: LB

## TALENTED STUDENTS

Students of the Department of Music successful in the Student Research and Professional Activity contest

Between 10<sup>th</sup> of April and 12<sup>th</sup> of April the Catholic University in Ružomberok held the 14<sup>th</sup> year of a traditional Slovak national contest Student Research and Professional Activity featuring international participants. This contest is aimed at the students of universities of pedagogical type as well as the students of third and fourth years of secondary schools ("septima" and "oktáva" of Slovak 8-year grammar schools respectively) who attend elementary schools of art. The contest featured five sections – piano play, organ play, solo vocal, chamber vocal, and piano four hands.

The students from the Department of Music at the Faculty of Education of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra belong to the group of regular participants of this contest which stands for a suitable platform of a confrontation of their artistic skills and interpretation skills, and which at the same time represents a place where the students can acquire new and notably enriching experiences.

This year only a group of five students travelled to the city of Ružomberok. Led by experienced members of the committee of an international reputation the students, facing strong competitors from Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland, were successful multiple times. Matúš Mraček won first place with his organ play in the 1st category and was awarded a special Prize of the Jury for his exceptional interpretation of "O Jesu,



all mein Leben bist du", a composition by Petr Eben. Ružena Baloghová also won first place in the 2nd category with her outstanding vocal performance. The third awarded contestant was Dominika Szabóová who won second place for her solo vocal performance in the 1st category. Although Monika Leššová, a singer, and Anna Drozdová, an organ player, were not among the awarded contestants, they presented themselves with a highly valuable artistic performance which resulted in a positive resonance among the members of the jury and the audience. We are proud that our Department of Music is represented by talented students who belong to the group of the top artistic performers at colleges and universities in Slovakia and abroad. We would also like to thank the teachers for their excellent pedagogical work and artistic leadership. Last but not least we should mention the piano accompaniment of doc. Dr. univ. Agáta Csehiová, PhD., who enriched and completed the performance of our vocalists by her interpretative contribution. We wish our students and their teachers a big amount of creative powers for their future artistic work. We firmly believe that they will represent us with their art also in the future.

Mgr. art. Marek Štrbák, PhD.,  
Faculty of Education – Department of Music  
Photography: students from the Department of Music at the Faculty of Education





# AGRO • BIO • MEDICINE

## Top research team of the Faculty of Natural Sciences: regulatory mechanisms in agrobiolology of animals and biomedicine – AnimBioMed

The essence of fundamental research of animal models in agro-bio medicine and their application is a study of biological processes at the level of molecules, cells, and organs. The knowledge of these processes as well as the possibilities of their modification are essential for improvement of indicators in the field of animal production and biomedicine. A common basic interdisciplinary and applied research has a potential to significantly improve the

basic knowledge for their use in practice. During previous two decades our team certainly proved a strong research profile in the field of biotechnology of animals, molecular and cell biology as well as structural biology supported by many cell and molecular techniques at the level of somatic cells, gametes, embryos, tissues, organs, and animals in order to specify the technological interventions into their substance at the level of basic biology.

### Who we are and what we do

The top research team consisting of prof. h.c. Dr. MVDr. Jozef Laurinčík, DrSc., prof. RNDr. Alexander Sirotkin, DrSc., prof. RNDr. Monika Martiniaková, PhD., and prof. RNDr. Radoslav Omelka, PhD., accomplished many discoveries and new and unique experimental models in order to acquire an internationally accepted results and their application within biology of farm animals. The team keeps at disposal the above-standard laboratories aimed at the cultivation of cells, maturing of oocytes and embryos in vitro, intracytoplasmic injection of sperms into oocytes (ICSI), micromanipulation of embryos and in vitro insemination, as well as the laboratories of molecular biology aimed at the screening and mapping of genome, definition of genome libraries (long range mapping), new generation sequencing, in situ DNA hybridization, and also the qualitative analysis of mRNA at the level of microar-

*In the course of the last twenty years the team has significantly contributed to the universal knowledge thanks to their many discoveries and new methods of diagnostics.*

ray chipsets. The laboratories of structural biology comprise the latest imaging technologies such as micro-CT 3D imaging and a detailed histomorphometric technologies which allow us to study various types of tissues, especially the bone tissue. The laboratories of the team are well-established within the field of cell biology, endocrinology, intercellular signalization, biochemistry of proteins, proteomics, mass spectrometry of proteins, and structural biology. The utilization of these conditions has a significant impact on a deeper understanding of cell and molecular mechanisms affecting various bio-techniques and biotechnologies of different animal species.

### International partnership

An international reputation of the team is supported by the participation of its members on a number of international scientific projects in cooperation with academically renowned universities and institutes (for example University in Copenhagen, Denmark; Friedrich-Loeffler-Institute, Germany; University of Bonn, Germany; Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich, Germany; University of Göttingen, Germany; University of Veterinary Medicine in Vienna, Austria; Medical University of Vienna, Austria; INRA, France; University of Missouri, Columbia, USA; University of Nottingham, UK; University of Dundee, UK; University of Cologne, Germany; INRE/ENSAR, France; University of Córdoba, Spain; etc.). The members of the team were also awarded with several distinguished international awards (for example Humboldt Research Award (Germany), prof. h. c. (RM), Award of Sero (USA), Award of RBI (USA), Award of Ferring Arzneimittel GmbH (Germany), Japanese Society for Animal Reproduction Award (Japan), International Society of Endocrinology Award (USA) etc.).

The results of the team have been documented in more than 700 publications most of which was published in the internationally indexed journals, and more than 250 presentations many of which were presented at the prominent international

scientific conferences and congresses. The results of the conjoint research have been summarized and published in English language in 17 books or chapters of domestic and foreign publishers (USA, Germany, Netherlands, etc.) and they are used by students of all three academic degrees around the world as a study material of such subjects as biotechnology, biotechnology of animals, molecular biology and genetics, methods of molecular biology, biomedical research, cytology and histology, microscopic anatomy of animals, immunobiology, methods of biomedical research, endocrinology, molecular endocrinology, physiology, biology of birds etc.

The members of the team are the warrantors of the subjects of Bachelor studies (Biology), Master studies (Biology), and Doctoral studies (Molecular biology) and they also supervise the procedures of habilitation and inaugural proceedings (Biology) at the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. In the course of the last twenty years the team has significantly contributed to the universal knowledge thanks to their many discoveries and new methods of diagnostics.

Before these findings from the field of biology and biotechnology of animals are applied to the systems of agricultural animal production and biomedicine, it is necessary to prove scientifically if the benefits of the biotechnology of animals compensate the possible risks. We believe that our team has the potential to continually contribute to the general knowledge of regulatory mechanisms participating on individual levels and that it will bring new findings within the field of biology, biotechnology and biomedicine of animals.

Prof. h.c. prof. Dr. MVDr. Jozef Laurinčík, DrSc.,  
Faculty of Natural Sciences – Department  
of Zoology and Anthropology  
Photography: LB



# Studying the literature of Central Europe

## Team members:

**Dr. habil. PaedDr. Žofia Bárcziová, PhD.** (1973), Currently the Dean of the Faculty of Central European Studies, expert in women's literature. During research she relies on her language skills: along with Slovak and Hungarian she is fluent in Spanish and English.

**Dr. habil. PaedDr. Krisztián Benyovszky, PhD.** (1975), Currently the Director of the Institute of Hungarian Linguistics and Literary Science, expert in semiotics and popular culture

**Dr. habil. Mgr. Zoltán Németh, PhD.** (1970), Expert in Hungarian literature and the literature of minorities

**Mgr. Gabriela Petres, PhD.** (1981) Focuses on children's literature and juvenile literature. She is a perspective scientific and research worker who, despite her young age, arouse public notice thanks to her publications. Since one of the conditions of the establishment of a top research team is that at least one of the members must not be older than 35 years of age, she complies with this condition.

**Prof. PhDr. Miloš Zelenka, DrSc.** (1961) Systematically deals with comparative studies and belongs to the group of the most renowned Central-European Slavists in the foreign context. His language competency is marvellous; he can communicate and deliver lectures in multiple languages.

**Prof. PhDr. Tibor Žilka, DrSc.** (1939) Has rich experience in scientific and research activity. His teacher was not only prof. František Miko, but partially also Jan Mukařovský, one of the most prominent figures of Czech Structuralism.

## The top research team of the Faculty of Central European Studies: Central-European Interliterary Relations



prof. PhDr.  
Tibor Žilka, DrSc.

### All members of the team

represent the literary science but in a different way. Doc. Žofia Bárcziová's main priority is women's literature, problematics of queer literature in the countries of The Visegrád region. Doc. Krisztián Benyovszky is an expert in semiotics, interpretation of popular literature, especially detective genre. Just to remind you, he is an author of one monograph about the scientific work of František Miko, published under the name Odkrytie štylistického znaku: kontexty Mikovej výrazovej teórie (Nitra, 2011, 230 p.). Doc. Zoltán Németh focuses on the interpretation of artistic texts, especially the literature of the countries of V-4 and the literature of minorities. Mgr. Gabriela Petres also has a rich history of publications although she is the youngest member of the team; she is younger than 30 years of age. The above-mentioned members of the top research team are the employees of the Institute of Hungarian Linguistics and Literary Science. Prof. Miloš Zelenka and prof. Tibor Žilka are the members of the Institute of Central European Languages and Cultures.

### In the following years

each member of the team will deal with the problematics he/she has participated on so far and which is the central point of his/her research, but with a focus on particular cooperation. We will need to coordinate the research. All members of the team come from a bilingual or multilingual environment which granted them with language skills which will be utilized during the interpretation of the fine-arts-texts. Naturally, within V-4 Slovakia has a dominant position because the research itself is carried out at the Slovak university and at the faculty the name of which bears the signs of Central-Europeanism. Slovak literature will hold a prominent place within the research. If I am required to talk about myself, I have to say, that in my case Slovak literature holds the key position. However, we always have to evaluate the works of Slovak literature within an international context, not as isolated units, as it often happens within domestic environment. The cognitive perception of the cultural identity broadens the discourse on fine-arts-texts by a post-national approach while the

reception of linguistically different literary texts widens the spectrum of interpretative skills. Slovak literature requires such cognitive perception in order to release it from regional, narrowly-understood function focused solely on domestic needs. Literary science can inspire to a certain extent, or even point out particular trends and approaches which have been domesticated within the global literature in order to add an artistic value to these literary works and to make them more attractive. One example for all: a so-called metafiction is a part of many foreign literary works, but it appears only sporadically in Slovak literature (P. Vilikovsky, rarely in D. Fulmeková). This approach, however, often influences the creation of a contemporary literary text. Theory can influence practice and we can provide some examples from the past (J. Mukařovský, M. Bakoš). The top research team can also have ambitions to do its best to call attention to new trends in contemporary literature.

### In the past

I cooperated mainly with Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan. We were dealing with postcolonialism in Central Europe, mainly its impact on culture and its deformation in the era of Stalinism and Normalisation after the invasion of the Soviet army in Czechoslovakia in 1968. Each year there was a scientific conference in Poznan; I was the member of the organizing committee and I was constantly delivering speeches. I am also a member of the editorial board of Porównania journal, indexed in SCOPUS. I systematically cooperate with Hungarian universities, mainly with the Faculty of Arts of the Pázmány Péter Catholic University where I had been giving lectures for 17 years and where, until 2009, I worked as the Director of the Institute of Slavic and Central European Studies as well as the Head of the Department of Slovakism. Our workplace maintains close partnership with Czech universities (University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice, Charles University in Prague, Palacký University Olomouc), as well as the Institute of Slavonic Studies of the Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague. My membership in the International Association for Semiotic Studies (IASS-AIS) as well as the foreign editorial boards of journals indexed in international databases (Slavia Occidentalis, Porównania) significantly contributes to the development and extending of international partnership. Here I should mention that I am an honorary member of the Hungarian Society for Semiotics.

### My work

consists of permanent observation of newer literature and film and other forms of art. At the same time I must focus my attention to scientific literature because without it there is no progress. Although the human sciences are not acclaimed to such extent they deserve, I have to add that literary science has a tradition of more than 2000 years the basics of which were laid by Aristotle in his Poetics. Additionally, I also have a positive experience: When my work Poetický slovník was published in 1987 in its second edition and load of 10,000 copies, it was sold out in a very short time. The consumer society might endanger the culture even more than the former totalitarian form of government because it deforms the taste and feel for artistic value of a literary work. I must take all of this into consideration when I am reading a book as a commodity. After reading of many books of particular focus I am able to create a certain typology; last time I did this was when I had finished reading of several books which describe a non-human form of a totalitarian system of a Soviet type. The next step is the processing of a study, but before its completion I tend to give lectures on the topic at the conferences. After that it can be published in a journal, followed by a publication in an almanac and later in an individual monograph.

### As for the methods of my work

at first place I need to mention the interpretative method which was elaborated at the very beginning of the so-called "Nitra school", dating back to the end of 1960s and the beginning of 1970s. Back then it was a new method not only within Czechoslovak context, but also within European context. The base of it was represented by a so-called expressive framework of stylistic devices, developed by prof. František Miko. At those times a new edition called O interpretácii umeleckého textu was established; If I am not mistaken up until now 26 almanacs have been published under this name. In 1970s I focused my work on exact methods and domesticated a statistical method within the research of a literary text. Forasmuch as I am a hungarologist, I had published also in Hungarian language. My book Stiliztika és statisztika (Stylistics and statistics) was published by a publisher of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Budapest in 1974 and met with positive public acceptance. The interpretative method itself enables us to do a research based also on comparative studies, that means. Comparison of several national literatures. In the context of Central Europe the research will be

heading this way. However, my greatest experiences come from lexicography, a discipline regarding editing and compiling of dictionaries. My most successful book is Poetický slovník, followed by Vademecum poetiky; since Poetický slovník was also published in Hungarian language, I have been offered a chance by one Hungarian publisher in Budapest to publish it again (Tinta Könyvkiadó).

### Categorizing the team as the top one

I will be a bit immodest when I say that since the end of 1960s I have almost permanently worked in a top scientific team. I was one of the founding members of the Cabinet of Literary Communication which, while led by prof. František Miko, elaborated a theory of the interpretation of a literary text. Later, under the leadership of prof. Anton Popovič, we have laid foundations of intertextuality within Slovak literary science, back then known as theory of metatexts. In the period of political relief our research addressed also the abroad, but the Normalisation of Gustáv Husák slowed down this progress; however, our contacts with Polish, Hungarian, and mainly Czech colleagues were still being nurtured and brought many noteworthy results. After the Velvet Revolution the top research was conducted by prof. Ľubomír Plesník under the name Civilizačno-kultúrne procesy v transformujúcej sa slovenskej spoločnosti, which was funded by state and many renowned members of the Slovak Academy of Sciences and universities outside Nitra region participated on it. Between 2003-2005 I was not only the solutionist, but also a member of an organizing committee for research of an international grant task Slovenské literatúry po roku 1989 v dialógu s Európou a so svetom. Nové javy, tendencie, perspektívy. In recent years I have mainly collaborated with Polish colleagues at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan and we also dealt with the problematics of postcolonialism in Central Europe between 1948-1989, led by prof. Bogusław Bakula. The result of this research is a bulky publication called Diskurz postkolonialny we współczesnej literaturze i kulturze Europy Środkowo-Wschodniej (Poznań 2015, 667 p.). As a member of a top research team I will continue in this work and the results I have realised so far. For now, the central point of our attention will be Central European Interliterary relations.





Dr. habil. PaedDr.  
Žofia Bárcziová, PhD.

#### Members of the top research team

work at the Faculty of Central European Studies. As for the research of literary relations of the Central European area the profile of the faculty designates us for vigorous teamwork. We are constantly feeling the urge to revise the aspects of literary scientific research, from isolated national philologies to literature and culture from the comparative point of view. By this the partial and individual research work of the team members of Czech, Hungarian, and Slovak literature is being mutually enriched and extended.

#### The circle of institutes,

we cooperate with is big and it primarily includes the departments and institutes of the universities of V4; we maintain good partnerships with the University of Warsaw, the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice, the Czech Academy of Sciences, Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest, Széchenyi István University in Győr, the University of Pannonia in Veszprém, and the Institute of Literary Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. We are also in contact with the experts from Finland (University of Jyväskylä) and Romania.

#### Behind every text

lies another text, hence reading is the essence, the base, and the permanent compass for a literary scientist. We find the answers within a dialogical confrontation with foreign texts which open to ourselves new horizons of future research. Naturally, to find the "right" and valuable texts, especially from the point of view of our priorities, is not easy and it requires

many hours spent in libraries and archives. It might happen that even studying of hundreds of pages does not help our research or it shows as a false trace. It resembles a quest and this is what fascinates me the most about this work.

#### As for the methods used,

it basically depends on the character of the investigated phenomenon. In most cases it is an interpretative approach, but on all accounts I try to employ a comparative approach as well. For several years I have dealt with poems by László Mécs, a Hungarian poet who lives in Slovakia (this was the base of my first monograph). In this case the first step was to resolve the question of authorship of the manuscripts and elaborate a critical edition of the texts. Only then I could carry out the poetical and literary-historical analysis of the poems. However, my later but still actual analyses of the literature of minorities and women's literature do not require the use of methods of textological elaboration; I am inspired mainly by the ideas of literary scientific feminism, post-colonialism, and narratology.

#### There are two research fields,

which I would like to accentuate and which are closely related: the literature of minorities and women's literature. I have been investigating and giving lectures in the Hungarian literature of minorities for years. I am particularly interested in fiction between two world wars which is a neglected period within scientific literature. My aim was to offer an attractive and up-to-date opinion on the works of some authors which have been wrongfully forgotten. I believe it is not necessary to stress the immense significance of the Hungarian-Slovak-Czech literary relations of the abovementioned period. My research and findings were summarized in a monograph *A masszázs reprezentációja* (Representation of Otherness). It was thanks to this research that I have discovered a work of a Polish author Piroška Szenes who lives and works in Banská Bystrica and which subsequently led me to the question of a linguistic-literary representation of woman's identity – a key theme of my research.

Categorizing of our team as the top one is for us a challenge to direct our research activities towards an interliterary and intercultural dialogue. It is at the same time a proof that our work so far has been correct.



Dr. habil. PaedDr.  
Krisztián Benyovszky,  
PhD.

#### I consider myself

being primarily a theorist and an interpreter of artistic texts, which means that I prefer a detailed, aesthetically punctuate analysis of a particular work of art. As for the theses of general validity and wide historical syntheses, my attitude is a bit reserved. For me the work always begins with reading; the starting point is represented by individual receptive existence of the text, followed by repeated and reflected reading which leads to a discovery of those thematic, compositional, and linguistic approaches responsible for particular qualities of an aesthetic experience. Naturally we are parallelly confronting ourselves

*All members of  
the team come  
from a bilingual  
or multilingual  
environment.*

*We are constantly  
feeling the urge to  
revise the aspects  
of literary scientific  
research.*

with notions and assessments of other experts, our own findings go through foreign filters. The final version of the text of the interpretation consequently reflects this very intimate and at the same time interpersonal optics of an attitude towards the author, the work, the genre etc. However, it is important to stress that the interpretative work never ends, it is only temporarily stopped, as if "hibernated", because we can always encounter such literary-artistic occurrence which makes us revise our own opinions. If this happens among the texts of several national literatures, the process becomes all the more interesting.

#### I combine

an interpretative and a comparative method. I have already mentioned the first one; the latter one includes several aspects and levels. Within the field of theory it denotes a synthesizing processing of findings of various national philologies. Within the field of analysis it denotes the comparison of Hungarian, Slovak, Czech, and partially Polish literary works from different points of view (thematic, poetic, semiotic, the point of view of translation studies). The output of these comparisons is represented by case studies which can become a helpful basis for comparison of such units as genre, modus, literary type, stream or period. In the course of the recent years I have extended the comparative optics towards intermediality – interartistic relations.

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Photography: LB and archive of the Faculty of Central-European Studies



Mgr.  
Gabriella Petres, PhD.

#### A common factor

of my actual and future studies is my interest in literary phenomena which are traditionally understood as peripheral: autobiographic genres, women's literature, literature for children and juvenile literature. In all three cases the key questions are the questions of identity, otherness, intimacy, and a relation of an own and a foreign. It often happens that these three areas do merge within various forms of literary scientific reflection. For their intimate character the autobiographic texts are often linked to women's writing (it is a well-known fact that in the past these genres stood for the sole possibility of literary expression and assertion of women). Women's writing is often associated with children's literature and juvenile literature. However, the validity of these stereotypes is currently being discussed. It should be enough if I remind you of the blogging sphere thanks to which intimate matters become public, how writing for children has become an equal and popular parallel production of literary works of both male and female writers, or how modern women's literature has become too diverse to be reduced to diaries, memoirs, and letters. In my research I am mainly concerned with interpretation and poetic categorization of texts of these three areas as well as the possibilities of their didactic and bibliotherapeutic application.

As for the methods used by me, the essential line is represented by poetic-genre interpretation of artistic texts complemented by approaches and methods of race studies, feminism, bibliotherapy, and transculturalism.



Dr. habil. Mgr.  
Zoltán Németh, PhD.

#### My research

of Hungarian postmodern literature prove that postmodern literature is not a homogenous phenomenon; within postmodern literature it is necessary to differentiate several significant strategies of text production. In the recent years I have also dealt with the problem of pseudonymity, an authorial mask and mystification which are represented within Hungarian, Slovak, and also Czech literature. I would also accentuate the studies in magic realism and postmodern translation strategies (published in *World Literature Studies*) which can stand for a conceptual basis of future team-research of Central European literary relations of current time.

I have extended the traditional methods of a literary comparison by approaches of network theory (László Barábási-Albert) which can help us in modelling of the often very complex interliterary and intercultural relations. The ways of use of this theory were presented in a thematic issue of *Helikon* journal, published by the Institute of Literary Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.





## Summer school of Slovak language

### Students from Beijing in China participating on Summer school of Slovak language

Between 11<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2017 the Faculty of Arts of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra hosted the first year of summer language school for students from a prestigious Beijing Foreign Studies University. In the context of history of our university it is a first original activity realized upon a bilateral agreement between Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra and Beijing Foreign Studies University in Beijing as a part of a development of Slovak-Chinese relations on a cultural-educational basis. The attendants of the language school were the students from the abovementioned university who were studying

Slovak language under guidance of PhDr. Marián Macho, PhD., member of the Department of Slovak Language at the Faculty of Arts of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, who has been working at the university in Beijing for five years. The students also completed a one-year course of Slovak language as a foreign language at Comenius University in Bratislava. For them the summer school was the apex of their research fellowship in Slovakia.

The program of the summer school was organized by prof. PaedDr. Elena Zelenická, PhD. the Director of Language Centre at the Faculty of Arts of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, and Ing. Anita Ivanková, PhD., from the International Relations and Mobility Office at the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, who provided the students with interesting program which included the introduction to culture and history of the city of Nitra and its surroundings. The members of the Language Centre at the Faculty of Arts of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Mgr. Renáta Machová, PhD. and Mgr. Martina Lukáčová, PhD., elaborated an educational part of the summer school and provided the students with lectures and seminars.

The students also participated on an official meeting with the Rector of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, prof. RNDr. Ľubomír Zelenický, CSc., as well as the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, prof. PaedDr. Bernard Garaj, CSc. Upon the conclusion of a new bilateral agreement between Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra and the Beijing Foreign

Studies University the Rector of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra presented the students with a possibility to also study at the Master's degree at the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra or to complete a practical training within their university studies.

### Language course

In the morning hours the students were learning and broadening their skills in Slovak language, literature, and cultural realia of Slovakia by means of interactive lectures. In the afternoon hours they participated on a manifold program during which they could also learn more about the city of Nitra and its surroundings. During the lectures on Slovak language and literature Mgr. Renáta Machová, PhD., provided the students with an interactive program full of Slovak language, literature and culture. As the part of realia of Slovakia the students took the role of tourist guides to virtually visit the places which are historically significant for Slovakia. "The girls have surprised me with their literally encyclopaedic knowledge about Slovakia, important persons or monuments.", said Renáta Machová. The students also prepared the very first map of Slovakia for Chinese people with captions in Chinese language. They also participated on a poetic-artistic workshop during which they learned more about Slovak poetry and the interpretation of poems. According to their own feelings and the content they linked each poem with the works of Slovak painters. They learned about Slovak folk art during "music lesson" where they were signing Slovak folk songs accompanied by accordion. They learned when and where our ancestors used Azbuka and why nowadays we use Roman characters at the gallery "Galéria na schodoch" during the exhibition of Byzantine culture in Slovakia the organizer of which is the Department of Cultural Studies of the Faculty of Arts. They also enthusiastically participated on the preparation of Slovak dishes which they also tried out.

During the lectures with Mgr. Martina Lukáčová, PhD. the students had a chance to attend a lecture and a visual presentation about St. Cyril and Methodius at the times of the Great Moravian Empire which enriched their knowledge about local history with national impact. This foreign history was presented to the students along with the lecture about historical monuments related to the tradition of St. Cyril and Methodius in Nitra and its surroundings. By means of concrete didactic aids at the workshop the students were introduced to the linguistic area with main focus on

translation, lexis, and conversation. The apex of all lectures was a discussion on the abovementioned topics and a quiz in which the students could test their skills and knowledge.

"Slovak is a precious language." – "it is a statement by one of the Chinese students. Each of the students expressed their own opinion on the given topic, but this idea, which I heard during our first meeting, got stuck in my memory. I have to admit that it was a nice moment to hear the word 'precious' in this market-controlled society because due to the number of users of Slovak language I find it worth to study and be interested in this language. This unusual relation was greatly expressed via enormous enthusiasm of the students to gain new information and also their concentration during the entire process of education. This personal experience proved to me the validity of a legendary determination, diligence, and an ongoing willpower of the students from eastern Asia.", said Martina Lukáčová.

### "Rare and precious experience"

Positive feedback of the students on the demanding week full of new information, experiences and flavours at the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra is the proof that Nitra and Slovakia have become a soft spot in their hearts. This is also proved by the following words of the participants of summer language school:

**Dorota:** "I'm glad that I participated on the summer school in Nitra. For the entire time I could feel the atmosphere of hospitality and enthusiasm in intercultural communication. I had various courses. I studied Slovak folk songs, learned about Byzantine culture in Slovakia. I was a tourist guide of famous places in Slovakia. We made a map of Slovakia with Chinese symbols. But the most memorable thing is the time spent with the teachers. I will never forget the flavour of a home-made custard and a beautiful colour of rose wine. For me, our common talks and laughter are the rare and precious experience. Hello, Nitra! I'm looking forward to seeing you soon."

**Judita:** "Every person bears a special and unique experience in his or her heart; I think the summer school in Nitra is the most important experience stored in my memory. During the summer school I have met many great teachers, I have tried traditional Slovak dishes, participated on different activities. We have met with the Rector, with the Dean, I got my information about the relations between Slovakia and China, about the possibilities of study of Slovak language in future. I have studied history of Nitra, popular monuments in Nitra, Slovak poems. I acquired practical information. Nitra is a nice and modern city; the teachers are kind and responsible. If I have a chance, I will come back to Nitra in future, I want to study and work in Nitra. I like Nitra and I'm thankful for everything."

**Klára:** "The summer school in Nitra was a big surprise for me. The program of the summer school was very interesting. The teachers are really nice. The lectures they have prepared for us was an effective aid to understand Slovakia. Besides lectures at school we also attended other events. A time well spent runs fast, but the memories remain. I'm happy to have such fantastic experiences in Nitra. Thank you all!"

**Anička:** "Although I spent a very short time in Nitra, I felt here at home! The teachers are very kind. The program they prepared for us was very dynamic and interesting. Our accommodation was modern and reminded me of a hotel. Thank you very much for this opportunity, I will definitely come back!"

This positive feedback from the students of the first year of the summer school represents a call towards the organizers to welcome other Chinese students at the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra next year. It will be one of the most important forms of partnership between both universities.

Mgr. Renáta Machová, PhD.  
Mgr. Martina Lukáčová, PhD.  
Faculty of Arts – Language Centre  
Photography: Lubo Balko

*The students also prepared the very first map of Slovakia for Chinese people with captions in Chinese language.*





# Wie geht es dir? How are you?

## Two weeks with summer Austrian-Slovak language school.

For many years the Department of German Studies at the Faculty of Arts of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra have been organizing summer activities among which is also a traditional Austrian-Slovak summer school. This year for the second time the Department of German Studies cooperated with Fachhochschule Burgenland in Eisenstadt between 9th and 22nd of July 2017. For two weeks the premises of the Faculty of Arts were filled with German and Slovak language at diverse linguistic levels. The summer school was attended by 27 students and employees from the universities and other institutions, 8 of which were from Austria and 19 from Slovakia. Among the guests from Austria there were students of Slavic studies and German studies as well as the teachers from secondary schools, a lecturer of German language, a manager working for an Austrian company with its commercial representation in Slovakia, and even an enthusiast farmer for whom the discovering of Slovakia, its culture and history through Slovak language was a genuine adventure. We are happy that the Slovak participants were as interested in German language as the previous year and that we were able to attract the students from all over Slovakia.

This year the program of the summer school was again very motley and various. Besides morning lectures, led in four groups by erudite lecturers of Slovak language (Mgr. Renáta Machová, PhD., PhDr. Marián Macho, PhD.) and German language (MMMag. Claudia Stubler and Mag. Phil. Wolfgang Zehetbauer), the participants had a chance to learn more about history and culture of Slovakia during other interesting activities. During each Austrian-Slovak summer school the organizers try to introduce the participants to new locations and sites of Slovakia. One of the enrichments of the program was a visit in Kremnica, an ancient mining town, which included a stopover at a local mint, a sight-seeing tour of Kremnica, a visit at Ostrý Grúň, where the participants of the summer school commemorated the events of 1945, and a tour at Bojnice Castle and the Trenčín Castle. Another part of the summer school was also a sight-seeing tour around the city of Nitra and Nitra Castle, a visit at Energoland in Mochovce and a traditional climb up to the Zobor hill which the students enjoyed to a maximum extent. Many participants of the summer school will never forget an attractive performance of the dancers from "Furmani" folk dance group who taught the students the basics of czardas dance. The participants of the summer school were also discovering the city of Nitra and its surroundings on their own; those from Austria could train their skills in Slovak language directly in public. They were also delighted by the church in Dražovce, a castle ruin of Gýmeš, and a Calvary hill in Nitra. Among the

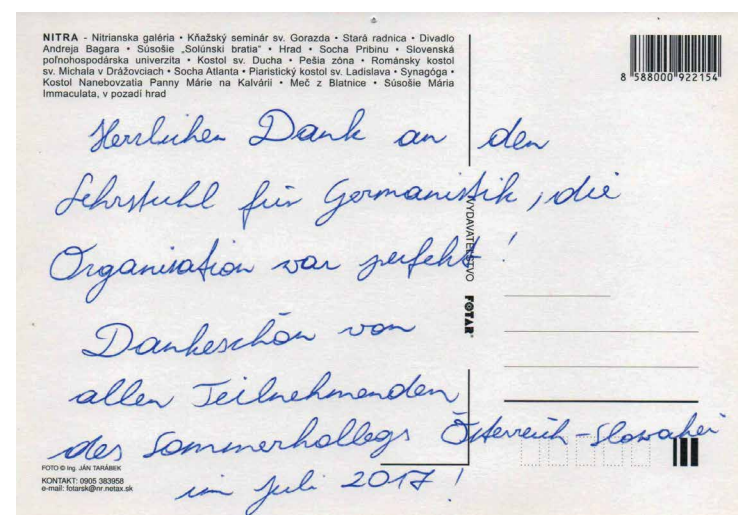
afternoon activities belonged also a visit of local public open-air pool because the temperatures during summer school were almost tropical.

Some of the Austrian participants already participated on the summer school during previous years, the proof of which were their language skills. Thanks to their spontaneity they found it easy to use their knowledge and skills in dialogues. Because of the swiftness of their speech they sometimes found themselves in comic situations such as "prajem ti šťastnú chuť" (I wish you happy taste) or "dobrú cestu" (good journey). For the Austrian students the hardest nut to crack was a declination because Slovak language has more grammatical cases than German language. To strengthen their skills in phrases there was a music workshop joined by Austrian and Slovak students, too. The seminar rooms were thus filled with melodies of popular folk songs such as "Vre-tienko mi padá" or "Sedemdesiat sukien mala". The highlight of the events was a rehearsal of a song "Peters Brünnele". Waltraud, a participant from Statzendorf, showed the attendants to sing and dance. The activity was accompanied by an accordion play by our colleague Miroslav Fedor. Among other enriching activities belonged the afternoon tandem activities such as "Spoznaj svojho suseda" (Know your neighbour) or a Quiz about Austria and Slovakia, and also lectures of Mag. Ivany Pilič (Kunstpraxis in der Migrationsgesellschaft - Transkulturelle Handlungsstrategien am Beispiel der Brunnenpassage Wien) and PhDr. Roman Trošok, CSc. (Slowakei – Der vergessene Nachbar Österreichs).

By publishing of a magazine called "Firhang auf!" the participants proved that the two weeks of the Austrian-Slovak summer school were an intense experience. The magazine is a unique mutual project of all participants which extends the knowledge of Slovakia and Austria and contributes to erasing of prejudices and clichés about the bearers of these two cultures. Here is an example from the magazine showing what the participants of the summer school learned about each other:

Truths about Slovaks learned by the Austrians during the summer school:

- Slovakia does really exist.
- Slovaks love eating meat with meat.
- Slovaks love to talk and to talk a lot.
- Slovak women are gorgeous.
- Slovaks have great and cheap beer.
- Slovaks are good teachers.
- Slovaks have invented a "Wiener coffee" of which nobody has a clue in Austria.



## For the Austrian students the hardest nut to crack was a declination because Slovak language has more grammatical cases than German language.

Fakten über ÖsterreicherInnen, die den SlowakInnen während des Sommerkollegs aufgefallen sind:

- ÖsterreicherInnen sind keine Deutschen.
- ÖsterreicherInnen sind reich, weil sie mit niemandem etwas teilen; nicht einmal einen Kaugummi.
- Österreichern gefallen slowakische Frauen, da sie die schönsten Frauen der Welt sind.
- ÖsterreicherInnen kreuzen die Straßen blind wie eine Herde Schafe, in dem Glauben, dass ohnehin jedes Auto vor dem Zebrastreifen halten wird.
- ÖsterreicherInnen tragen nicht ausschließlich Tracht und jodeln auch nicht permanent.
- ÖsterreicherInnen sind sehr motiviert, Slowakisch zu lernen und es zu verbessern.

The following statements prove the fact that the Austrians love to learn Slovak language:

*I have been learning Slovak for three years and thanks to the Austrian-Slovak summer school my skills got better. Because we were just a small group it worked pretty well. The program consisting of trips was great: from a visit at the nuclear plant to the climb up the Zobor hill, all trips were wonderful. What I enjoyed the most was the fact that after lectures we had a chance to train our speaking skills in conversation with the participants from Slovakia who helped*

*us to complete our homeworks – excellent concept! You can almost forget how difficult Slovak language is. Fortunately, there are many words derived from Austrian German which make it easier for us to learn Slovak: from a word like "kšeft" to "tringelt". (Christian, Liezen)* There was interesting question asked by one of the colleagues from the course – why do the Austrians learn Slovak. Slovakia is the nearest neighbouring country, as seen from the point of view of Austria's capital city. I think that the Viennese put little importance on this. We share common European history, culture despite the fact that after the Second World War we got separated politically for several decades. The exchange is carried out linguistically; the language makes it easier to understand the joys and sorrows of other language group. Therefore, more Austrians should learn Slovak language and utilize international relations. From the geographical point of view, both countries lie in the centre of Europe. We should use this position within the European Union both economically and culturally to achieve a more intense exchange. I think we are contributing to this. (Christian, Vienna)

*What I enjoyed the most about the summer school was a chance to speak a lot in Slovak language and to meet new friends with whom I share similar hobbies, such as learning Slovak or German. For me the most difficult word to pronounce was "netrpezlivý" (ungeduldig) (impatient), because it is not often used. The activities prepared by the organizers were well-managed and we had plenty of time to go on a trip as a small group. I really enjoyed the trip to the castle ruin of Gýmeš. (Matthias, Kottingbrunn)*

The Austrian-Slovak summer school was financially supported by "Akcia Rakúsko-Slovensko" and the Austrian Cultural Forum in Bratislava. We believe that the demand of learning Slovak and German this way will continue and that in two years we will see each other again.

PaedDr Oľga Wrede PhD.,  
An accountable organizer of the Austrian-Slovak summer school,  
Faculty of Arts – Department of German Studies,  
Mgr. Renáta Machová, PhD., Lecturer of Slovak language,  
Faculty of Arts – Language Centre  
Photography: Oľga Wrede, Renáta Machová, Michal Sviatko





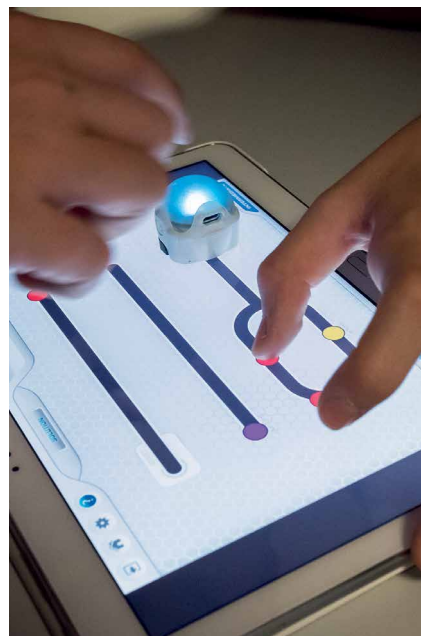
## IT ACADEMY

Science as a philosophy of life mediated through physics and computer science.

Between 21<sup>st</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of August 2017 the Department of Natural Sciences of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra organised a one week of summer camp for children called "IT Academy" aimed at the informatics and physics. Its main goal was to present science as a philosophy and motivate the children, aged 10 to 14, to study natural sciences and informatics.

The children's summer camp was a part of motivational events of a national project called "IT Academy – Education for the 21st Century and ended on 25th of August by a diploma ceremony. The aim of the project is to train young people to think within the broad relations of natural sciences and to make sure that the system produces at least a thousand of new IT experts each year.

Source: TASR  
Photography: Lubo Balko



## ENERGY AROUND US

Children discovered their abilities in running up and down the steps and learned which way of tea cooling is the most effective one.

Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> of July 2017 marked the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> year of one of the oldest Camp of Physics in Slovakia, a daily camp lasting five days called "FAJN" ("Fyzika ako ju nepoznáme" – "Physics As We Don't Know It). This unique camp, organised by a civic association "VIAC AKO UČENIE" and the Department of Physics at the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, was attended by 32 children, aged 11 to 15, from the city of Nitra and around.

Like each year, we have tried to introduce the children to physics in such way to change their opinion about it. The main idea of this year's camp was "Energy around us". During each day the chil-

dren experimented with some forms of energy. The experiments were adapted to their age and skills, but we were also trying to achieve that the findings of the experiments could be used in practical life. Children had a chance to discover their abilities in running up and down the steps or which way of tea cooling is the most effective one. Through the experiment they also learned how to choose an electric boiling kettle. Since the camp focused on energy, the children had visited a modern info-centre about energy called ENERGO-LAND near the Nuclear Plant in Mochovce. Here the children could learn more about the nuclear energy the fun way. During the camp the children learned about physics through unusual games and words to study indirectly. Besides individual

camp games the children were trying to complete a camp competition which was finished on Friday by the construction of their own made-up automobile which had to be put into motion without the use of hands. For the animators and the authors of the camp program the most satisfying thing was that during the construction of the automobile the children used the skills they gained at the camp. We would like to thank our former students – graduates, who joined us at the camp as the animators for free and thus supported our efforts in popularizing of natural sciences and physics.

PaedDr. Ľubomíra Valovičová, PhD.,  
Faculty of Natural Sciences – Department  
of Physics, Photography: Ján Ondruška



## A moment with science

Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> of July 2017, marked the end of the second year of the summer camp "FAJN – A Moment with Science", the beginning of which dates back more than ten years ago and which is organised for the students of lower-secondary school. The summer camp "FAJN – A Moment with Science" is designated for children of 7-9 years of age, i.e. the students of primary school. This year the camp was attended by 28 children of which more than a half completed a field-club in the nursery school. Our goal was not to teach children the basics of physics, but rather motivate them to learn about natural sciences the fun way. In the camp the children had a chance to discover hidden phenomena of physics through simple games. This year, in company with children, we were discovering the elements

of water, air, earth, and fire by the means of individual experimental exercises. During these exercises we were using the latest technologies which helped us with final assessment of the experiments. The activities of the camp concluded on Friday when the children had a task to invent a model of a parachute with which they would drop the egg in such way that the egg does not break. Another interesting feature of this camp is that the animators were represented by the students of grammar schools who participated on the camp in the past.

PaedDr. Ľubomíra Valovičová, PhD.,  
Faculty of Natural Sciences – Department  
of Physics, Photography: Ema Barusová







## 25th Anniversary of the Department of German Studies

The Department of German Studies and the German Academic Exchange Service celebrating twenty-five years of their existence

27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2017 marked the days of the international scientific conference “Synergies – 25 Years of German Studies and German Academic Exchange Service” held at the Faculty of Arts of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, organised by the Department of German Studies of the Faculty of Arts on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of its establishment and the existence of the lectorate of German Academic Exchange Service. The conference was attended by 37 experts in German studies from Germany, Austria, Poland, Hungary, Macedonia, Romania, Czech Republic, and Slovak Republic and almost 30 invited guests. The international conference was supported by the attendance of Dr. Joachim Bleicker, the Ambassador of the

Federal Republic of Germany in Slovakia, prof. PaedDr. Bernard Garaj, CSc., the Dean of the Faculty of Arts at the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, PhDr. Ľuboš Török, PhD., the Vice-Dean for international relations and development in Nitra, as well as the representatives of other institutions with which the Department of German Studies of the Faculty of Arts maintains a close partnership since its establishment – Dr. Thomas Stiglbrunner, the Director of the Austrian Institute in Bratislava, PhDr. Iveta Sládeková Ondrejková, assisent of the Director of Goethe Institute in Bratislava, and PhDr. Nadežda Zemaníková, PhD., the President of the Association of German Teachers and Germanists in Slovakia. In his speech, Dr. Joachim Bleicker, the German Ambassador in Slovakia, praised the achievements of the Department of German Studies in training of teachers of German language. Many of these teachers are successful also outside the profession as translators, authors of course books of German language or journalists. Dr. Bleicker also expressed his support towards all activities related to the promotion of German language and culture abroad.

In her speech, PaedDr. Olga Wrede, PhD., the Head of the Department of German Studies, focused on various forms of synergies which have been connecting the Department of German Studies to German Academic Exchange Service since its establishment in 1992. In the course of the last twenty-five years the Department consisted of seven highly qualified lecturers whose educational and out-of-school activities often went beyond their standard tasks. Thanks to their personal contribution and initiative the Department held many authorial readings, expert lectures, study tours, touring exhibitions, workshops, and film nights. Presently the Department hosts Dr. phil. Daniel Krause, a lecturer who significantly contributes to the promotion of summer languages courses in Germany and who helps the students with their application for study stays. The German Academic Exchange Service helps the Department with the financial funding of study tours for the students of German studies, as in October 2016 when with the financial support of German Academic Exchange Service 15 students of the study program “Teaching Academic Subjects – German language and literature” and the study program “Translation Studies and Interpreting – German language and culture” had a chance to spend seven remarkable days at the universities in Germany, namely in Passau, Bamberg, Bayreuth, and Mainz-Germersheim. PaedDr. In her reminiscences Olga Wrede, PhD. talked about previous years and the colleagues who helped with the establishment of the department and contributed to its development into one of the most-renowned Slovak departments of German language. She also talked about a successful single-field study of German language called “PHARE” between 1993 and 2004 as well as the long-term vivid partnership with the Department of German Linguistics in Passau within the program of German Academic Exchange Service called “Germanistic Institutional Partnerships. The outcome of this international cooperation had a form of many course and study stays of the members from both departments as well as regular conferences and publishing of books. The Department of German Studies at the Faculty of Arts of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra thus made itself visible within the environment of foreign German studies. The ceremonial opening of the conference featured not only a summary of last 25 years of the existence of the

## Plenary lectures were presented by renowned European Germanists.

Department of German Studies at the Faculty of Arts of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra from the point of view of education of the teachers of German language and the findings of scientific and publishing activity of its members, but it also critically reflected on the contemporary role of German language as a foreign language within the Central European context and the perspectives of improvement of its significance within intercultural communication. The critical assessment was excellently presented by PhDr. Roman Trošok, CSc., a founding and a long-time Head of the Department. He called attention to the decline of the number of students interested in German language as compared with the previous years. He also pointed out the generally disadvantaged position of foreign languages as compared with English language and the negative impact of the language policy in Slovakia on the education of German language on all types of schools, including universities. The plenary lectures were delivered by renowned European Germanists – prof. em. Dr. Hans-Werner Eroms (The University of Passau), Dr. phil. Monika Riedel (TU Dortmund University), and prof. PhDr. Věra Janíková, Ph.D. (Masaryk University in Brno). In 2008 our alma mater granted prof. Eroms an honorary degree of doctor honoris causa for his lifetime creative scientific and pedagogical achievements in the field of German linguistics, his significant contribution to the development of contemporary trends of modern linguistic thinking in the broad international context, and his substantial personal initiative in the growth of a long-



term partnership between Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra and the University of Passau. Dr. phil. Monika Riedler, our long-time colleague, was granted with immense acknowledgment by the attendants of the conference for her excellent lecture called “From Literature of the so-called Gastarbeiters to Post-migrant Literature. Thoughts on Literature of Immigrant Writers in Germany.” The discussions of the second day of the conference were held in three sections – linguistics, literature, and didactics. The participants of the conference were dealing with a broad spectrum of topics, such as German medievalistics, Goethe and a contemporary reception of his work, translation of literature, development of contemporary German language, new methods and trends in teaching of German language as a foreign language and the like. Since it was their first time in Nitra for many of the participants, they had a chance to discover historical sites of the city of Nitra after the conference within the tour at the Nitra Castle and Upper city part.

The success of the international scientific conference “Synergies – 25 Years of German Studies and German Academic Exchange Service” is validated by many positive feedbacks from its participants. We strongly believe that the conference was not just a commemoration of the last twenty-five years of German studies in Nitra, but it also outlined the real possibilities of its future development within the field of education and science. We much appreciate the support expressed by the official representatives of the institutes, the attendants of the conference, as well as the sponsors of the conference – Muehlbauer Technologies, s.r.o. and Industrial Cables Slovakia, s.r.o.

PaedDr. Olga Wrede, PhD.,  
Head of the Department of German Studies  
at the Faculty of Arts  
Photography: Radek Bezvoda, Jalal Al-Ali





## NAFSA 2017

Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra at the world congress of international education for the first time.

At the turn of May and June, between 29th of May and 2nd of June 2017, Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra participated for the first time on the world congress of international education NAFSA 2017 featuring an education trade fair EXPO 2017. NAFSA, which stands for the Association of International Educators (<http://www.nafsa.org>) is an international association based in Washington, DC, which associates the representatives of educational institutions from all over the world. It was established at the end of 1940s as the world's largest association of non-profit organisations with its main interest in international education. Its all-purpose mission is to support the mobilities of students and teachers. It also engages in progressive approaches which allow larger interconnection of educational institutions in the world and it creates an environment for acquisition of knowledge and skills of a global citizen as well as the environment of peaceful world for future generations. As a distinguished American association NAFSA organises the congresses and trade fairs in American centres of education, culture, and art. This year the choice fell on the renowned Convention Centre in Los Angeles, California (LACC), known for its large-scale facilities and a grandiose space, which easily cover the needs of more than ten thousand participants and more than 400 exhibitors from all over the world. Besides a vast selection of pre-conference activities held on Saturday and Sunday, for five days the LACC was offering an attractive stage for interactive workshops, educational and informational seminars, monothematic discussion forums, gatherings of experts in institutionally and regionally focused problematics of legislative processes etc. Especially significant were the presentations of the representatives of educational institutions and foundations with a long-term experience, publicly respected within the field of the exchange of students who offered an analytical and comparative view on the university studies in Europe, USA, and within a broader context also a comparison with the rest of the world. For illustration, we should mention an interactive seminar called "What is a Bachelor's Degree? European and U.S. Perspectives", during which

the representatives from Germany, Sweden, Italy, and the United States of America, were discussing the differences and similarities of the Bologna and American system of granting of Bachelor's degree; they also pointed out the differences in the philosophy and structure of university education, liberal arts in education as a natural part of the American university education and the like, with the main aim to identify the impact of these differences on a mutual exchange of students and the overall development of international relations among universities. The goals of the seminar were: 1) identify at least three key similarities and differences in education systems of individual countries with the main focus on the Bachelor's degree, 2) analyse and compare the structure and anticipated results of education, 3) assess the university curricula in general, determine the role and capacity of liberal arts and general education within these. Among socially significant and unique were the plenary lectures of renowned personalities of the social, cultural, and political life. In the auditorium, filled to the last seat, the audience was charmed by the charisma and a brisk lecture of Isabel Wilkerson, the author of bestsellers and a laureate of The New York Times prize for her contribution in journalism. Isabel Wilkerson is the first African-American author awarded with the Pulitzer Prize and the Presidential Medal of Barack Obama for humanities. Another equally significant guest of the congress was a charismatic professional basketball player Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, the most successful forward and a six-time winner of NBA, who belongs to the group of the most influential personalities of America. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar has his own column in The Washington Post and Time magazine where he comments on important and socially and politically controversial topics. Today, after 50 years of a sportsman career, an activist, and the best-selling author of The New York Times, offers his comments as a respected speaker. In 2015, his sports documentary film, awarded with Emmy prize, gained the highest viewership of the HBO production. In 2016 the former US President Barack Obama awarded him with the highest national award, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. As the part of the pre-conference activities the organisers prepared a tour around the universities of Southern California for the guests outside the USA. Ten prestigious universities exist under the heading of the University of Southern California and these offered the presentations of their faculties, their attractive internationally-oriented study programs, scientific research projects, as well as the showcase of educational and research facilities, parks, and campuses. For the first time, the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra participated on the NAFSA 2017 trade fair through the mediation of the Fulbright Commission of Slovakia. Despite objectively limited offer of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, its participation on such events is important and brings benefits for future development and strategies of our university within the field of internationalisation. At the trade fair we made new contacts, attended tens of meetings with our Erasmus partners from Europe, and we also offered many potential partners from Russia or USA our partnership. We noticed that from the general point of view Slovak universities participate on congresses and NAFSA trade fairs only occasionally, as compared with the universities from Czech Republic which were presenting at the stand called "Come to Study to Czech Republic" under the auspices of the Ministry of Education of the Czech Republic. In regards to this topic Slovak universities would welcome certain help and support. The participation on the world congress of education featuring the trade fair was informative and both socially and professionally inspirational. The video footage from the congress and the trade fair can be seen on the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ldb7GP6BH08&t=4s>.

prof. PhDr. Gabriela Miššíková, CSc.,  
Vice-Rector for International Relations  
Photography: author

## IQAT – ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECT

Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra assessing the activity in the international project "Enhancing capacities in implementation of institutional quality assurance and typology using Bologna process principles/IQAT".

In the course of the last seven year the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra had a chance to participate on a realisation of several national and international projects the main topic of which was an internal system of the assessment of education quality based on the implementation of European standards and norms (ESG). The projects brought us a unique chance to gain new knowledge and experiences. In the meantime, our university has risen from the position of a receiver of new information to the position of an expert institution which has now a lot to offer to our foreign partners.

Presently the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra is assessing its activities in the international project "Enhancing capacities in implementation of institutional quality assurance and typology using Bologna process principles/IQAT" of which the main aim was to provide help in preparation and implementation of strategies of internal assessment of education quality based on selected European standards and norms (ESG) within the environment of university institutions of two countries – Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Another equally important goal of the project was to create a space for discussion and mutual exchange of experiences from the area of an internal assessment of education quality among five university institutions from the countries of the European Union.

Several European university institutions participated on the IQAT project. The chief translator and leader of the project was the Czech University of Agriculture in Prague. Another partner of the project was the Center for Higher Education Studies in Prague, University of Alicante in Spain and University of Latvia in Riga. Slovakia was represented by the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. As the part of the project the following institutions were the receivers of help: S. Seifullin Kazakh Agro Technical University (Astana, Kazakhstan), International Educational Corporation (Almaty, Kazakhstan), Karaganda State Technical University (Karaganda, Kazakhstan), Tashkent Chemical-Technological Institute (Tashkent, Uzbekistan), Samarkand Agricultural Institute (Samarkand, Uzbekistan), Andijan State University (Andijan, Uzbekistan). The project activities were covered by two international expert teams consisting of the representatives of five previously mentioned educational institutions

of the EU which participated on the project. The first team was focusing on the help for universities from Kazakhstan and the latter one for universities from Uzbekistan. The employees from the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, namely prof. PaedDr. Alena Hašková, CSc., doc. PaedDr. Danka Lukáčová, PhD., and Mgr. Ľubica Lachká, participated on the consultation and counselling activities of the second team which was cooperating with the universities from Uzbekistan.

The aim of both international teams was to observe to what extent it is possible to implement the recommendations of the Bologna Process within the conditions of higher education environment in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. The findings of the observations showed that national legislative environment of either country does not allow the universities to deal independently with the preparation and implementation of internal systems of the assessment of education quality based on ESG because they do not operate as public institutions, but they are fully controlled by the state and national legislative. In spite of this finding the activities of the project could continue because the governments of both countries are fully focused on the implementation of the Bologna Process. The discussion of the topic of implementation of the Bologna Process on the national level in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan leads to preliminary conclusions that the transfer of this process will not be carried out in a complex way but rather partially, with the main aim to improve the conditions for internationalisation of higher education.

Both countries host the teams of Bologna experts who stand for the advisory body of the President and the Minister of Education. One of their tasks is to secure the communication about the implementation of the Bologna Process with the representatives of the universities and to identify the appropriateness of the transfer of the instruments of this process within the conditions of individual universities. The implementation of internal systems of assessment of education quality based on ESG belongs to the topics the governments of both countries pay interest to and they consider the transfer of these instruments into practice to be inevitable. The main findings of the project are represented by six self-evaluation reports elaborated by each partnership institution in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan in cooperation with expert international teams. Within these reports particular areas of education, chosen by individual partnership universities as those suitable for implementation of internal systems of the assessment of education quality based on ESG, were identified and these will be tested in practice for the first time. Another result of the project is represented by the drafts of internal strategic documents defining the strategies within the area of internal assessment of education quality as well as the subject matter, processes, and instruments inevitable for their implementation. These were being prepared during the consultation visits of the international expert teams directly at the premises of the partnership universities based on the self-evaluation reports.

The project also paid attention to the creation of the communication channel for the purposes of exchange of experiences within the field of internal assessment of education quality based on the implementation of European standards and norms (ESG) as well as the distribution of information about the results among the relevant specialists. For this purpose two conferences were held in June 2017 – one in Prague, the other in Astana. The final specialist activity was represented by a conference in Tashkent which took place between 5th and 7th of September 2017.

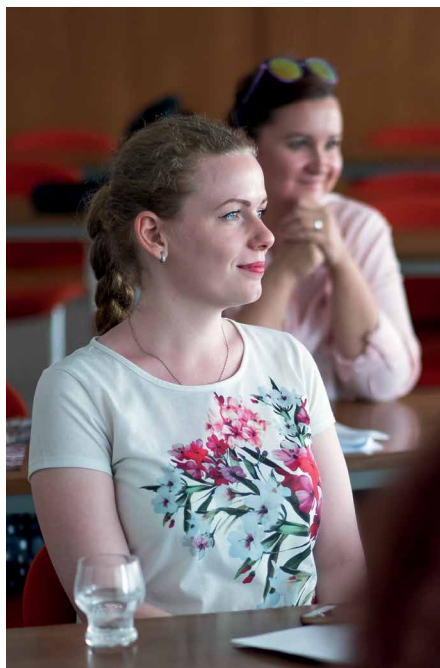
Mgr. Ľubica Lachká,  
Office for Development, Informatisation  
and Marketing Communication





## STAFF WEEK

First International Erasmus+ Staff Training Week successfully completed.

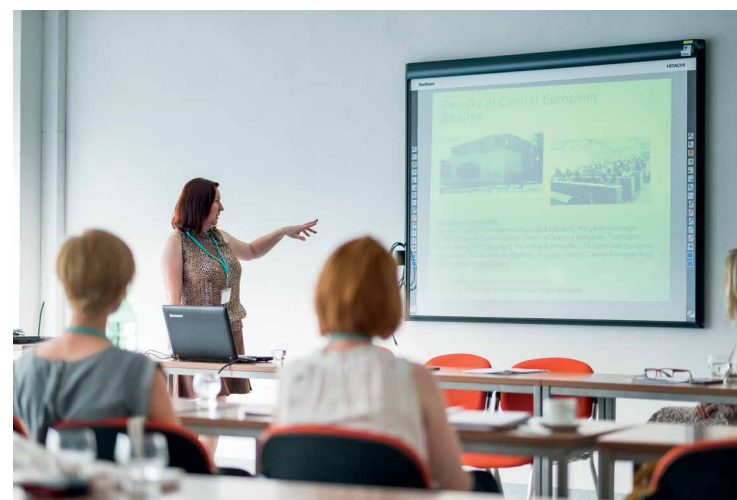


During the days between 12<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2017 the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra hosted the attendees of the first international Erasmus+ Staff Training Week aimed at the coordinators of the Erasmus program and also other employees working especially at the partnership universities abroad. The event of Staff Week called "Connected via Erasmus/Quantity vs Quality of Mobility" was attended by eleven colleagues from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan (Poland), Universitat de Valencia (Spain), Jagellonian University in Cracow (Poland), University of Bielsko-Biala (Poland), Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem (Czech Republic), as well as other universities with which our university has not collaborated so far – SMK – University of Applied Social Sciences (Lithuania), Adana Science and Technology University (Turkey) or z N. I. Lobachevsky State University of Nizhny Novgorod (Russian Federation). The participants were mostly the Erasmus coordinators at the rectorate or faculty level as well as the coordinators responsible for the administration of foreign students, and the internship and international projects management.

The introductory presentations of individual participants were very interesting and provided us with cross-sectional information about their university and its activities with the main aim to introduce us to their work and experiences in Erasmus+ and to attract the attention of their colleagues, discuss the possible partnership and motivate them in the exchange of students and employees. For our colleagues from abroad we had prepared three presentations: first one outlined the mission and focus of the Constantine the Philosopher University and its faculties, the offer of the study programs taught also in foreign language, and the activities of the international partnership; the second one focused on the implementation of Erasmus program and the development of mobilities at the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, aspects of the quality and acceptance of student mobilities within the action KA103; the third one provided our foreign guests with the valuable information about the management of the Erasmus+ action KA107 project, including our actual experiences and recommendations within the management of this project. Many of

*The Staff Week, however, was more than just a presentation of what our university offers. Foreign students and colleagues coming to Nitra should also become acquainted with the wider environment of our university and integrate to the maximum extent and we help them to make it feasible.*

the participants have long-term experiences in the management of European mobilities within Erasmus+ program and its predecessors; a heart-warming fact was that, similarly to the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, three of the



universities have already initiated a partnership also within the abovementioned Erasmus+ KA107 action – collaboration with the countries outside the European Union and the European Economic Community. Thus, we could consult our experiences and suggestions also within this field. The participants were also interested in the presentations of the representatives of all our faculties and their achievements within the management of Erasmus projects and they were positively surprised by the number and scope of the projects solved by our departments and workplaces. The last day of the Staff Week was enriched by the presentation of our students from the ESN UKF section, which is a volunteer student organisation of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. Although our section is not big, and the number of foreign students is not satisfactory, the section has achieved a recognition on the international level



of ESN, and even the colleagues from abroad had a chance to witness the wide scope of the activities within the relation towards foreign students. Since there is a saying "A picture paints a thousand words", the official program of the Staff Week featured the tour around some of the facilities and workplaces of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra (Student Dormitory of the Constantine the Philosopher in Nitra, Media Centre of the Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Education and the University Library of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra) and a joint dinner with the participants.

However, Staff Week was more than a presentation of the offer and activities of our university. The foreign students and colleagues coming to Nitra need to learn more about the surroundings of our university and integrate themselves into the environment to a maximum extent with which we can help them at all times. The first contact with our country and its language provided the participants with a brief course on Slovak language by the Language Centre at the Faculty of Arts of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, the facility which teaches the coming Erasmus students the basics of Slovak language each semester. Their stay in Nitra was enriched by two "packs of adventures" – "Discovering the Legends of Nitra" (the sightseeing tour of historical sites of the city of Nitra featuring the tasting of coffee) and "Journey Across the Sacral Heritage" (a visit at the Monastery in Sv. Beňadik featuring the tasting of traditional mead in Nitra).

We are happy that we had a chance to organise our first Erasmus+ Staff Training Week on the occasion of the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Erasmus+ program. The aim of this week full interesting discussions was to strengthen the international partnership with our partners and to create a platform for mutual meetings and the exchange of the know-how, which, as we believe, is the goal we reached.

Ing. Katarína Butorová, PhD.,  
International Relations and Mobility Office  
Photography: Lubo Balko



## THE MEDAL FOR SAVING LIFE

On 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2017 the Slovak Red Cross awarded three people, among whom was also Jakub Medved', a student from the Department of Clinical Disciplines and Urgent Medicine at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, with the medals for saving life. The volunteers and employees of the Slovak Red Cross were accepted by the President of the Slovak Republic, Mr. Andrej Kiska, who thanked them personally and on behalf of the citizens of Slovak republic for years and hours of unselfish work, for the sacrifice of their free time, and also for their personal dedication. "The fact that there are people like you, people who are willing to think of

others, people who do not focus on their own good, makes our beautiful Slovakia even more beautiful.", said the President. The student Jakub was awarded along with his friend from Detva, Mr. Martin Ďurica.

When they found themselves in a dramatic situation, witnessing a car accident, they did not hesitate and provided a first aid to a man clinched in a car.  
Source: [www.prezident.sk](http://www.prezident.sk), [www.nasziar.sme.sk](http://www.nasziar.sme.sk)



## Acknowledgments for the Department of Geography and Regional Development

During the last week of August three of the members of the Department of Geography and Regional Development from the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, namely prof. Boltižiar, dr. Vojtek, and dr. Vojteková, participated on the 5th year of the international conference SGEM 2017 – International Multidisciplinary Scientific GeoConference in Albena, Bulgaria, where they were presenting the findings of the research project VEGA 1/0934/17 "Land-use changes of Slovak cultural landscape over the past

250 years and prediction of its further development" (responsible solver prof. Boltižiar). During the talks which lasted 10 days almost 400 speakers delivered their speeches within six sections. Almost 1200 authors published their works in peer-reviewed conference almanacs which are expected to be indexed in the Web of Science database.

During the closing ceremony two crystal plaques and "Best speaker" certificates were awarded to the members of our university by the scientific board for

their presentation of the findings of their research. Among the awarded were prof. PhDr. RNDr. Martin Boltižiar, PhD. for his speech on the changes of the cultural landscape of Slovakia, and Mgr. Matej Vojtek, PhD., for his speech on the changes of stability of landscape exemplified on the watershed of Radiša water-course. Both speeches were the part of the section called "Land-use and development".

The conference was of a high-quality organisation-wise and also scientifically. It was supported by globally renowned organisations or publishing houses such as Elsevier, Thomson Reuters, Scopus, Springer, ISI Web of Knowledge, ProQuest and the like.

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Photography: archive of the Department of Geography and Regional Development

## Unique achievement for the journal "Konštantínove listy"

Nitra achieved a unique success – within a worldwide SCOPUS database it was ranked in the 1 quartil among the top-level journals. Another great success, not only for the journal but the entire Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, is the fact that within the SCOPUS database the journal, with Scimago Journal Rank indicator of 0,547 and H-index =4 achieved the first place within the indexed journals from Slovakia of this database.

The main aim of the journal, since 2008 published by the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, is to present a problematics and topics related to cultural and political history of Great Moravia of the 9th century, as well as the continuity of the Cyril-Methodius' tradition in the later periods. The journal also offers a space for other related topics regarding Slavic and Byzantine history, philology, philosophy, literature, cultural relations, as well as the history of church and iconography of Middle Ages and Early Modern Period.

We would like to congratulate the Editor-in-Chief of the journal, doc. PhDr. Peter Ivanič, PhD., as well as the members of the Editorial Board and their colleagues, among which are doc. PhDr. Martin Hetényi, PhD., doc. PhDr. Ing. Miroslav Glejtek, PhD., Mgr. Martin Husár, PhD., PhDr. Mária Kiššová, PhD., Mgr. Martina Lukáčová, PhD., Mgr. Patrik Petráš, PhD., prof. ThDr. Ján Zozufak, PhD., or doc. PhDr. Michal Valčo, PhD. We believe that the members of the journal will be successful in maintaining the quality of the scientific and professional character of the journal. At the same time we wish the best of luck for them to achieve similar result after the indexing in another worldwide database, Web of Science.

Ing. Peter Kružlík,  
Mgr. Eugen Trajtel,  
University Library of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra  
Illustrational photography:  
[www.constantineletters.ukf.sk](http://www.constantineletters.ukf.sk)

An international scientific journal "Konštantínove listy" (Constantine's letters) of the Institute for Research of Constantine and Methodius' Cultural Heritage of the Faculty of Arts at the Constantine the Philosopher University in

## ORDER OF MERIT OF THE REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY

On 22<sup>nd</sup> of August 2017 prof. Tibor Žilka, an outstanding personality and a university professor, was presented with another significant award. For many this was a usual day, but for those who were being given the award it was a unique moment at the Embassy in Bratislava where a ceremony of presenting of Hungarian state decorations, adjudged by the President of Hungary, Mr. János Áder, took place. The awards were handed by Tibor Pető, an Ambassador of Hungary in Bratislava, who stressed the following in his speech: "The awards are given to those who work for our nation. However, the acknowledgment walks hand in hand with responsibility." The Hungarian Order of Merit was awarded to Tibor Žilka – university professor and a literary scientist; and Gyula Bárdos - politician and President of Cse-madok. Hungarian Gold Cross of Merit was awarded to Gabriella Jarábik – founder and Director of the Museum of Hungarian Culture in Slovakia; and Mária Jókai – pedagogue and ethnologist. At the present time Tibor Žilka works as a professor at the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Faculty of Central European Studies as the part of the Institute of Central European Languages and Cultures. Poetický slovník, written by prof. Tibor Žilka and published also in Hungarian language, has served many teachers and

scientists for many years as the basics of literary theory. Prof. Žilka was also praised for his scientific and pedagogic activity and work within the Hungarian higher education in Slovakia. His scientific and pedagogic engagement resulted in organising and participation on cultural events and conferences of international impact, organising of lectures at several European universities, as well as

the covering of professional growth of the members of individual workplaces. We would like to congratulate all those awarded, especially our professor Tibor Žilka who stands for an everlasting inspirational figure.

Mgr. Monika Nozdrovická  
Faculty of Central European Studies – Institute of Central European Languages and Cultures,  
Photography: courtesy of hirek.sk and ujsz.com







## INTERNATIONAL MEETING WEEK

**CAN Syndrome – syndrome of Child Abuse and Neglect in the European context.**



The days between 24<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2017 marked the days of the second year of International Meeting Week, this time in Zagreb, Croatia. The main topic of the international week was "CAN Syndrome – Syndrome of Child Abuse and Neglect in the European Context" with particular focus on child sexual abuse and neglect. The international week was attended by the students and teachers from the Department of Social Work and Social Sciences at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. This year the students of the abovementioned department had a chance to meet many foreign students from the universities such as University College Leuven-Limburg (hereinafter UCLL), The University College Odisee Brussel, Hogeschool InHolland Rotterdam, Kazimierz Pulaski University of Technology

and Humanities Radom and a hosting University of Zagreb, Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences. Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra was represented by prof. PhDr. Martina Mojtoová, PhD., PhDr. Elena Gažíková, PhD., Mgr. Nikoleta Fellnerová, Bc. Vesna Tomašik, and Bc. Nina Jašeková. The program of this year's international week was appealing. First day was aimed at the recognition of individual countries and the introduction of the universities and countries the students came from. Professor Irma Kovčo Vukadin delivered a speech called "Child abuse and neglect: global and regional (European) perspectives". The students were divided into so-called international groups (each group consisted of a student from a foreign country) and the students worked within these for the entire week. Their first task was to compare the definitions, legislations, methodology, social services, and research in the field of CAN problematics. The following day was opened by Raf Sondervorst from Belgium who delivered a speech called "The Pyramid of Prevention" in which he described in detail the application and implementation of practical aspects of the pyramid of prevention in case of an abused child. Another contribution was represented by the students from Odisee and UCLL and their speech called "How to prepare a workshop". Each international group had a task to elaborate their own workshop for various target groups which they then presented to other participants. Even this year it was not all just about theory. For better understanding of the topic the students within the international groups had a chance to visit organisations such as the Ombudsman for Children's Office, a non-profit organisation Brave Phone, Social Security Centre, and Police of Zagreb where they were presented the proceedings of police within particular examples. Besides the work program we all learned about the

individual countries, for examples by the means of the so-called "International buffet" where each team contributed with dishes typical for their country. The program of the international week was intense and full of information which the teachers and students brought back to their countries. Next year the international week will be organised by the Department of Social Work and Social Sciences at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. This will be a unique chance to meet new people and gain new experiences. We are looking forward to seeing you!

Mgr. Nikoleta Fellnerová, Prof. PhDr. Martina Mojtoová, PhD.,  
Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care  
Photography: authors

## THE HERITAGE OF CYRIL AND METHODIUS

*Nitra, dear Nitra! You were the seat of King Svätopluk, when his mighty hand was there. You were the holy city of Method, when he preached the Word of God here*

**Slovenské spevy published in Turčiansky Svätý Martin in 1883**

Nitra, dear Nitra, as in the previous years even this year you are still the home for many people who are coming to you with gratitude in their hearts to commemorate in silence the legacy of St. Cyril and Methodius. Believers and non-believers, young and old. It does not matter. They are coming to you to find the good and happiness. 3<sup>rd</sup> of July 2017 marked the day of the scientific conference "The heritage of Cyril and Methodius" held in the Great Hall of the Ponitrianske Museum in Nitra under the auspices of the President of Nitra Self-governing Region, Mr. Milan Belica. The organisers of the conference were represented by the Roman-Catholic Church and Diocese of Nitra, Ponitrianske Museum in Nitra and also Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. The conference featured many inspirational speeches which commemorated the arrival of the "Solun Brothers" to our grounds and their cultural and the legacy of their Christianisation. The conference was opened by Jozef Dvonč, the Mayor of the city of Nitra, and Milan Belica, the President of Nitra Self-governing Region, and moderated by Tibor Ujlacký (Chief Desk Officer for the Construction of Cyril and Methodius' Path), Anton Števkó (Director of Ponitrianske Museum in Nitra), and Dominika Tekeliová (Member of the City Council and Assistant at the Institute of Central European Languages and Cultures at the Faculty of Central European Studies of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra). The conference was attended also by the Rector of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Mr. Ľubomír Zelenický.

The first speech was delivered by Miroslav Lyko from the Department of Religious Studies at the Faculty of Arts of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra in which he was dealing with the Supertemporality of the Mission of St. Constantine-Cyril and Methodius in the light of the encyclic of Slavorum apostolic



(Theological reflection). This speech was followed by the speech of Peter Kondrla from the Department of Religious Studies at the Faculty of Arts of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra and Pavle Kocev from Republic of Macedonia. Their topic was Kliment Ochridský the Continuator of Cyril and Methodius' Mission in Balkan. The conference was also attended by the employees of the Faculty of Central European Studies of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, namely from the Institute of Central European Languages and Cultures and one member of the Institute of the Education of Teachers. Another speech focused on Constantine's Proglas in Contemporary Translations delivered by Dominika Tekeliová from the Faculty of Central European Studies of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. After these speeches which provided us with the information about the spiritual and cultural legacy of St. Cyril and Methodius there was a lecture called Castle Complex – Interpretation of Cultural Landmarks delivered by Eva Lehotáková from the Faculty of Central European

Studies the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. We also had a chance to learn more about the contribution of St. Cyril and Methodius' mission in Great Moravia through the prism of literature and television. Jan Gallik from the Faculty of Central European Studies of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra focused on the Cyril and Methodius' Thematics of Slovak Literature for Children and Juvenile Literature. The film production was introduced by Štefan Timko from the Faculty of Central European Studies of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra by his speech Reflection on Life and Work of Cyril and Methodius in Television. The final speech, delivered by Ľubor Matejko from the Faculty of Arts of the Comenius University in Bratislava, was dealing with acrostics and was called Liturgical Poetry of Cyril and Methodius' Literary School. The conference was closed by the words of Dominika Tekeliová: "St. Cyril and Methodius are rightfully considered the source of culture and religiousness, they are symbols of pride of Slovaks of the glorious cultural past. The contribution of their mission toughened especially during the harsh times of unfavourable period of Slovak nation, in the times of political oppression or in the times lacking the religious freedom. The significance of the mission of Solun Brothers was recognised also by John Paul II. when they were declared as the co-patrons of Europe. This inspirational event proves that their tradition and ideals are still valid these days."

Mgr. Monika Nozdrovická,  
Faculty of Central European Studies – Institute of Central  
European Languages and Cultures  
Photography: author



# ESKALATOR

Students from the Department of Mass Media and Advertising one step further thanks to Eskalator project.



It is a well-known fact that when students meet other people from practice, it is always inspirational. Student project "Eskalator" which has completed another chain of successful is one of the ways how to gain advices, new esprit, and impulse for further development.

Each Tuesday during the spring semester the Department of Mass Media and Advertising was filled with the atmosphere of creativity, advertising, and practice skills, all this thanks to the project "Eskalator", which was launched in 2012 with the main aim to bring practical approach to the academic premises. A small group of students from various grades addressed several interesting and skilled guests, creative personalities from advertising agencies, and also from media. Modern facilities of the entrance hall on Dražovská street were always filled to the last seat (or blanket). New series of "Eskalator" lectures was launched by a pair of speakers, former graduates of the Department of Mass Media and Advertising, namely Michal Moravec and Viki Babjaková, then working as art directors of an advertising agency Istropolitana Ogilvy. Following the slogan of "Eskalator", the organisers and the audience were again one step further. They were the first ones who heard the news from the field – the shift of Michal Moravec from the position of an agent to a position of a client. The students were provided with the first experiences of Michal Moravec and Viki Babjaková, who also offered tips and tricks how to get from the Constantine the Philosopher University to the agency. Among other guests from

the agency was also Miška Kertészová, a present-time moderator of TV Markíza's morning show "Teleráno" and radio "Európa 2". Besides this she also worked in Funrádio and her PR skills helped the Škantár cousins to step out of the shadows. This tiny woman with folklore spirit, a ribbon in her hair and positive energy brought a vast number of positive feedbacks and caused the audience to ask many questions. One of the reasons for this was that she was able to compare the worlds of marketing and mass media. The lecture of Martin Luther was quite another cup of tea who delivered a speech with distinctive name "Social evanjelium podľa Luthera" (Social Gospel by Luther), who destroyed a myth claiming that a daily work of a social media brand manager is to browse Facebook. He also attracted the audience by introducing them to his daily work regime in the agency Triad Advertising. The new series was concluded in a big style. The name of Kamil Aujesky definitely rings a bell to people who work in the area of advertising and marketing – he is an online marketer with a successful



↑↑ Kamil Aujesky  
 ✎ The pleasant atmosphere of the Eskalator Evening in an abundant audience  
 ↑ Organizational team with Miška Kertészová

YouTube show called "Marketing Backstage", an online advertising coordinator for Orange, a blogger, a certified coach for Google, and also an organiser of Digital Thursdays. The organisers received positive and kind feedback from the students and also from the guest speakers, both personally and on Facebook or Instagram fan page of "Eskalator". The above-mentioned Kamil Aujesky posted on his Instagram: "I find it cool that students organise their own little event in the corridor." Eskalator prove that a quality project can be organised even with zero budget. Initiative and enthusiasm is all it takes – then everything is possible. Although the team will lose its two main organisers, "Eskalator" will continue with strong team also during the winter semester. It already features a big name, so hop on the "Eskalator" and be one step further.

Bc. Veronika Szabóová,  
 Eskalator organising team  
 Photography: Izabela Chmúrová



## National Quality Award of the Slovak Republic for the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra

Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra (UKF) was awarded the National Quality Award of the Slovak Republic as the part of the 18th year of national competition in category C (public sector organisations).

Upon the inspection of the self-evaluating report of the university elaborated in accordance with the CAF model and the on-site observation of the situation by the CAF auditors (between July and September 2017), the team of reviewers and the national examining committee decided to grant this prestigious award to our university during the meeting on 5th of October 2017 in Bratislava. The National Quality Award of the Slovak Republic is announced by the Slovak Office of Standards, Metrology and Testing as a coordinator of the national quality policy. The competition is the only one of its kind providing the organisations of the business sector and public administration with the chance to accentuate their strongpoints, evaluate themselves according to the criteria accepted in Europe, confirm their uniqueness, and pronounce innovative managerial approaches within the area of quality.

The award was accepted by the Rector of the university, prof. RNDr. Ľubomír Zelenický, CSc., along with the guarantor of the CAF UKF and Vice-Rector for Lifelong Learning Education, doc. PaedDr. Marcela Verešová, PhD. on 20th of November 2017. The award was personally granted by Pavol Pavlis, President of the Slovak Office of Standards, Metrology and Testing, during the ceremony of announcing the results of the NCSRK 2017 competition in Hotel Bôrik (Bratislava). This prestigious award symbolises the acknowledgment of the quality work of all employees and sections of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra and at the same time it helps to strengthen the position of the university within a strong competition of Slovak universities. It also increases the credibility of the university from the point view of international benchmark. The mission of the National Quality Award of the Slovak Republic is rigorous and objective examination of the effectivity of all activities of an organisation according to the clearly defined criteria of the quality model. Besides the assurance of quality the competition equally aims at economic and social sphere so as to create the conditions for a long-term prosperity and competitiveness of an organisation.

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 Photography: Pavol Vakoš





## Young Translator for the fifth time

The organisers of the contest “Young Translator”, Dr. Soňa Hodáková and Dr. Katarína Welnitzová from the Department of Translation Studies at the Faculty of Arts of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, provided the students of grammar schools with a chance to try and work as a translator.

Along with doctoral students they organised the fifth year of this popular contest, this year reaching not only the students from the Nitra region, but also those from the region of Trnava. Students of grammar schools could join the contest in Spanish, French, Russian, German, English, and also Slovak language. A new feature of this contest was an attractive category of making subtitles from English which immediately gained its fans. As in the previous years, this year the contest counted a record-setting number of active participants: we had received 305 translations from 20 participating schools (for comparison: first year featured 24 students from 8 schools, second year it was 76 students from 12 schools, third year we had almost 100 students from 13 schools, fourth year featured 172 students from 14 schools). Each year the contest grows in numbers and also in quality. Members of individual juries agreed univocally that the quality of submitted translations grows by each year; the translations of the students prove that they think critically and offer the readers interesting translation solutions. The main theme of this year's contest was Tolerance: social, political, tolerance in opinion and among races, tolerance towards otherness, and tolerance as a form of respect towards a partner in communication. These forms of tolerance were found in short stories and texts required to be translated. The students were translating at home or at school they could employ consultations, dictionaries, encyclopaedias, and parallel texts just like professional translators. The translated texts were subsequently sent to the address of MP where they were assessed. This year's contest evaluation took place on 10th of November 2017 in the Aula Magna of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. The ceremony was opened by the Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Arts at the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra and a member of the Department of Translation Studies, namely PhDr. Ľuboš Török, PhD., and the Head of the Department of Translation Stud-

ies, Mgr. Emília Perez, PhD. Other members of the department, along with Dr. Perez, namely Dr. Zahorák and Mgr. Absolon, introduced the students to their work – a work of a professional subtitle editor, a translator of fiction, and a top manager of translating agency – and thus pointed out job possibilities for the graduates of translation studies. The committees consisting of experts such as Dr. Ľuboš Török (Spanish language), Dr. Lenka Michelčíková (French language), Dr. Andrej Zahorák (Russian language), Dr. Soňa Hodáková (German language), Dr. Katarína Welnitz (English language), and Dr. Emília Perez (subtitling from English) announced the following results of the contest: For Spanish language there was no first place, the winner of the second place was Jana Horňáková from Golianova Grammar School in Nitra, the winner of the third place was Terézia Šuppová, Párovská Grammar School in Nitra. For French language the winners of the first, second, and third place were Timotej Józsa from Grammar school in Šafa, Petra Harišová from Grammar school in Nové Zámky, and Eva Frtúsová from Grammar school of St. Vincent de Paul in Levice respectively. For Russian language the winners were Matúš Haulík from Grammar school in Nové Zámky, Júlia Chvojková from Saratovská Grammar school in Levice, and Zuzana Budayová from Juraj Fándly

*The Young Translator contest is very popular among the students of grammar schools and their teachers.*



Grammar school in Šafa. For German language the winners were Radka Meňušová from Grammar school in Vráble, Tereza Poláčková from Golianova Grammar school in Nitra, and Šimon Krošlák from Grammar school in Topoľčany (17 November St.). For English language the winners were Alžbeta Mikušová from St. Cyril and Methodius Grammar school in Nitra, Martin Stanko from Grammar school in Nové Zámky, and Katarína Vnuková from Juraj Fándly Grammar school in Šafa. Due to great interest in translations from English language the committee announced also the following winners: Miriam Krivosudská from Andrej Vrábel Grammar school in Levice, Andrea Annie Kubiňanová from Golianova Grammar school in Nitra, Peter Vaško from Piaristické gymnázium sv. Jozefa Kalazanského in Nitra, Magdaléna Zimmermannová from Gymnázium ul. 17. novembra in Topoľčany, Lucia Gašparovičová from St. Cyril and Methodius Grammar school in Nitra, Lucia Gálová from Golianova Grammar school in Nitra, Natália Gogolová from Golianova Grammar school in Nitra, Radka Hanková Gymnázium ul. 17. novembra in Topoľčany, Janka Hroššová from St. Cyril and Methodius Grammar school in Nitra, and Vanesa Packová from Juraj Fándly Grammar school in Šafa. In the category of subtitling from English the winners of the first three places were: Renáta

Grúnerová from Obchodná akadémia in Zlaté Moravce, Lívia Furdová from J. Kráľ Grammar school in Zlaté Moravce, and Katarína Jurdová from St. Cyril and Methodius Grammar school in Nitra. The Jury Award was granted to: Simona Bieliková from Obchodná akadémia Zlaté Moravce, Viktória Depešová from Piaristické gymnázium sv. Jozefa Kalazanského in Nitra, and Johana Rajnohová from St. Cyril and Methodius Grammar school in Nitra. A complete list of results and the schools participating on this year's “Young Translator” contest can be found on the following link: <https://www.ukf.sk/1767-mlady-prekladatel-uz-piatykrat>. The “Young Translator” contest is very popular among the students of grammar schools and their teachers; the Department of Translation Studies has been cooperating with many grammar schools and secondary schools since the beginning of the project. Maybe thanks to its creative part the “Young Translator” contest is more attractive to the students than other common language contests and olympiads aimed at given target group. Our many thanks belong to the students and teachers for their interest in the contest, enthusiasm, and personal participation at the results ceremony. We believe that we will see each other also next year.

At the end we would like to share with you a feedback from the contest:  
*Let me express my gratitude to you and your colleagues, and the students from the Department of Translation Studies who have participated on the glorious and noble results ceremony of the “Young Translator 2017” contest. You are doing a very praiseworthy and rewarding job for our students of secondary and grammar schools. Your department is one of few departments of all universities which cooperate with secondary and grammar schools. I really appreciate your enthusiasm in the contest and I thank you. You have created a kind and friendly atmosphere with sophisticated talks with your colleagues. For our students these talks were inspiring and motivating. You have opened up the possibilities of how to work with a text written in foreign language and translation in their potential future professional life.*

*Erika Juríková, teacher from Obchodná akadémia in Šurany*

Mgr. Katarína Welnitz, PhD.,  
Faculty of Arts – Department of Translation Studies  
Photography: Radek Bezvoda





# KLIŠ ACTIVITIES

Department of Language Pedagogy and Intercultural Studies (KLIŠ) celebrating 20th anniversary of its establishment.

The department was established in 1997 as the Department of foreign languages. Its aim was to ensure the training of qualified teachers of English language and literature for all types and levels of educations as well as to expand the professional education of teachers of elementary education (primary school) by adequate tuition in language pedagogy in the field of foreign languages. In 2009 the department changed its name to Department of Language Pedagogy and

Intercultural Studies and expanded its field of education and research by the problematics of intercultural communication. The department gained accreditation for Bachelor's and Master's degree programs: teaching of English language and literature in combination and a non-teaching program of English language and culture. The department also has the rights to ensure doctoral study program Language pedagogy of English language and literature. Among the achievements of the depart-

ment we should mention the fact that the Faculty of Education of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra was entitled the rights to realise habilitation and denomination of professors in the field 1.1.10 Field language pedagogy with focus on language pedagogy of English language and literature. On the occasion of the anniversary we would like to list a number of the most interesting activities of the department of the winter semester 2017/2018:

## Lifelines and Life Skills: ELT for the Real World

On the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its establishment the Department of Language Pedagogy and Intercultural Studies hosted the third year of international conference in cooperation with the Slovak Chamber of Teachers (SKA) called "Lifelines and Life Skills: ELT for the Real World" which took place between 22nd and 23rd of September 2017 within the premises of the Faculty of Education of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. The conference, held under the auspices of the President of the Slovak Republic, Mr. Andrej Kiska, was opened

by the speech of the Dean of the Faculty of Education, prof. PhDr. Eva Szórádová, CSc., Head of the Department of Language Pedagogy and Intercultural Studies, doc. PhDr. Božena Horváthová, PhD., and the President of the Slovak Chamber of English Teachers, Linda M. Steyne, PhD. The two-day conference was formally divided into plenary lectures and workshops. The plenary lectures were provided by experts from universities in Birmingham, Leeds, Budapest, and Vienna. The workshops were administered by skilled teachers with rich and a long-term experience in the field of teaching of English language. The scope of the workshops for teachers was practical and applicable directly onto the work with students of all age categories and language levels. The conference was attended by more than 100 of experts and teachers from ten countries which proves the interest of foreign lecturers as well as Slovak teachers in following of latest trends of teaching of foreign languages and its

implementation within local environment. The workshops of the conference were divided into six sections: teaching English for young learners, teaching English for lower-secondary schools' students, teaching English at grammar schools, teaching English at colleges and universities, teaching English for adult learners, and teaching Business English. We would like to thank all for their help and support in organisation of this unique event primarily focused on teachers of English language at primary and secondary schools. We believe that the teachers will implement what they have experienced during the conference effortlessly and fun way. The Department of Language Pedagogy and Intercultural Studies is looking forward to seeing you again cooperating with us next year.

Mgr. Diana Židová, PhD.,  
Faculty of Education – Department of Language Pedagogy and Intercultural Studies  
Photography: Ondrej Koščík



## A project for teachers in practice

On 18<sup>th</sup> of October 2017 Mgr. Elena Kováčiková, PhD., from the Department of Language Pedagogy and Intercultural Studies at the Faculty of Education of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra held a model Music Class in English at Škultétyho Primary School in Nitra during which the basic principles of CLIL methodology were employed. The CLIL methodology supports the acquisition of information in a non-language class via foreign language and represents a form of bilingual education. Besides the teachers from the Faculty of Education and Škultétyho Primary School in Nitra the class and the consequent discussion was attended by foreign partners from the primary schools in Spain, Portugal, and Turkey, who are participating on a project Hands on CLIL as the part of Erasmus program. The teaching of CLIL took place



as the part of dissemination and exchange of experiences gained in the Erasmus+ project (Transnational Exchange of Good CLIL Practice among European Educational Institutions), coordinated by PaedDr. Jana Luprichová, PhD.

Mgr. Elena Kováčiková, PhD.,  
Faculty of Education – Department of Language Pedagogy and Intercultural Studies  
Photography: author

## The project expands the information literacy

As the part of the Week of Science and Technology the Department of Language Pedagogy and Intercultural Studies at the Faculty of Education at the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra organised an event on 9th of November 2017 called "Developing of Trans-regional information literacy for lifelong learning" during which the solvers of the project, namely Mgr. Eva Reid, PhD., and doc. PhDr. Božena Horváthová, PhD., informed the public about the development of the Erasmus+ project called Developing Trans-regional information literacy for lifelong learning and the knowledge economy as well as the results gained during the meetings and trainings in Petrozavodsk (Russia), Beijing (China), and Limerick (Ireland). The event featured a presentation of Ing. Peter Kružlik and Mgr. Eugen Trajtel (University Library) on the work with databases of Web of Science and Scopus.

Since January 2017 the Department of Language Pedagogy and Intercultural Studies has been participating on an international Erasmus+ project Developing of Trans-regional information literacy for

lifelong learning and knowledge economy (DIREKT). As the experts the members of the department, Mgr. Eva Reid, PhD., doc. PhDr. Božena Horváthová, PhD., and doc. PhDr. Katerina Gajdáčová Veselá, PhD., along with their colleagues from Ireland and Germany, ensure the education part of the project joined by 14 foreign universities and education institutes. The coordinator of the project is Limerick Institute of Technology, Ireland. The main aim of the project is the development and improvement of education programs focused on students, young scientists, and teachers in order to expand their information literacy and academic writing in English. This aim derives from the Bologna Process so as to implement competences in information literacy into education programs (Bachelor's degree, Master's degree, Doctoral studies) and support the development of lifelong learning within the society.

doc. PhDr. Božena Horváthová, PhD.,  
Faculty of Education – Department of Language Pedagogy and Intercultural Studies

## A Visit in the Gallery of Nitra

On 18<sup>th</sup> of October 2017 the students from Department of Language Pedagogy and Intercultural Studies participated on the exhibition "František Perger – Scénografia". This exhibition was held on the occasion of the anniversary of František Perger, a significant Slovak stage designer and scenographer from the Andrej Bagar Theatre in Nitra. After seeing the models of theatre stages, drafts of period costumes, and after the scholarly commentary, the students participated on fulfilling of the tasks related to their professional scope. The base of the creative activities was the stage of a theatre play "Mária Stuartová, kráľovná Škótska" (Mary, Queen of Scots) about the queen of Scotland executed by her cousin, Queen Elizabeth I. This way the students learned about the life and death of Mary Stuart but also other historical context and the fashion of the Tudor and Elizabethan Era.

Mgr. Ivana Žemberová, PhD.,  
Faculty of Education - Department of Language Pedagogy and Intercultural Studies, Photography: author



## Famed and Obscure Andy Warhol

On 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2017 the students from the Department of Language Pedagogy and Intercultural Studies, accompanied by Mgr. Ivana Žemberová, PhD. and Mgr. Diana Židová, PhD., paid a visit at the exposition "Známy i neznámy Andy Warhol – človek odinakial" (Famed and Obscure Andy Warhol - A Man from Other-where) installed in The Orava Gallery in Dolný Kubín. The curator of the exposition introduced the visitors to life, family, and work of Andy Warhol, a prominent representative of pop-art, whose origins trace back to Miková village in the eastern part of Slovakia. The students had a unique chance to see Warhol's original famous works lent to The Orava Gallery by The Andy Warhol Museum of Modern Art in Medzilaborce. After the visitation the students could participate on the activities inspired by Warhol's work. Their artistic talent will be seen by the public since the gallery has the intention



to exhibit these students' drawings within its premises once the abovementioned exhibition is closed. As the part of the visit in The Orava Gallery the students had a chance to visit a permanent exhibition with the works of folk art and famous Slovak artists.

Mgr. Ivana Žemberová, PhD.,  
Faculty of Education – Department of Language Pedagogy and Intercultural Studies  
Photography: author

## Partnership of the Department of Language Pedagogy and Intercultural Studies with Europe Direct in Nitra

On 9th of October 2017 the students from the Department of Language Pedagogy and Intercultural Studies at the Faculty of Education of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra participated on an excursion in the Information Centre EUROPE DIRECT – NITRA within the premises of Agroinštitút in Nitra as the part of the subject International European Institutes and Norms.

The aim of the excursion was to gain information about the institutes of the European Union, their scope and activities. The students inspected a unique fund of the library of the Nitra region and learner more about the possibilities of the full-time form of study and borrowing of resources during their work on seminar papers and final papers.

The students were also granted with free-of-charge materials and posters published by European institutes as well as the books and USB sticks with the logo of the European Union. It is the second time EUROPE DIRECT – NITRA provided us with education materials for the subject of International European Institutes and Norms which is the part of a study program "English Language and Culture". Thank you and we are looking forward to future cooperation in 2018, the year which proudly bears the title "European Year of Cultural Heritage"!

Mgr. Diana Židová, PhD.,  
Faculty of Education – Department of Language Pedagogy and Intercultural Studies



# MOBILE TECHNOLOGIES AT SCHOOLS FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

## Who are the members of the team?

The idea of the project Mobile technologies at schools for the 21st century originated as a natural continuation of work which was the part of a larger project DidLab - The joint integrated laboratory for the methodology of teaching subjects in natural sciences supported by an APVV grant agency solved at the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra under the leadership of prof. RNDr. Ľubomír Zelenický, CSc. between 2008 and 2011. Among other things the laboratory for the methodology of teaching subjects in natural sciences, established on the basis of this project, was equipped with pocket computers running Windows Mobile operating system and featuring a receiver of satellite navigation signal. With these devices we realised our first experiments and gained first valuable experiences with using of mobile devices in the information education activities outside the computer laboratory. Later the core of the team working on the DidLab project (doc. RNDr. G. Lovászová, PhD., PaedDr. V. Michaličková, PhD., a RNDr. J. Tomanová, PhD.) was joined by other teachers from the Department of Informatics (prof. Ing. M. Turčáni, CSc., Mgr. M. Cápay, PhD.) who were professionally interested in methodology of teaching of informatics and mobile technologies. This led to the

creation of a project with narrower scope and aim to explore in detail the possibilities of implementation of mobile digital devices and their benefits in teaching informatics.

## Scope of the project

Since the times of our initial experiments in using of mobile devices in teaching the technological development within this field has become very dynamic. The mobile devices have become very useful and universal aids in everyday life. Naturally, they are finding their place in teaching, too. The aim of our project was to create a concept of meaningful and beneficial implementation of mobile technologies in teaching informatics. We were looking for and validating the possibilities of using mobile devices in such situations when these mobile devices are more beneficial in achieving education goals than common desk computers. We were focusing on those approaches which support a constructive learning via internal motivation based on personal experiences and we were trying to utilise to a maximum extent the natural need of young people to communicate, cooperate, and share, within the laboratory education activities.



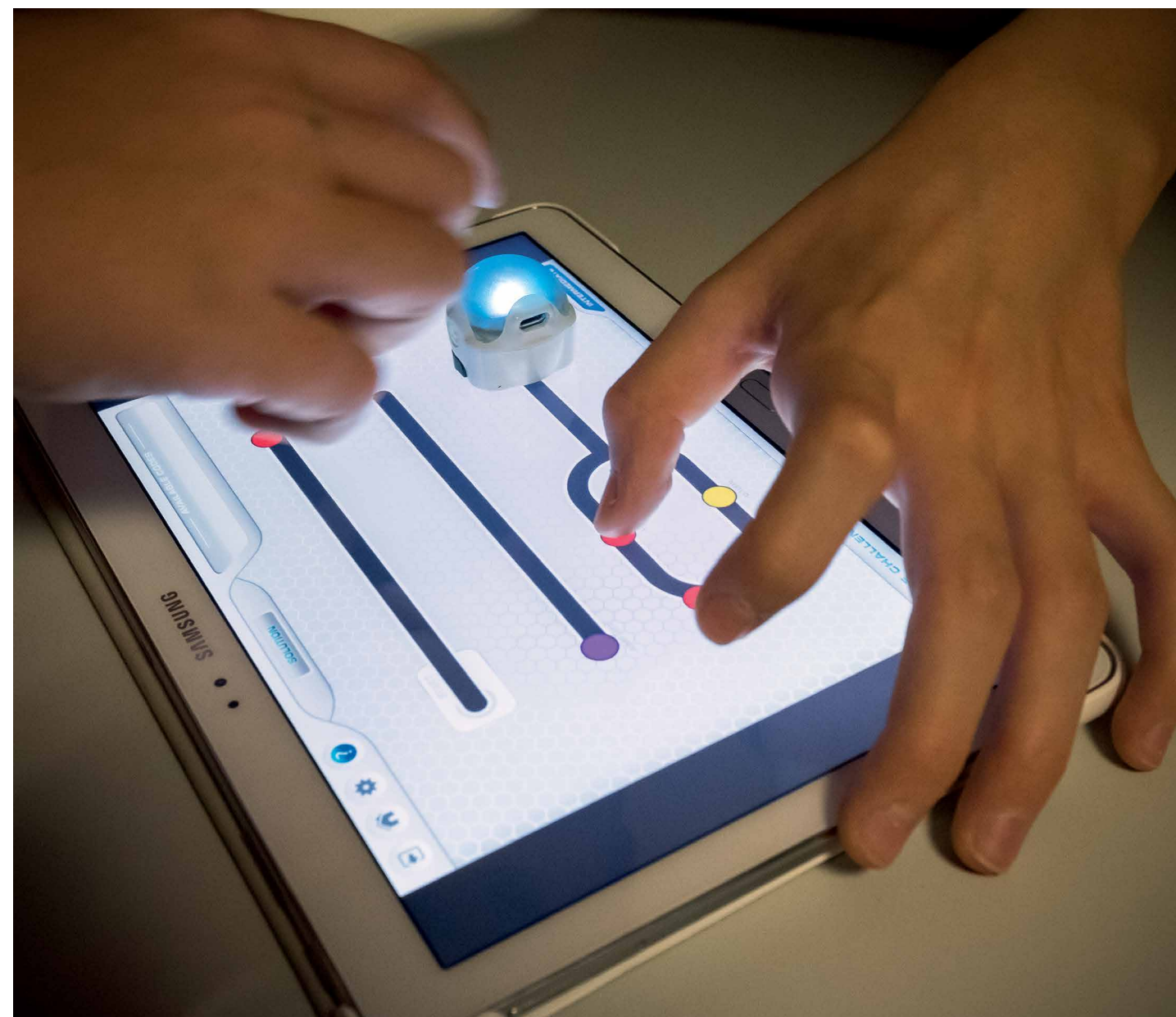
- Project manager: doc. RNDr. Gabriela Lovászová, PhD.
- Workplace: Department of Informatics, Faculty of Natural Sciences
- Members of the team: Mgr. Martin Cápay, PhD., PaedDr. Viera Michaličková, PhD., RNDr. Júlia Tomanová, PhD., prof. Ing. Milan Turčáni, CSc.
- Project period: 2014 – 2016
- Financial funding: 10 823 €
- Field of research: Education Sciences

## Methods used

Our work has a character of an exploratory research. We are conducting pedagogical experiments with small groups of students in which we are discovering the ways of implementing new technologies in teaching and we are also recording our experiences within case studies. We study similar case studies published by other authors. We work with technologies which are constantly changing at a fast pace, thus it is not easy to predict their future development. We are trying to build on modern field methodology of teaching informatics which keeps up with this dynamic technological development. If we manage to predict correctly the trend which has a potential of future progress, our findings will be more of a general validity independent of the particular technology (hardware or software).

## The most important findings

The result of our project is a concept of implementation of mobile technologies in teaching informatics. We have formulated the categories of means of using of mobile devices in teaching informatics which are in accord with the following theoretical outputs: working with digital teaching materials, creating of attractive digital documents, outdoor activities based on the position measurement, mobile appli-



**Project KEGA 055UKF-4/2014: the result is the concept of implementation of mobile technologies within the teaching of informatics.**

cations programming, educational robotics, and acquiring feedback in real time using mobile devices. The concept and the case studies documenting the examples of education activities from individual categories along with the methodology of teaching mobile applications programming have been published in two university coursebooks for students of teaching informatics.

## Certificate for outstanding achievement of goals

Our project already received high rating during the process of submitting of grant application. We are happy that we have managed to fulfil the expectations and that the results of our project were highly rated by the reviewers as well as the grant agency. Equally important for us is the

feedback from teachers in practice with whom we have cooperated as well as the community of teachers and academics within the seminar and scientific conferences where we have published the findings of our project. For us the success of the project is an essential stimulation further work.

doc. RNDr. Gabriela Lovászová, PhD.,  
Faculty of Natural Sciences – Department  
of Informatics, Photography: archive of  
Gabriela Lovászová



## STEM CONSORTIUM OF EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES

Upon the ten-year participation on the 7RP PRIMAS project the Constantine the Philosopher University has become a founding member.



In 2017 almost ten years of successful partnership of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra and the University of Education in Freiburg (Germany) in the solving of a scientific project 7RP PRIMAS, cultural-educational projects COMPASS and InluSMe, as well as creating of professional expert's reports for 7RP mascil project, resulted in an invitation to participate on establishing of a unique STEM consortium of European universities. The consortium will be managed by International Centre for STEM Education (ICSE) which was founded at the University of Education in Freiburg in 2017.

STEM is an international abbreviation used for those fields of education involving natural sciences, technical and engineering programs, and a university study of mathematics. ICSE is the first European centre for education and innovations in teaching and

education in STEM operated within the academic environment. The main aim of ICSE is to connect STEM research in education between universities and practical life, including the contacts on European political structures. Within the field of STEM education, the requirements for education in the 21st century bring challenges related to literacy in natural sciences, mathematics and digital technologies, as well as the interest of students from grammar school and universities to study natural sciences, technical and engineering programs at grammar schools and universities with the perspective of a life-long career in the work positions based on STEM education. The problematics of STEM education is also related to questions of gender equality and other cultural-societal aspects of education and upbringing of a young generation, including the digitalisation of education. ICSE has the ambitions to solve, share, and

manage projects related to the above-mentioned problematics, provide certified results of scientific research, and transfer these into practice and political resolutions in the countries of the European Union. ICSE and STEM consortium are joined by a personality of professor Katja Maass whose scientific scope is aimed at the theory of teaching mathematics, activating teaching methods, and the principles of establishing of cross-curriculum relations of STEM subjects on all levels of education, including the training and education of teachers.

The establishment of STEM consortium was supported by 30 European universities, Ministries of Education from ten countries of the European Union, and twenty centres for continuous and professional education in Europe. At present time Constantine the Philosopher University

in Nitra is cooperating with the members of the consortium on the solution of Erasmus+ project InluSMe as well as the co-organising of a team competition "Matematický B-deň" (Mathematic B-day) for grammar schools' students. For the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra the invitation to become a founding member of STEM consortium stands for a significant recognition. It proves that the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra is a reliable and appreciated partner of European projects in education with the perspective of further development of project partnerships in STEM education within an international academic community.

doc. PaedDr. Soňa Čeretková, PhD.,  
Faculty of Natural Sciences – Department  
of Mathematics

## Third place for hockey players of the Constantine the Philosopher University at the tournament of Slovak universities

7th of November 2017 marked the day of the 5th year of national Slovak hockey tournament of Slovak universities which took place in Bratislava at the Vladimír Dzurilla Ice Stadium. Our university again joined the tournament with its hockey team. This tournament was also a qualification for Slovak University Games 2018. There were six teams from Slovakia in Bratislava: Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Comenius University in Bratislava, University of Economics in Bratislava, The University of Žilina, and Alexander Dubček University of Trenčín.

Originally there were supposed to be eight teams, but at the last minute two universities cancelled their participation – University of Prešov and Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica. The teams were drawn into two groups of three. Our team reached the second place behind later winner – Comenius University in Bratislava with which our team played a close match. The third period of the match featured three goals to our disadvantage

which resulted in the final score 1:4. In the second match of the group we defeated UNIZA 4:2. In the semi-finals our team faced the winner of B-group – University of Trenčín. After the close match our team lost after the shootout with the score 1:2. The team played its match over third place with the University of Economics and won 8:3. The third place is fully deserved. With a pinch of luck it could also be the second place. In any case my thanks belong to all boys for their performance and their attitude. I would like to thank the management of our university for giving us a chance to represent the university and for the financial support, as well as the moral support in the form of a personal visit during the match by a finance officer Ing. A. Kováčová, PhD. With the third place our team got the chance to join Slovak University Games 2018.

PaedDr. Jaroslav Krajčovič, PhD.,  
Faculty of Education – Department of  
Physical Education and Sport  
Photography: author







## DEMOCRACY IS NOT A RULE

On 24th of October 2017 our university hosted a precious visitor, a Brazilian Ambassador in Slovakia, Mr. Luís Antonio Balduín Carneiro. During his lecture this skilled diplomat introduced the students to life in his homeland, its history, culture, economics, and many other interesting facts. After his presentation Mr. Carneiro found some time to provide an interview with the students from the Department of Journalism at the Faculty of Arts of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra.

**Mister Ambassador, thank you very much for your presentation. How do you feel about it?**

I like to talk to students. I am glad that your university gave me this chance to come and speak because I think it is of great significance for Slovakia and its citizens. For me this is the part of my work I do enjoy.

**Why talking to young people is important to you?**

As an Ambassador I represent Brazil and inform Slovak people about it. Students represent a future generation. Thus, it is

important to deepen our relations, especially among university students who will become experts in their fields in a couple of years. This is one of the key parts of my work.

**What inspired you to become an Ambassador?**

I am a career diplomat. I started this career when I was 22 years old. I passed the state exam and later worked abroad at several positions as a young diplomat. For me to become an Ambassador was, in a sense, a natural career rise which began 30 years ago.

**What was the most important thing you have learned during your missions? (your work)**

Diplomats are still needed. Of course, we do have Internet, people travel a lot, they are interconnected more than ever. However, diplomats are still important for deepening the relationships and increasing the awareness in the countries where they work. They also observe other aspects such as for example business and cultural relations. A support of embassies is also important – people in abroad can always encounter problems. Embassies are here for them, too, to help them. Also more and more people participate on elections from abroad.

**Why it is important to build economic and political relations between Brazil and Slovakia?**

Slovakia is an important and dynamically developing country. Brazil is a worldwide business. It would create a gap within our diplomatic system if had not relations to Slovakia. Our Embassy is here since 2008.

**According to you, what is the overall image of Brazil in the world?**

Some aspects of our society are more recognised, other less. Most of people know that we love football. As the only country Brazil have won the world championship five times. People believe that we love carnival and samba and that we are generally very open and cheerful. One of

During my high school studies I spent some time in the USA during an exchange program. Everybody believed that each Brazilian is a good football player. I had a hard time to convince them that this is not my case. (laughter)



the parts of my work is to point out other aspects of our culture which we are trying to represent.

**Can you name some differences and similarities between our countries?**

First, I would like to mention the similarities. Both our countries are democratic, we have freedom of speech and freedom of assembly. Both countries also have market-oriented economy. This is very important because democracy should never be taken for granted. We must work hard to cultivate it and preserve it. Of course, there are some differences, too. These come from distinct area and history. There are many differences we might think of, however, in my opinion these are just surface ones. Principally, we share more similarities than differences. The question of democracy is the key one. Not every country is that lucky to flourish within a democratic system.

**As far as Brazil is concerned, one of the most typical cultural stereotypes is that the national language is Spanish, not Portuguese. In your own view, what are some other cultural stereotypes?**

**Before you came to Slovakia, you worked and lived in India, USA, Uruguay, and Geneva. How did your work in these countries differ from the work in Slovakia?**

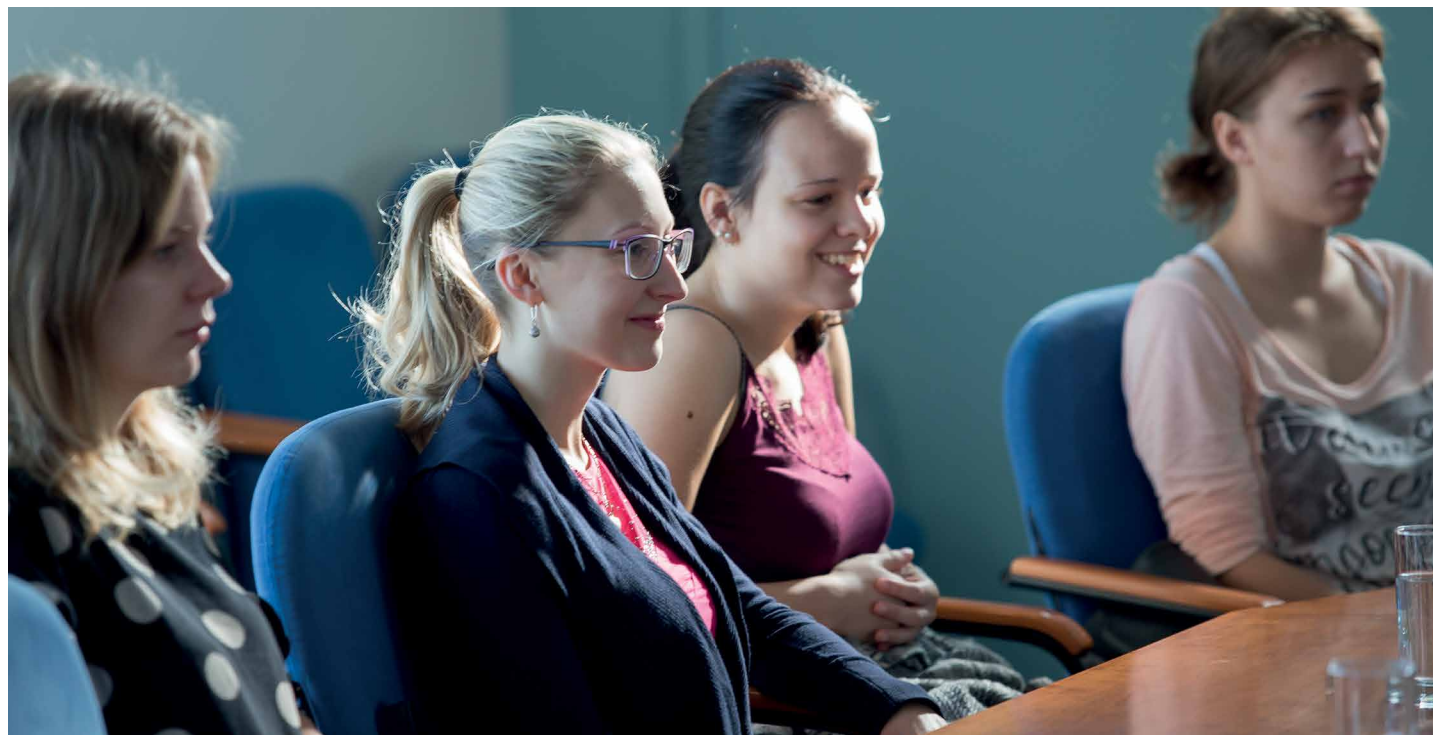
First of all, I am an Ambassador here, so it is my duty to take care of everything. In India I was an economic consul, my task was to watch over economic relations. In Uruguay I did not work in the Embassy, I was a member of a delegation in Mercosur Aladi and worked on economic integration of Brazil with neighbouring countries. Our delegation in Montevideo is similar to that of yours in Brussels. We were dealing with matters of integration. In Washington I spent most of my time working in the World Bank. All these occupations were very different. This is one of the aspects of a diplomatic profession, you can do very diverse things. Most of my career was related to the sphere of economics. However, you can also deal with disarmament, human rights, cultural matters... It is a very motley profession.

Martin Mojžiš and Matúš Kamenický,  
Students from the Faculty of Arts –  
Department of Journalism  
Photography: Martina Pavlíková

*"People know that we like carnival and samba, and that in general we are very open and cheerful. My work is to point also to other parts of our culture that we are trying to present."*







## DESTINATION: SLOVAKIA

*To be a university student and accept the chance to travel around the world is fantastic, all the more if you combine business with pleasure and a student completes a study or an internship during which he or she gains new knowledge and finds new friends.*

Twenty-nine students accepted this challenge and chose Slovakia and our university as their destination. First formal meeting with our university, the city and its surroundings traditionally took place in the first week of their stay during the so-called "Welcome Week". During the information meeting we provided the students from Belgium, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Turkey, and Ukraine with necessary information about their stay at the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, including administrative requirements related to their enrolment

at the faculty, residence visa, access to information systems of the university, possibilities of travelling, student discounts etc. The Welcome Week featured nice friendly atmosphere, among other things also thanks to the cultural experiences provided by our Erasmus Student Network section (ESN UKF), among which were "Icebreaking activities" (an evening event aimed at the introduction to ESN, its activities and members, help in making friends, and various ice-breaking games), an excursion around the university premises and main sites of the city of Nitra, bowling, "Welcome Flag Party" (of

course there was a welcome party where each face was "marked" by the colours of countries of our Erasmus students), "Speed-friending" (the aim of this activity was to help with making friends), a trip to Zobor Hill, its "Pyramída" radio transmitter and a Church in Dražovce (un/easy tourist trip with beautiful ending – a splendid view on the city), a trip to Harmanecká Cave and Banská Štiavnica (a visit of the cave and the historically significant town), "Family Lunch" (a joint feast with our new friends), and a visit at the historical train of the Czechoslovak Legions (a unique travelling exhibition featuring a true copy of the Czechoslovak Legions soldiers fighting in Russia).

In the course of the entire winter semester our foreign students study or join an internship at their faculty and at the same time explore the sites of Slovakia. What is the most beautiful thing in Slovakia – something each Slovak is proud of and what stands for true Slovak pride? High Tatras of course! That is why we decided to show this majestic mountain range to our Erasmus students. We gathered on Friday, 27th of October 2017, in the morning hours at the railway station in Nitra. Though sleepy, but with good mood and ready for an unforgettable weekend. This good mood stayed with us even during the train trip thanks to the view from the windows. Even despite the bad weather forecast found in many mobile applications and internet websites. We went through all of them hoping to find some positive forecast. Unfortunately, we

*On Saturday morning we were finally greeted by the majestic panorama of Tatras. The mist receded and the snow replaced the rain. Some participants of the trip experienced the snow for the first time in their life.*

all, the students obviously did not miss the peaks of High Tatras, making selfies in the misty weather. Hungry like wolves we got on the cog-train and our day concluded with dinner in a traditional Slovak chalet. Evening ice-breaking activities brought a lot of laughter and good atmosphere. Sunday morning finally welcomed us with a majestic panorama of High Tatras. The mist ceased and the rain turned into snowfall. Some of the students saw it for the first time. It was interesting to watch their reactions because we found the snowfall natural. This was the moment when one of our foreign friends, who (against all our advices regarding clothing) joined the trip wearing only sneakers and jumper, saying "That's fine", finally understood everything... The problem was solved thanks to our generous staff of the lodging house who provided this student with warm clothes. During the trip to Poprad Lake we spent our time by snowball fight. At the chalet near Poprad

a town known for its traditional architecture. We had done a lot during one day. There was a final night in the dayroom where we had our dinner, played various games, danced, and had fun.

All of us are full of memories and as the saying goes – it is best to spend time on experiences because these cannot be taken from you. Hopefully it is the feeling of all of us if we say that this was a very well spent time. Judge for yourself reading the feedbacks of our foreign students:

- „One of the best trips I ever had, amazing atmosphere and great people, all in all, fantastic!“
- „It has been a great trip for both nature lovers and for those who have not discovered it yet. We have known how to take advantage of the cold weather that I had to spend a fun day enjoying the snow and getting to know each other better“.
- „Gorgeous rocky mountains, fresh air, beautiful lakes, good hiking roads and instructions.“
- „I feel very thankful for the trip because I think that getting into High Tatras just by ourselves without the help of the ESN should have been very difficult; also they were all really kind and they care a lot about us so I guess we are all very happy for that.“
- „Like we were in the wild but, fortunately, we didn't die at the end.“
- „Wake up the child sleeping inside of you with the snowballs.“
- „Nature, friends... What an Erasmus experience!“
- „My breath stopped when I saw the mountains, not because I was tired, but because of such a awesome view“.
- „My heart will always be in High Tatras.“

Miroslav Čibík, Martin Zemko,  
Ing. Katarína Butorová, PhD.  
Photography: Lubo Balko and author.



were not lucky, and thus we got off the train in our final destination in Štrba accompanied by soft but constant rain. When we got accommodated in a splendid lodging house we headed for our first trip by cog-train from Štrba to Štrbské Pleso. Walking towards the lake we were expecting to see the silhouette of the mountains, however in this misty weather we were happy to see at least the tourist path. No typical panorama known from the pictures was towering over the lake, yet the ever-present mist added to the charming atmosphere of the place. All in

Lake we enjoyed traditional garlic soup, hot tea, and watched the mountain divers putting a key to tourist paths to rest on the bottom of the lake on the occasion of the end of the season. We took a group picture (also with Jožo Kubáni) and went to honour the deceased at the Symbolical cemetery. On our way down we continued in the snowball fight. Following the arrival at Štrbské Pleso we were divided into two groups. Some of us were too tired and continued back to the lodging house to get some sleep. Most of us adventure-greedy ones went to Starý Smokovec,





## CONTINUING EDUCATION

An interview with doc. PhDr. Adriana Récka, PhD., Vice-Dean for Faculty Development, Lifelong Learning and International Relations of the Faculty of Education at the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra.

**Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra and its faculties offer also a continuous education. Could you tell us more about the forms of lifelong education at the Faculty of Education?**

Within lifelong education of pedagogical and specialist employees from the institutes of education the Faculty of Education of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra offers a wide spectrum of education programs within accredited programs of lifelong education, extending study, and complementing study of education. The complementing study of education which is currently realised in both standard and shortened form enables the student to acquire pedagogical compe-

tence in non-teaching study programs in accordance with the actual legislation. The extending study offers the programs of Teaching English language and literature, Teaching technology, and Teaching fine arts. Besides the above-mentioned programs we also offer the preparative assessment education for first and second attestation for teachers within a broad spectrum of subjects for various school levels as well as the teachers of primary and preschool education. The faculty ensures the attestations for pedagogical and specialist employees from the institutes of education in the study programs guaranteed by the Faculty of Education and the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra.

*We offer a wide range of education programs.*



The Faculty of Education also actively participates on realisation of study programs within lifelong education of the citizens – the University of the Third Age. We guarantee and realise eight out of fifteen offered study programs of the University of the Third Age which are very popular among those interested in this type of education; especially popular are the following programs: History of Visual Arts and Artwork, Digital Photography and Camera, Information Technology, Pottery, Folk Arts, Psychology of the Third Age and the like. Each year the faculty participates on the realisation of activities organised by the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra within the Nitra Summer University by the means of creative arts and other activities.

**Since 2014 you have worked as a coordinator of the Lifelong Learning Office at the Faculty of Education of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. Which duties does the office cover? What is the purpose of the office?**

Since its establishment in 2011 the Lifelong Learning Office at the Faculty of Education of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra has evolved into a specialised workplace which coordinates and ensures various areas of lifelong education realised at the Faculty of Education of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. Its aim is to coordinate and ensure pedagogical training for students of teaching study programs of the university organised at the Faculty of Education, Faculty of Arts, and the Faculty of Natural Sciences, organise and prepare the study programs of the extending studies, complementing pedagogical studies and other forms of lifelong education. It also ensures the attestations for pedagogical and specialist employees in the fields guaranteed by the Faculty of Education and also the attestations for pedagogical employees in the fields guaranteed by the Faculty of Natural Sciences. By the means of ensuring of pedagogical training in the

Lifelong Learning Office the Faculty of Education cooperates with training schools and training teachers who stand for the methodologists who can offer and receive further education. Naturally, the members of the Lifelong Learning Office of the Faculty of Education continuously work on the improvement of the already-accredited specialised studies as well as the creation of new specialised studies which reflect the requirements of the practical life in accordance with expected level of qualification and qualification requirements for individual categories of pedagogical and specialist employees. In 2014 the section of specialist personnel was extended by a position of a project manager who participates on preparation and realisation of scientific and research projects, as well as emerging projects, cultural-educational projects and artistic projects created and submitted by the employees of the Faculty of Education within domestic and foreign grant schemes. The Lifelong Learning Office at the Faculty of Education of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra shares the information also via its web portal <http://www.ccv.pf.ukf.sk/>, where you can find the actual information about the specialist employees participating on coordination and organisation of various areas of lifelong education. The portal also provides information and documents related to pedagogical training of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, attestations, extending studies, complementing pedagogical studies and other forms of education.

Photography: LB





# 30 years of ERASMUS program

The year of 2017 has become symbolic for all institutions of higher education which participate in the Erasmus+ programme because for this entire year we are celebrating the 30th anniversary of the establishment of this program on European level and at the same time it is a celebration of the 20th anniversary of Slovakia's engagement into the program.

Our university joined the program during the academic year of 1998/1999 and during this time nearly 1400 students and 700 employees participated on Erasmus mobility studies, internships, tutoring, and training. Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra engaged in the celebrations by the means of several information days, a spring information trade fair, and the Erasmus+ Staff Training Week for the partners from foreign universities which was organised by International Relations and Mobility Office. The celebrations peaked on 22nd of November 2017 with Erasmus Village, an event traditionally organised by the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra in cooperation with the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra. The celebrations were the part of the Students' Day of Nitra Universities and took place in the premises of the Slovak University of Agriculture under the university hall. The event was attended by 62 foreign students from both universities in Nitra who prepared attractive stalls for Slovak students featuring simple but interesting form of presentation of their country and university. The students used the ready-made presentations about their country, its national specifics and history, and they also presented traditional costumes or carefully prepared dishes from domestic cuisine which we had a chance to taste during the entire occasion.

*The event was attended by 62 foreign students from both universities in Nitra, who jointly prepared very interesting booths in which they presented their country and university.*

The event was opened by the representatives of both universities in Nitra: on behalf of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra it was prof. PhDr. Gabriela Miššiková, CSc., Vice-Rector for international relations, and on behalf of the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra it was prof. RNDr. Zdenka Gálová, CSc., Vice-Rector for education and ECTS. Both of them cordially greeted the foreign students at the premises of the universities and stressed the importance of mobilities within the Erasmus+ program which bring the students and employees a unique chance to acquire international experience, a chance to improve their foreign language skills, obtain new skills, discover new cultures, a chance to compare various systems of education, to gain new formal and informal contacts for personal development or for the development of further partnerships between the universities as well as larger independence and higher chance of career growth and occupation. The end of the speech of the representatives featured a wish that Erasmus+ remained successful and was growing in order to support and enrich education and professional training of our students and employees.

Another block of the program featured a voting for the most interesting stall as well as a quiz about the basic facts of Erasmus+ program which was joined by all participating students from Belgium, Colombia, El Salvador, France, Germany, Greece, China, India, Italy, Mexico, Nicaragua, Poland, Romania, Spain, Turkey, and Ukraine. Three stalls were awarded – Romania (1st place), Colombia (2nd place), and for us still exotic and unknown country of El Salvador (3rd place). The Erasmus coordinators from the Constantine the Philosopher University and the Slovak University of Agriculture also had their common non-competitive stall as well as the representatives of ESN UKF and ESN SUA sections who provided the attendants of the event with information about the benefits and possibilities of Erasmus+ as well as the process of enrolment into mobilities. The final part of the celebrations featured the presentations of Slovak students from the Constantine the Philosopher University and the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra who participated on the mobility studies and the internship abroad. The Slovak students shared with the foreign students their experiences which they gained at the receiving institute and their positive thoughts about their stay in the particular country. All winners of the voting for best stalls, winners of the quiz, and the participants presenting their experiences with Erasmus obtained the awards from both universities. The organisers of the event, International Relations and Mobility Office of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, and the Office for International Relations and International Education Programs of the Slovak University of Agriculture all managed to prepare an activity for students full of new information and to create a joint space for discovering of our foreign students and their countries.

Ing. Katarína Butorová, PhD., Photography: Lubo Balko



# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN SINGAPORE

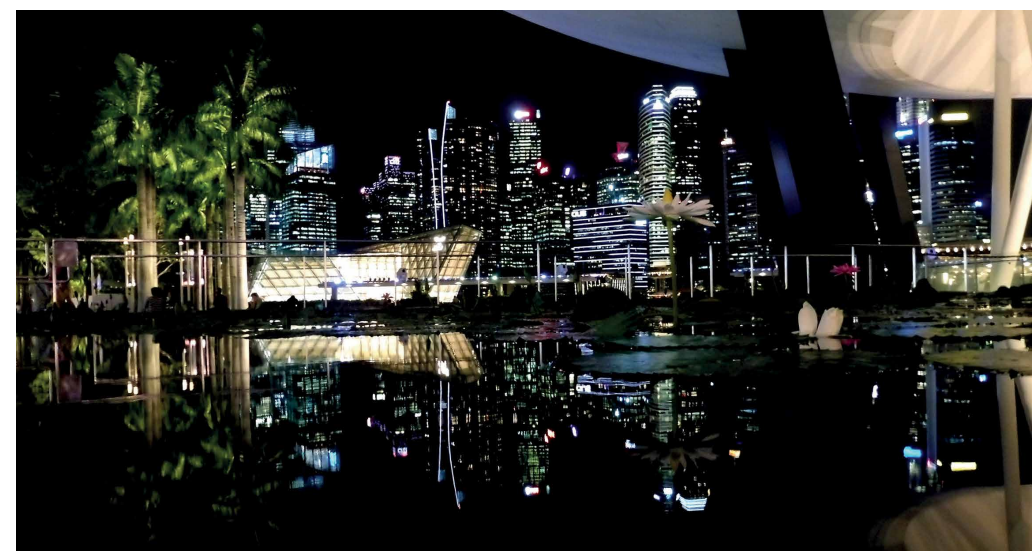
## Impact of previous cultural development on current society the main theme of the speeches.

Our mailbox gets quite regularly filled with invitations to various events and conferences. To say the truth, thanks to the quantity of such invitations after one and a half year of doctoral study you are able to sort them out right according to the subject of the mail. However, when you keep getting the same invitation from your colleagues from the same department, accompanied with encouraging (or even provocative) commentary, over and over again, you begin to think about the content of the incriminating mail. Such untraditional was my preliminary thinking of participating on an international conference called Contemporary Cultural Studies 2017.

It was the 5th year of the international conference which took place between 27th and 28th of November 2017 in a far-away Singapore. The conference is organised by Global Science and Technology Forum (GSTF). In the course of ten years of its existence this research agency has reached the status of a significant institution which cooperates with more than 40 universities around the world. Among these are prestigious universities such as University of Oxford, University of Cambridge, Princeton University, but also universities in Sydney or Melbourne, Indian Institute of Technology in Bombay, California universities in LA and Berkeley, and many other. GSTF is mainly concerned with the creation of international intellectual platform and the development of publishing network supporting an interaction among academics and researchers from various areas of natural sciences and humanities. Each year GSTF organises 40 conferences and publishes tens of thematic journals or conference almanacs. The submissions in these issues are selective; they are evaluated by committees consisting of experts from particular areas. The members of individual committees are solely the representatives of partnering organisations which ensures the high quality of the published issues. Hence, for a certain time the idea of my humble submission being accepted was a mere fiction. After sending the study I was anxiously waiting for the reply. Since my priorities are not compatible with those of my Gmail client, I found the confirmation email in the SPAM folder. There I found an invitation to CCS 2017. When my conference fee

was accepted, I entered a period of panic and a real planning. Along the organisation of the work travel the bureaucratic fight included numerous visits at the financial department of the faculty and a regular after-midnight communication with the secretariat of the conference seated in Singapore, ten thousand kilometres away. Besides other tasks, thanks to the support of the Dean's Office and my colleagues from the Institute of Central European Languages and Cultures, I managed to accomplish everything. Flight tickets, a hotel, transfers. Everything was ready. The last thing to do for me was to get on the plane (three planes to be exact) and explore the world.

The Republic of Singapore is a city state consisting of 63 islands. It lies one degree north of the equator which stills does not explain why I did not see the sun during the entire time of my stay. One thing is for sure – the city is brighter at night than during daytime. Thousands of lights in the artificial garden near the bay, a singing fountain and a panorama of



*My speech was dealing with the names of the streets in the city of Nitra.*



buildings more than fifty storeys tall – these are the dominant objects of the country famous for its unique economic maturity. Singapore, The Lion City, as it is called, is charming. The coast of the Singapore Strait is guarded by Merlion – a mythical creature with lion's head and the body of a fish. The city and its citizens are proud bearers of a hybrid Malayan-Chinese-Indian cultural tradition. This tradition persists along with many colonial stereotypes which is the result of the country's membership in Commonwealth. This multi-ethnic harmony was an inspiring environment for the conference dealing with a broad spectrum of questions and a dialogue about various topics related to culture. The international attendance found in the program proved the global character of the conference. A common theme of the speeches was the impact of previous cultural development on current society. The speeches were related to partial problems of interdisciplinary character: there were critical reflections of the current art, a question of normative character of language games, specific

types of migration, problematics of gender studies in fashion, mysticism, questions of translation as a cultural exchange and the like. It was interesting to watch the conversations of the participants who were reacting on the suggestions contained in the speeches presented with professional perspective even if they did not agree with them.

My speech which I presented during the second day, was dealing with the names of the streets in the city of Nitra. Trying to demonstrate the analogy between the dynamics of the city onymia and political transformations of the society and the state I provided examples to introduce the history and current character of the city lying in the heart of Europe which was quite unknown to the audience. The participants of the conference found hints of local patriotism in my speech. This statement of theirs, as I hope correctly, I consider to be a compliment. Many of their questions were related to the image of Central Europe as a meeting point of eastern

and western sphere of influence as well as many contrasting ideologies. This idea was a certain kind of a leitmotif of my conference speech. It was a hard nut to crack to explain the aim of my study in a complex way while being surrounded by acknowledged professors and prominent researchers from New Zealand, Hong Kong, Great Britain, India, Taiwan as well as the representative of Native American tribe of Kawaiiisu. To see the participants being interested in my topic was the greatest satisfaction for all my work.

PhDr. Lenka Tkáč-Zabáková,  
full-time PhD student,  
Faculty of Central European Studies – Institute of Central  
European Languages and Cultures  
Photography: author



## French-Slovak diploma

Since 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2017 our students can obtain a prestigious diploma thanks to the agreement between the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra (UKF) and Université de Lorraine (UL), one of the most significant and most prominent universities in France.



For many years Université de Lorraine has been ranked at the top levels of the rankings of universities from all over the world – for example in 2017 a famous ARWU ranking ranked the university at the 201st place in the TOP 500 universities of the world. It is an agreement of international partnership in the realisation of a double degree within the Bachelor's study program in the field of mass media studies

between Université de Lorraine UFR Sciences Humaines et Sociales in Metz, France, and the Faculty of Arts of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. The aim of this agreement is to alleviate and intensify the cooperation within pedagogical and professional area between UL and UK with the main purpose of granting the double degree to successful students of the Bachelor's study

program Mass Media Communication with integrated teaching of French language (a field of Mass Media Studies at the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra) as well as of the study program "Licence en Communication (communication)" at Université de Lorraine in Metz. The double degree agreement (DD) is the result of a vigorous long-term partnership greatly supported by the management board of the Faculty of Arts of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra – namely prof. PaedDr. Bernard Garaj, CSc., Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Marko Bailoni, Director of the Board of SHS (Self-Evaluating Administration), and President of UL, prof. Pierre Mutzenhardt. Members of both participating departments (Department of Mass Media and Advertising represented by PhDr. Tomáš Koprda, PhD., Department of Romance Studies led by doc. PhDr. Eva Švarbová, PhD., and the Information – Communication department of UL led by prof. Pierre Humbert) worked hard to transform the idea of double degree into reality.

Extensive constructive discussions, meetings, and workshops were realised as the part of a long-term project of cooperation the beginnings of which date back to 2011. The project "ESF Tvorba študijného programu medziodborové štúdium masmediálne štúdiá – francúzsky jazyk s využitím IKT" (ITMS 26110230033, 2010 – 2014, led by doc. E. Švarbová) featured the creation of a concept of Bachelor's degree study program of the study field 3.2.3 Mass Media Studies for 1. – 3. Years of Full-Time and Part-Time Studies with the main focus on French language proficiency including the creation of related teaching materials and supporting pedagogical documentation. The working team at the Faculty of Arts of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra (S. Tardy, E. Švarbová, K. Fichnová, T. Koprda and others) and at SHS UL in Metz Metz (E. Pedon, K. Kellner, P. Humbert, J.-F. Diana, L. Massou and others) has worked for several years on the realisation of this project. During the preparations of the double degree the team had many meetings and went through many obstacles (e.g. joining of universities in France as the part of the educational reform, preparation of complex accreditation at UKF and UL). During this time we have established proper partnership with our French colleagues, including pedagogical mobilities. French and Slovak students realised several exchange travels and gained valuable experiences not only within professional field and the area of language skills, but they also acquired life experiences, breadth of views, and contacts. The accredited study is guaranteed by two guarantors:

prof. Katarína Fichnová, PhD. and prof. Éric Pedon. The program is aimed at mass media communication with an integrated professional French language within the field of mass media studies, communicology, journalism, and marketing communication. The study program joins professional training of the students in mass media with independent creative communication in written and oral form in French language. Its aim is to reinforce the partnership, studies, and research at the premises of our universities as well as French universities. The students of inter-curricular study program which is the result of the project, can obtain an advantage in competition and also a double degree which increases their chances at labour market for media and communication agencies, PR departments and mass media in Slovakia, France, and also in Belgium.

Future graduates of the Bachelor's study program will complete the study stays at the partnering university, they will get better preparation for their profession, they will acquire information, contacts, and experiences in abroad to become competitive within domestic and European labour market. At the same time they will broaden the field of their scope on francophone countries. The partnership within the realisation of double degree is also supported by French Embassy and French Institute in Bratislava as well as Slovak-French University Institute (SFUI – IUFS) in Banská Bystrica. According to François-Xavier Mortreuil, an attaché for university and scientific cooperation, there are 250 French companies established in Slovakia and 400 subsidiary corporations. During the ceremony of granting the French diplomas within DD in Banská

Bystrica he also stressed that many companies and firms prefer the graduates with fluent French. The proof of this are the positions at which the graduates skilled in French language work. The fusion of professional education and knowledge of specific professional foreign language increases the chances, thus we can expect that the graduates with double degree will certainly belong among those in demand within the labour market in Slovakia and also abroad.

doc. PhDr. Eva Švarbová, PhD.,  
Faculty of Arts – Department of Romance  
Studies  
Photography: archive of the Department  
of Romance Studies

## Double diploma

Students from the Department of Mass Media and Advertising receiving double diploma of the prominent foreign university in Poland.

On 21st of November 2017 students from the Department of Mass Media and Advertising from the Faculty of Arts of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra (FF UKF), namely Martina Mokrá, Simona Nedeljaková, Frederika Virágová, and Martina Gagová, successfully defended their Bachelor's degree at the Department of Business Journalism and New Media at the University of Economics in Katowice. Their study was the part of the double diploma project (project ESF 26110230080 Equivalency of study programs of FF UKF in Nitra and a prominent foreign university in Poland). The aim of the project was to

assist the granting of the double diploma and thus ensure the improvement of competitiveness of the graduates within the joint project, create better starting conditions at labour market, and increase their chances at finding the occupation in Slovakia and in Poland. By creating this joint study program and granting the diplomas at both universities the higher education has thus adapted to the requirements of the sciential society and at the same time it helps to improve the quality of universities by the means of sharing of study experiences between the institutions.

The ESF project was active between 2013 and 2016 and consisted of the equivalence of joint programs, pilot grades of the realisation, study and lecture stays. The team of teachers from the Department of Mass Media and Advertising led by PhDr. Tomáš Koprda, PhD. and a guarantor of the project, prof. Mgr. Katarína Fichnová, PhD., successfully prepared and realised a joint study program with the University of Economics in Katowice. Eighteen students from our university have joined the project, seven others will finish their studies in 2017/2018. A permanent sustainability of the project is ensured by the means of funding of study and lecture stays via Erasmus+. The implementation of the double diplomas system will directly result in the improvement of the education quality within a study program and consequently it will ensure the development of innovative forms of education, rationalisation, and enhancement of the teaching process. The realisation of the double diplomas system is directly aimed at the enhancement of education within a study field of 3.2.3 Mass Media Studies. This aim was derived from the requirements of the students and teachers from the Faculty of Arts of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. In the present time the Department of Mass Media and Advertising of the Faculty of Arts of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra offers an education in the field of 3.2.3 Mass Media Studies within several study programs of the Bachelor's degree, Master's degree, and Doctoral degree.

Mgr. Györgyi Janková, PhD.,  
Faculty of Arts – Department of Mass Media  
Communication and Advertising  
Photography: archive of the Department of Mass Media and  
Advertising







## CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINKING

**An international conference discursively unified the field didactics, teachers in training, students of teaching study programs, and teachers from practice.**

Between 13th and 14th of November 2017 the university premises of the Faculty of Education of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra held an international scientific conference called "Innovative Trends in Field Didactics in the Context of Practice Requirements". The conference took place under the auspices of prof. RNDr. Ľubomír Zelenický, CSc., prof. PhDr. Eva Szórádová, CSc., prof. RNDr. Libor Vozár, CSc., prof. PaedDr. Bernard Garaj, CSc., and doc. PhDr. Ľudovít Hajduk, PhD. The main aim of the conference was the creation of space for

transdisciplinary scientific discussion of field didactics of the subjects in natural sciences, humanities, artistic education, pedagogics, languages, teachers and psychologists about the problematics of critical and creative thinking and strategies of its development within a process of education. The conference was a part of the APVV project "Practice in the centre of didactics, field didactics in the Centre of practical training" on behalf of the chief solver of the project, doc. PaedDr. Jana Duchovičová, PhD. The above-mentioned project associates the

solvers from three pedagogical faculties of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra – Faculty of Education, Faculty of Natural Sciences, and Faculty of Arts. The organisers of the conference received prominent experts from Slovakia and neighbouring countries who enriched the event with their participation and inspirational topics. Renowned didactics contributed to the



scientific program with their experiences - prof. PhDr. Gabriela Petrová, CSc. From the Faculty of Education of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, member of AK MŠVVaŠ, President of the Board of Accreditation of MŠVVŠ; prof. RNDr. Ivan Kalaš, PhD., from the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics of the Comenius University in Bratislava, prof. PhDr. Erich Petlák, CSc., from the Faculty of Education of the Catholic University in Ružomberok, prof. dr. Tatjana Hodnik Čadež, from Department of Mathematics and Computing, University of Ljubljana, prof. PhDr. Věra Janíková, Ph.D., from the Faculty of Education of Masaryk University in Brno, doc. PhDr. Martina Šmejkalová, PhD., from the Faculty of Education of Charles University in Prague, doc. PaedDr. Daniela Valachová, PhD., from the Faculty of Education of Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica, doc. RNDr. Dušan Šveda, CSc., from the Faculty of Natural Sciences of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice, doc. PaedDr. Janka Peráčková, PhD., from the Faculty of Physical Education and Sports of Comenius University in Bratislava. The event was unique because it discursively unified field didactics, training teachers, students of teaching study programs, and teachers from practice, who mutually discussed in individual sections the innovative trends within

particular field didactics. The sections were enriched by interesting and often interdisciplinary topics the content of which covered the didactics of the subjects in natural sciences, mathematics, informatics, socioscientific subjects, subjects in mother tongue and foreign languages, educational and artistic educational subjects, professional development of a teacher, and individual teaching

strategy. The aim of each section was to exchange information among the speakers, point out the partial findings of researches, as well as methodological approaches and defining of problems which require immediate attention. The conference was also attended by students for whom the conference opened new ways of scientific work during writing of their final theses. The participants had a chance to widen their practical skills as well as their psychodidactic competences by the means of a wide variety of workshops aimed at creative teaching of mathematics, improvement of creative and critical thinking within the intentions of interpersonal communication, creation of positive and creative atmosphere to achieve success in the classroom, and also strategies of development of critical thinking in the teaching of foreign languages and biology. The workshops aimed at the creation of tasks with the main stress on intercurricular relations, examples of tasks aimed at the development of critical thinking, exchange of opinions, experiences, and suggestions among the participants. The participants were also interested in artistically-oriented workshops: Implementation of theatre forum in educational process, direct and indirect development of creativity by the means of art, and an art workshop called "Interactivity". The wide variety of

workshops was enriched by the members of the National Institute for Education in Slovak Republic who opened an inspirational discussion featuring the topic of financial education within the environment of elementary school. The variability of workshops provided the participants with possibilities how to enrich the education process with the help of didactic activities and tasks which make the tuition of the students an innovative and untraditional experience. Another part of the event was a methodological seminar for the teachers in training from the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra during which doc. PaedDr. Jana Duchovičová, PhD. presented the objectives of the project and during which many questions and obstacles of the pedagogical training of the students of teaching study programs were discussed. Be-

sides the scientific program the conference also offered the participants experiences in arts via commented visit of didactic exhibition of the students' works called "Variability, interdisciplinarity, interactivity", an exhibition called "Digital media in artistic education" (featuring the works of the students from the Department of Creative Arts and Art Education at the Faculty of Education of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra), and also via a theatrical performance "Kabaret" in the Old Theatre of Karol Spišák in Nitra which is a result of implementation of strategies of creative thinking development within musical-dramatical production. The contribution of the conference was represented not only by interesting lectures and expert discussions, but also by meetings with colleagues and friends. The scientific



and artistic program accomplished the fulfil the expectations which is confirmed by a large number of participants. The conference formed a space for the dialogue of perspectives and the exchange of experiences within given problematics. The event provided the participants with many tips for development of critical thinking of students within practice and it also initiated changes within their individual conception of teaching and further tendency of pedagogical and scientific work. We would like to thank all those who participated on the conferences and the speakers for creating of positive atmosphere and active discussion related to the topic of the conference.

doc. PaedDr. Jana Duchovičová, PhD.,  
PhDr. Denisa Gunišová, PhD.,  
Faculty of Education – Department of  
Pedagogy  
Photography: Mgr. Branislav Ziman



# ACTIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH VID UNIVERSITY IN NORWAY



In 2017, thanks to doc. PhDr. Slavomír Krupa, PhD. the Department of Social Work and Social Sciences began to cooperate actively with the partnership VID University (VID vitenskapelige høyskole). The university was established on 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2016 and was the result of joining of three older renowned universities in Oslo, Bergen, and Stavanger. As the part of the Erasmus+ program and under the leadership of doc. PhDr. Michal Kozubík, PhD., department Erasmus+ coordinator, the Department accepted in the winter semester of the academic year of 2017/2018 first three students from Norway for an internship, namely: Linn Kristin Meling, Elise Undheim, Henriette Håheim, and Geir Magne Fuglestad. The active cooperation was also proved by a visit of the Dean of VID University, Mr. Tomas Sundnes Drønen, a former graduate of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Anna Chalachanová (currently a PhD student of the VID University), and their colleagues at the Department of Social Work and Social Sciences on 23rd and 24th of October 2017. We believe that such meetings will turn into exchange study stays and internships as well as scientific partnership within joint projects.

doc. PhDr. Michal Kozubík, PhD.,  
Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care –Department of  
Social Work and Social Sciences  
Photography: archive of the Department

# CONSTANTINE THE PHILOSOPHER UNIVERSITY IN EECA QS RANKINGS 2018 TOP 200 FOR THE FIRST TIME

On 16th of October 2017 the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), a British company specialising in education and career consulting, published the rankings of the top-quality universities within the region of the emerging Europe and Central Asia known as EECA QS Rankings (EECA - Emerging European and Central Asia). Within the rankings of approximately 2900 universities of the monitored region the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra ranked at the 181st – 190th place which rates our university among 60% of the best universities. The attribute of the published ranking – 2018 TOP 200 – means that the list of the first 200 universities represents the top quality of the given region. 2500 universities got into the first round, 2000 were

shortlisted, however according to the methodology of the EECA QS Rankings only first 200 top universities were evaluated. This is the first time for the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra to rank among the first 200 top universities. There were five other Slovak universities ranked among the 200 top universities. EECA QS Rankings, a special ranking of the top-quality universities within the region of the emerging Europe and Central Asia, has been published since 2014. The methodology of ranking consists of global indicators such as the status and reputation of the academia, the proportion of the teachers and scientists to the number of students, number of scientific publications and citations in Scopus database etc., but it also takes into account the sphere of action of the institution in a given region according to the specially created measurements for a given region.



Source: <https://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/eeqa-rankings/2018>

Composed by: prof. PhDr. Gabriela Miššáková, CSc.,  
Vice-Rector for International Relations

# THE MAP

## Location of University Objects

1. Rectorate  
Faculty of Natural Sciences  
Research Laboratories of the Faculty of Natural Sciences  
(Tr. A. Hlinku 1)
2. Faculty of Arts  
(Štefánikova tr. 67)
3. Faculty of Arts  
(Hodžova ul. 1)
4. Faculty of Natural Sciences  
(Nábrežie mládeže 91)
5. Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care  
(Kraskova ul. 1)
6. Faculty of Arts,  
Faculty of Central European Studies,  
Faculty of Education,  
Music Pavilion of the Faculty of Education,  
University Library,  
University Pastoral Centre  
(Dražovská ul. 4)
7. Faculty of Arts,  
Student Dormitory Nitra  
(ul. B. Slančíkovej 1)
8. Counselling and Service Centre,  
Student Dormitory Zobor  
(Dražovská ul. 2)
9. Student Dormitory Brezový háj  
(Nábrežie mládeže 1)

International Relations  
and Mobility Office  
Tr. A. Hlinku 1, 949 74 Nitra  
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+421 37 6408 031  
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### 1 Tr. A. Hlinku 1

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International Relations  
and Mobility Office  
+421 37 6408 031 | kbutorova@ukf.sk

Faculty of Natural Sciences  
- Dean's Office  
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Department of Computer Science  
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and Environmental Studies  
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+421 37 6408 613 | mkorenkova@ukf.sk

Department of Physical Education  
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### 2 Štefánikova tr. 67

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Studies  
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+421 37 6408 464 | jkonova@ukf.sk

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+421 37 6407 482 | krusistiky@ukf.sk

Department of Slovak Language  
and Literature  
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+421 37 6408 416 | msillerova@ukf.sk

Department of Translation Studies  
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Institute of Literary and Art Communication  
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Institute for Research of Constantine and  
Methodius' Cultural Heritage  
+421 37 6408 464 | jkonova@ukf.sk

Institute of Interpreting  
+421 37 6408 455 | djankovicova@ukf.sk

### 3 Hodžova ul. 1

Central European Research Institute  
of Soren Kierkegaard  
+421 37 6408 386 | kierkegaard@centrum.cz

Department of Archaeology  
+421 37 6408 392 | karcheologie@ukf.sk

Department of Cultural Studies  
+421 37 6408 352 | lmolnarova@ukf.sk

Department of Ethnology and Folk Studies  
+421 37 6408 358 | mjagerova@ukf.sk

Department of General and Applied Ethics  
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**Department of Management of Culture and Tourism**  
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**Language Centre**  
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## 4 Nábřežie mládeže 91

**Department of Botany and Genetics**  
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**Department of Zoology and Anthropology**  
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**Institute of Gemmology**  
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## 5 Kraskova ul. 1

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**Department of Nursing**  
+421 37 6408 814 | dcicova2@ukf.sk

**Department of Psychological Sciences**  
+421 37 6408 789 | lkrivackova@ukf.sk

**Department of Social Work and Social Sciences**  
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**Institute of Applied Psychology**  
+421 37 6408 794 | mszokeova@ukf.sk

**Institute of Romany Studies**  
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## 6 Dražovská ul. 4

**Faculty of Central European Studies - Dean's Office**  
+421 37 6408 853 | dfss@ukf.sk

**Department of Tourism**  
+421 37 6408 876 | msinnova@ukf.sk

**Institute of Hungarian Linguistics and Literary Science**  
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**Institute of Languages and Cultures of Central Europe**  
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**Institute for Teacher Training**  
+421 37 6408 856 | rbeneova@ukf.sk

**Faculty of Education - Dean's Office**  
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**Department of Music**  
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**Department of Pedagogy**  
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**Lifelong Learning Centre**  
+421 37 6408 252 | ikovacikova@ukf.sk

**Psychological Counselling Centre**  
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**Support Centre for Students with Special Needs**  
+421 37 6408 246 | vbelikova@ukf.sk

**Department of Mass Media Communication and Advertising**  
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**Centre of Information and Communication Technologies**  
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**University Library**  
+421 37 6408 106 | lib@ukf.sk

**University Pastoral Centre**

**Univerzum Gallery**  
+421 37 6408 280 | zmichalakova@ukf.sk

## 7 ul. B. Slančíkovej 1

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**Media Centre**  
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**Student Dormitory Nitra**  
+421 37 6408 081  
mmasar@ukf.sk

## 8 Dražovská ul. 2

**Counselling and Service Centre**  
+421 67 6408 120 | mtvrdik@ukf.sk

**Student Dormitory Zobor**  
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## 9 Nábřežie mládeže 1

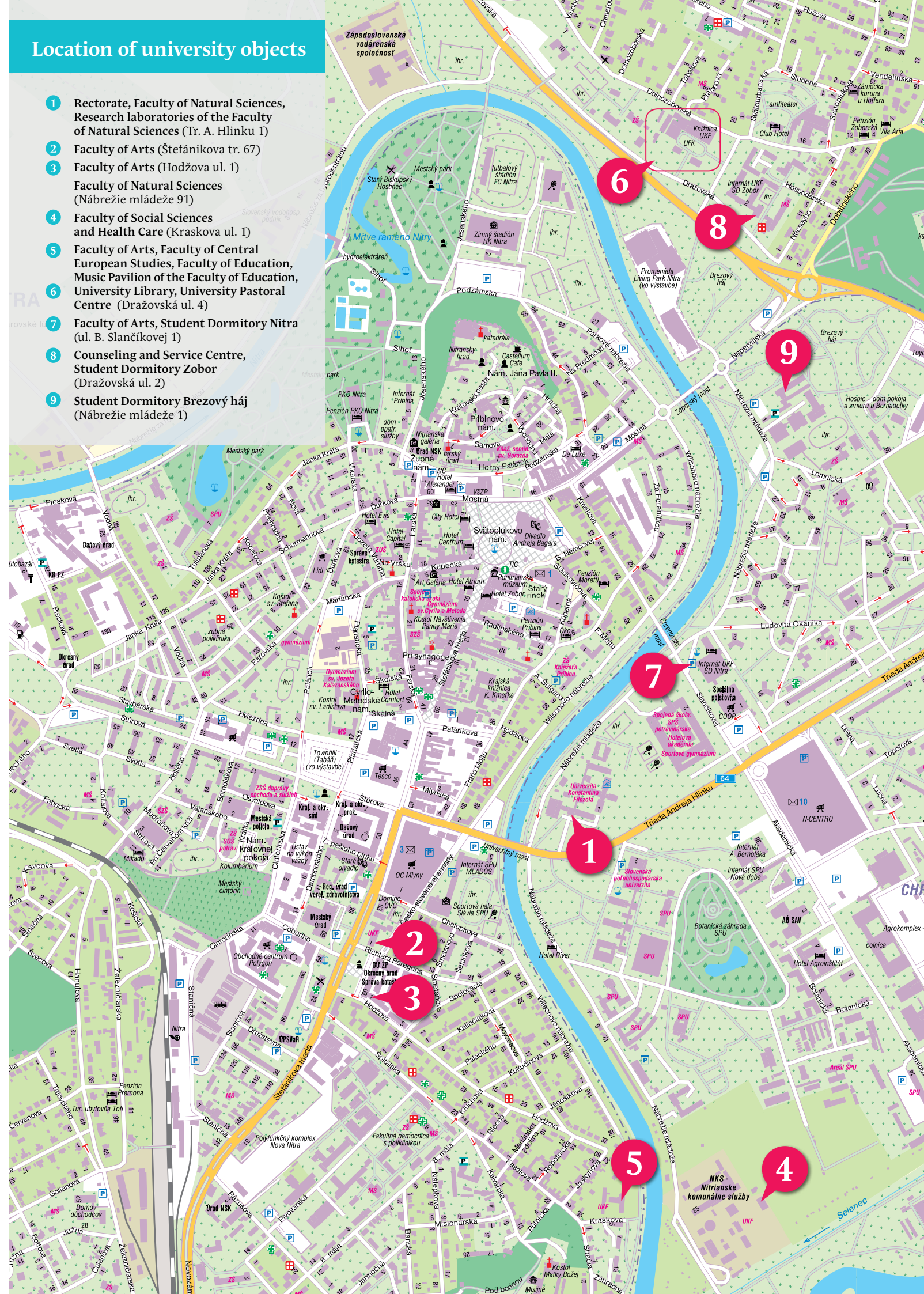
**Student Dormitory Brezový háj**  
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**Central Administration on web:**  
[www.ukf.sk/en/central-administration](http://www.ukf.sk/en/central-administration)



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CONSTANTINE  
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Incoming students and staff: [kbutorova@ukf.sk](mailto:kbutorova@ukf.sk), [agarajova@ukf.sk](mailto:agarajova@ukf.sk)



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