

# NÁŠ ČAS

MAGAZINE OF CONSTANTINE THE PHILOSOPHER UNIVERSITY IN NITRA

SLOVO, ČO UM  
AJ SRDCE VAŠE  
POSILNÍ...

Konštantín Filozof, Proglas

2017 | číslo 3  
ročník XXI.

## UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP

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## CAREER DAY

STUDENTS AND GRADUATES  
MEETING POTENTIAL  
EMPLOYERS

## UNIVERSITY OPEN TO CHINA

COOPERATION WITH  
A PROMINENT CHINESE  
UNIVERSITY





## EDITORIAL

Dear students,  
Dear colleagues,  
Dear international partners and supporters,

We are happy to present you with the second English edition of Constantine the Philosopher University's magazine *Náš čas* introducing a selection of articles devoted to our most interesting achievements and activities. The magazine is published five times a year (the fifth volume in English) to be addressed not only to our academic community and students, but also to more than three hundred secondary schools and various institutions in Slovakia, as well as to our international partners, who may receive by this magazine a more complex view on our work, ambitions and ongoing events.

The growing pressure on the quality of higher education institutions and imminent success of their graduates have forced us to constantly monitor current developments and adapt to ongoing changes, both inside and outside the education sector. Within the strong competitive environment (there are 35 Slovak higher education institutions per almost 5.5 million inhabitants) our university currently maintains the 6th place in terms of the size with its 8307 students (of which 6349 in the full-time form of study). However, we are also trying to support our good position by the significant performance-focused measurable results we achieve in the area of development: we continu-

ously improve and expand the space capacities of the university (such as the newly opened Music Pavilion of the Faculty of Education, new laboratories and study rooms of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, or the university Counselling Centre which is going to be finalized and launched soon), in the area of quality management (we have applied for the quality label according to the European Common Assessment Framework model this year), in the area of scientific research activities (national and international project activity has been increased, the amount of funds awarded for cultural, educational and research projects have raised up, internationally accepted publishing activity has intensified); in the area of international cooperation (we increase the volume of Erasmus+ mobility each year and support the mobility of doctoral students, we also carry out new activities such as summer schools and language courses (1st Summer school for students from China, Chinese language courses for Slovak students and faculty, English language courses for administrative personnel), we aim at further development of efficient cooperation with non-EU countries under the Erasmus+ scheme, and strengthen internationalization of university environment by implementing the development project "Enhancing the quality of higher education through internationalization"). Throughout the academic year, we offer a wide range of activities to promote science and/or study, support of student career, health and various cultural, sport, social and artistic events (Nitra University Days, Students Days of Universities in Nitra, Nitra Summer University, University Open Day, Scientific Fair, Career Day, Table Talk, Interview Day, Academic Ball of Universities in Nitra, Octoberfest, XXL Academy, University Blood Drop, Academic Nitra, concerts and other music and dance performances, festivals, exhibitions, fairs and expositions of student works, various competitions, etc.).

Our mission, however, does not end with providing education, creative scientific research, artistic activity, and development of competences carried out for internal clients of our university. In addition to strengthening current and developing new relationships in the field of national and international cooperation, our university increasingly focuses on issues of social responsibility and its role in relation to regional communities and institutions at national and international level. In terms of its values, we focus on lifelong learning, education of citizens and preparation of teachers for schools with the language of instruction of national minorities, especially Hungarian and Romany minority.

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## MASTHEAD

**Náš čas 3/2017 - SPECIAL ISSUE**  
Magazine of Constantine the Philosopher University  
in Nitra, Volume XXI., Issue 3 (134), 2017

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Title photo:  
Internation cooperation, foto: LB

EV 1260/08 | ISSN 1338 - 3272 | Reg. No. of CPU  
IČO 00 157 716 | October 2017 / 5 issues per year



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# PAVILION OF MUSIC

Generous and impressive facilities offer broad possibilities for musical, dance, and musical-dramatic art as well as musicological research of acoustics, concert and scientific events, theatre performances and other cultural and social activities.



Pavilion of Music, the building unique for its character, architectural design and functionality, was ceremoniously opened on Thursday, 26th of May 2016 as the part of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra (CPU). The facility offers rooms for teaching of programs of the Department of Music of the Faculty of Education of CPU Nitra as well as disciplines within various pedagogical, art-educational and humanistic fields of study accredited at the university. The building comprises multifunctional room for didactical activities, concerts, theatre plays, as well as lectures. It also has spacious ballet hall, sound laboratory and the complex of seminar rooms for teaching of theoretical subjects.

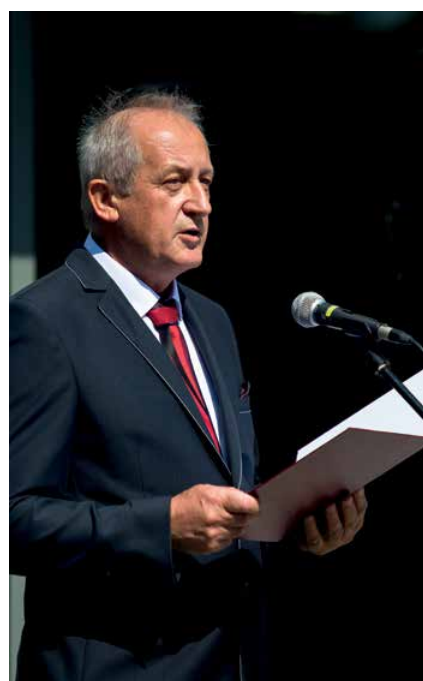
As stated in his speech, the Rector of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, prof. RNDr. Ľubomír Zelenický, CSc., "for Faculty of Education as well as the entire university today's opening of the new building is the accomplishment of one of our long-term goals. One of the ambitions of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra is to be a modern and dynamic institution of European standards."

Pavilion of Music was built between 2014 and 2015 as the part of the university project "Improvement of conditions of educational process at CPU in Nitra by means of the development of infrastructure" which became

the high priority investment activity of the university. The works began in July 2014 and ended on 30th of September 2015. The final inspection was carried out on 15th of December 2015. The building was supported by the Structural funds of the European Union as well as the resources of the university. The overall expenses in 2015 were 2 300 512,48 EUR; 1 771 451,76 EUR were invested from the structural funds. Besides the construction works the finances were used for the purchase of furniture. The overall cost of this purchase was 82 000 EUR; 48 888,71 EUR was covered by the above-mentioned project.



*“This building will be filled with music of all genres: folk and classical music, musicals, jazz, pop, as well as the music accompanying dance and musical-dramatic art...”*



As the Dean of the Faculty of Education, prof. PhDr. Eva Szórádová, CSc., said, “this building will be filled with music of all genres: folk and classical music, musicals, jazz, pop, as well as the music accompanying dance and musical-dramatic art”. More than one thousand of students and teachers of humanistic and pedagogical fields of study from the Faculty of Education, Faculty of Arts, as well as the Faculty of Central European Studies will listen to this music. The generous and impressive facilities of the Pavilion

of Music will offer wide spectrum of possibilities for musical, dance, and musical-dramatic art as well as musicological research of acoustics, concert and scientific events, theatre performances and other cultural and social activities.” According to prof. Szórádová the “Cathedral of Music”, the metaphor used by her, the building will offer space for education and artistic realisation for all ages: preschoolers, pupils, university students and also senior students of the University of the Third Age.

We believe that the new Pavilion of Music will form optimal conditions for the work of teachers as well as students and at the same time it will ensure higher standards of education. Opening of the Pavilion of Music will create inspirational and motivating environment for the realisation of plans and it will always be filled with creative work and kind atmosphere.

Mgr. Jana Krajčovičová  
photo: Lubo Balko







# NITRA UNIVERSITY DAYS

Every year at the end of April and the beginning of May a complex of scientific, sport, artistic and social events called “Nitra University Days” (NUD) takes place within the premises of the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra and also within the streets of the city of Nitra.

The 14th year of the Nitra University Days, which took place from 25th of April 2015 to 10th of May 2016, was held under the auspices of the Rector of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, prof. RNDr. Ľubomír Zelenický, CSc., the Rector of the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, Dr.h.c. prof. Ing. Peter Bielik, PhD., the Mayor of the city of Nitra, assoc. prof. Ing. Jozef Dvonč, CSc. and the district administrator of the Nitra Self-Governing Region, assoc. prof. Ing. Milan Belica, PhD.

Among the traditional events of the NUD are usually Rio Carnival in the Slovak way - an allegorical parade across the city of Nitra - and the Superstar of Nitra universities, which entertained both the students and citizens of Nitra on Tuesday 10th of May at the Svätopluk Square. Among the sport events we can mention “Jarný beh Nitrou” (Spring Run across Nitra), “Nočný výstup na Zobor” (Night Walk up to Zobor) or futsal, volleyball and floorball tournaments.

The pinnacle of the Nitra University Days 2016 was a musical-artistic and social event called “Galavečer Gaude-



amus” (Gala Night Gaudeamus), this year held under the title “Podzoborské šantenie” (Feast under Zobor) featuring folklore music. By means of this event the organisers of the NUD try to deepen mutual communication and partnership of the universities, the city and the region of Nitra with focus on the aspect of fellowship. Another important goal is the presentation of both universities within their relation to the citizens of the city of Nitra and Nitra region, as well as the state administration offices, important institutes, factories within the city and the region, and the universities in Slovakia and abroad.

-red-, photo: Lubo Balko



## Night Walk up to Zobor







# ELEVENTH SEASON OF CIRCULATOR

Every year the organising team of students arranges a well-known advertising competition called "Circulator" under the auspices of the Department of Mass Media Communication and Advertising. The most recent 11<sup>th</sup> year of the competition Circulator 2015 was, in comparison with previous years, exceptional not only thanks to new computational category, but also because it was the first time when the project was held at the brink of old and new calendar year.

Circulator is an international competition in advertising work created for students by students. The aim of the competition is to form a competitive environment and public presentation of talents and skills of the authors. Besides this the aim of this event is to apprise the public

about the work of advertising agencies or graphic studies. Circulator is mainly focused on the problematics of marketing and advertising, as well as multimedia forms of art, design or photography. The entire project is formed by several phases of realisation which predomi-

nantly consist of opening of the new year of the competition followed by the period of events related to the competition and closed by the announcement of the winners during the gala night. A complete epilogue of every year is a traveling exhibition of the best works.

Thanks to the series of Circulator workshops and lectures held on Tuesday 8th of December 2015 within the premises of the Department of Mass Media Communication and Advertising, all fans of marketing were pleased to the full extent. The lectures filled up the entire day and the room where the lectures took place was almost always full. First speakers were the representatives of advertising agency "This is Locco" - Lucia Pazičová and Juraj Kováč, who spoke about the specifics of the creation of tenders within advertising during their lecture "Love my Tender (Ako získať klienta)". Another pair of speakers from the agency "Elite Solutions" - Nela Pazderková and Vojta Kósa - pointed out that the real world of advertising requires highly flexible attitude and readiness and spoke about basic characteristics of viral and guerilla marketing in their lecture "Sedem (nielen) učebnicových príkazní, ktoré sú v reality úplne inak" (Seven (not only) demonstrational commandments, which are completely different in reality). The third lecture was provided by a charismatic speaker Alan Holub from "Triad Advertising" who has been dealing with social networks on a professional basis for four years. In his lecture "Facebook



a inšpiratívne case studies" (Facebook and inspirational case studies) informed the audience about the latest novelties and tips related to Facebook advertising formats. The penultimate speaker - Miroslav Krajčík, representative of "E&S Investments" company, presented information about funds investments in his lecture "Exkluzívne investície a príležitosti na Slovensku" (Exclusive investments and opportunities in Slovakia). The fifth and the last speaker was an experienced copywriter Maroš Hamorský from the "Zaraguza Digital" agency. In his playful and interesting lecture "10 dôvodov, prečo pracovať v reklamnej agentúre" (10 Reasons to Work in an Advertising Agency) he informed the audience about various examples of the benefits of working in advertising while many were pleased by the photo documentation of the atmosphere in advertising agency during an ordinary workday.

The attendance of the students and their positive reviews on individual speakers and their lectures confirm the success of the Circulator 2015 workshops. The lectures served as a good platform for the exchange of current information among the people working in advertising and the students. According to some students the atmosphere of the workshops had motivated them to better work within the competitive category "Group Project" the layout of which was published on Monday 14th of December 2015. After the publishing of creative task by particular advertising agency the

enlisted teams had exactly 24 hours to accomplish it. As for other categories the competitors had to send their works until the 14th of February 2016. This year featured something new - a category called "Young Creative" aimed at the students of high schools and secondary grammar schools. For the first time the competition was joined by the high school students who had a chance to try in person the tension related to creative work in advertising. This challenge was accepted by more than 120 students and their works which thus contributed to the overall result. Friday 4th of March 2016 was the day of the meeting of the committee consisting of six members, the representatives of the agencies "This is Locco", "Elite Solutions", "Triad", "Zaraguza Digital", "Istropolitana Ogilvy" and "Zonemedia". The committee rated all works. Within some categories they decided not to grant some of the first three winning places whereas in other they granted the first place to two winners. The biggest surprise of the competition were the works by high school students. Some of those were of such high quality that the committee had decided to move them into the competitive categories featuring products of skilled university students.

The pinnacle of the project Circulator was a gala night which took place on 15th of March 2016 in Galéria Univerzum (Univerzum Gallery). The aim of the event was to award the winners in individual categories. It also served as the form of gratitude towards the students and

other partners for their participation. All nominated works were displayed within the premises of the gallery and the event featured a concert of Itcho Pčelár and Rock n Rolla. In every category the winners of first three places were awarded with a diploma and various prizes. Every year the most valuable prize is the possibility of an internship in an advertising agency which is granted to the authors of the best works. The internship in "Istropolitana Ogilvy" agency for the first place in category "Advertising text and slogan" was awarded to Lukáš Lukonič. "Elite Solutions" agency offered an internship to René Kubovič, the winner of the category "Advertising Design". Both winners are the students of the Marketing communication and advertising at the Department of Mass Media Communication and Advertising at the Faculty of Arts of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. The prize for absolute winner of the competition Circulator 2015 - a round trip across southern Czechia for two from the travel agency SK Trip - was awarded to Pavol Horváth.

After the announcement of the winners all works were moved from the gallery into Karol Spišák's Old Theatre in Nitra. Another place of exhibition of the works was the gallery "Trafačka" where the visitors could see the best works of Circulator 2015 from 13th of April 2016.

Mgr. et Mgr. Ivana Viteková,  
Department of Mass Media Communication and Advertising, Faculty of Arts  
photo: Róbert Toman





Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra educates students on the equal conditions and principles with no difference on their race, gender, religion, orientation, etc., while enhancing social and economic cohesion by providing students with social scholarships. Socially, economically and regionally disadvantaged students have a preferential status in obtaining accommodation in our dormitories. All incoming international students and staff are equally treated and offered the same services as for our home students and staff. In line with the objectives of non-discrimination, we also educate students with special needs (including students with physical disabilities) and try to integrate them within the local community. For this purpose we established the Support Center for Students with Special Needs at the Faculty of Education in the academic year 2012/2013.

Our activities go far beyond this listing as we try to meet the objectives in this area also through various projects oriented on probation and mediation in assisting professions, poverty concepts, homelessness, Romany language competence and violence against women within Romany communities, subtitling for deaf audience, social inclusion of students with special needs, support of higher education in the Hungarian language, migration and ethnic identification of minorities and the education and quality of seniors' life. These and many other problematic issues that resonate in today's society are becoming a platform that will require our attention also in the future. Such orientation will constantly allow us, as a modern, progressive and attractive educational institution, to contribute to the development of education, science, culture and the formation of responsible society.

We wish you enjoyable reading,

International Relations  
& Mobility Office  
(prof. PhDr. Gabriela Miššíková,  
CSc. – Vice-Rector for International  
Relations,  
Ing. Katarína Butorová, PhD.,  
Ing. Anita Ivanková, PhD.  
and Mgr. Terézia Paňková – Erasmus  
Coordinators)

# A WEEK OF ROMA CULTURE

In this time the Institute of Romological Studies celebrated the 25th anniversary of the admission of first students.



After several years, on the occasion of the International Romani Day, celebrated annually on 8th of April, the Institute of Romological Studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra was organising a Week of Roma Culture featuring interesting program and wide spectrum of activities. At the same time the Institute was celebrating the 25th anniversary of the admission of first students. The event was held under the auspices of the Rector of our

university, prof. RNDr. Ľubomír Zeleňický, CSc. During this week from 4th of April to 8th of April both students and teachers had a chance to attend a number of enriching and inspiring happenings, interactive workshops and live discussions. The program was also joined by the university canteen which was offering typical dishes of Romani cuisine and the Kinoklub Nitra which was presenting movies dealing with the themes related to life of Romani.

Along with the representatives of key organisations (both governmental and non-governmental) one hundred of students discussed and asked questions about the extremism in Slovak society. The workshops stood for the places of essential meetings which shifted the perception of "otherness" beyond the borders of general experience. One of the lecturers was Mgr. Janette Motlová-Maziniová. Thanks to her participation the workshops acquired positive reactions from the students who are undergoing the training within the helping professions. By means of personal self-reflexion, communication of "life" via Romani song, confrontation of the richness of the world and the possibilities to express this within socially disadvantaged environment Mgr. Janette Motlová-Maziniová left a piece of her own self in every attendant of the event which would not allow them to perceive the world in the same way as before.

This inspirational Roma woman, mother, lecturer, is at the same time the graduate of the Institute of Romological Studies. On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the beginning of courses at this institute she said: "It might sound peculiar, but I have finally learned not only to understand Roma, but also to speak it. I have uncovered the beauty of social-psychological trainings which I am still using during almost every training. I have learned to trust my intuition and how to search for the

essence in thoughts. Yes, I know that this is so because I wanted to study THAT and I also know that the degree is less important reason why I wanted to study this."

By mentioning the 25th anniversary of the Institute of Romological Studies (by 2005 known as Department of Romani Culture) the Week of Roma Culture 2016 was closed. All employees, students, graduates, friends and supporters of the Institute of Romological studies met each other during the ceremonial meeting in the Aula Magna of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. Romani music and songs performed by famous Romani artists as well as young Romani talents were accompanied by many words of acknowledgment and support towards the Institute which is unique for its themes focused on inclusion, cultural sensitivity and support of identity of Romani minority in Slovakia.

During these 25 years the place has undergone many changes - it changed its name from the Department of Romani Culture to the Institute of Romological Studies and it moved from the Faculty of Education to the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care because in the centre of its interest there was not just pedagogy, but also helping professions - first it was social care and currently it is also social services and guidance. Right at the birth of the Institute its main aim was to contribute to the development of Romani community in Slovakia - this goal is still being fulfilled by means of teaching future helping professionals and also by scientific activities.

"During all 25 years all study programs have contained a block of romological disciplines - history of Romani people, Romani language, culture and their traditions," said Mgr. Jurina Rusnáková PhD., director of the Institute of Romological Studies. "Non of our students is forced to work with Roma people, but in case they have this kind of aim we will train them to complete it in practice as good as we can."

Graduates of the Institute of Romological Studies work in various spheres of social life - from social services to ministries and their study is evaluated for many reasons - one of them is a significant connection with practice and recognition of target groups. One of these is Zuzana, social care worker at the Children's advocacy centre, which is helping the victims of sexual abuse.



"The most important thing I obtained during my studies at the Institute of Romological Studies, were priceless practical skills acquired during my entire study in various locations of Slovakia and Czech Republic. The Institute imparts into the students a "palette" of social skills. These, along with theoretical knowledge and practical experience, form a basis for professional, sensitive work with clients, rid of prejudices. This work often pays back by means of positive feedback. I wish the Institute of Romological Studies many graduates in future because the employers and clients need them..."

PhDr. Miroslava Čerešníková, PhD.  
Vice-Dean for External Relations and  
Development at the Faculty of Social  
Sciences and Health Care  
photo: Peter Petluš



# INTERNATIONAL MEETING WEEK

Between the 25<sup>th</sup> of April and 29<sup>th</sup> of April 2016 the International Meeting Week featuring the topic “CAN Syndrome - Syndrome of Abused and Neglected Child in European Context” was held in Belgium where Slovakia was represented by the teachers and students from the Department of Social Work and Social Sciences of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. Among other participants were the teachers and students from Belgium, Poland, Croatia and Netherlands.



This year our hosting university was University College Leuven Limburg in Leuven led by Maurits Wismans, the director of “Child and Youth Studies”. The meeting was coordinated by Cathia Coekaerts, an excellent organiser from the Faculty of Health and Social Work. Before their arrival to Leuven the students were assigned a topic which they had to elaborate in a form of case

studies - child abuse, child neglect, child prostitution, child trafficking, and bullying. Our students from Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra (namely Nikoleta Fellnerová, Petra Supeková, Iveta Mácsayová and Lenka Ficová) were presenting the topic “Child prostitution, child trafficking” and “Sexual Abuse of a Child”. During their stay all participants worked within international

teams which were discussing laws, organisations and methods of work used in individual countries and shared a common dream of solving the given problems.

Besides international groups the program featured lectures of the teachers - for example Dr. sc. Dalibor Doležal from Croatia was discussing the topic “Child

abuse”, prof. Dr. hab. Anna Zamkowska from Poland presented a topic “Children's rights”, Raf Sondervorst from Belgium delivered a speech on “Pyramid of prevention” and prof. PhDr. Martina Mojtoová, PhD. informed the students about another current problem of modern youth in lecture “Child in 21st century - blessing or curse?”. After eloquent presentation the attendants watched a short film called “Neglectful Mothers”. Assoc. prof. Geertje Nijhoving from Hogeschool in Rotterdam summed up information and reflections of all participants. Aside from the program we learned more about individual countries, for example by means of “International buffet” where each national team brought food typical for their country. Among our products the most favourite were “klobása” (Slovak meat sausage), “syrové korbáčiky” (cheese strings) and selected biscuits or chocolate.

For better understanding of the topic we visited organisations in Leuven and Brussels which are dealing with this problematic and we also worked in international teams. One of these organisations was “Child Focus” - a centre for missing and sexually abused children with more than 1000 reported home escapes, 500 international cases when the child was taken away illegally beyond the borders of Belgium and currently 15-16 children got missing during the migration. This organisation reaches 95% of success in finding of these children. Another two organisations we visited were “Child & Family” and “ECPAT”. The “Child & Family” organisation helps to detect early signals of child abuse. Besides this they offer help for parents - various trainings which focus on acquiring communication skills with child and also help for primiparae. The “ECPAT” organisation fights for child prostitution ban, child pornography and child trafficking for sexual purposes. Due to the fact there is already 1.8 million children exposed to the risk of child prostitution and pornography, it is a global problem.



Our students had a chance to learn more about Leuven also in a fun way - Belgian students prepared a game called “City Games” during which our students were provided with a map and photographs of places (monuments and sculptures) and were asked to find these places. They could use their communication skills and ask the passers-by. They managed to visit the most well-known places of Leuven such as Kotmadam, Fiere Margriet, Klein Bigijnhof and other while they also learned about their history.

The program of the International Week was intensive and full of information which our students brought back home. Next year the International Week will be held by the University of Zagreb in

Croatia and in 2018 this task will be entitled to the Department of Social Work and Social Sciences of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care in Nitra. We are already looking forward to the new challenges!

prof PhDr. Martina Mojtoová, PhD. head of the Department of Social Work and Social Sciences at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care in Nitra  
Bc. Nikoleta Fellnerová, 2nd year student of the Master studies of social work  
photo: Martina Mojtoová



## „DUAL CAREER“ IN SPORT

The project should contribute to the improvement of the education of talented athletes and the solution of this matter within the Slovak legislative.

Department of Physical Education and Sport of the Faculty of Education at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra has actively participated on international project "Regional Center for Dual Career of Athletes" (DC4AC) as the part of the Erasmus+ for sport. The main supervisor of the project is the National Research Institute for Sport in Bucharest, the co-supervisor of the project is a group of teachers led by prof. PaedDr. Jaromír Šimonek, PhD. The partners of

the project are the departments from five countries (Budapest, Trento, Thessaloniki, Primorsk, and Haskovo). The aim of the project is to help young talented athletes to succeed in their training and study during and after their career so that they can successfully join the public life and do well at the labor market. Athletes must often face challenges how to combine their career with education and work. To reach the top level of any sport requires heavy training and competing both at home and abroad. From the point of view of dealing with challenges and limitations of education system and labor market this might be very difficult. If an athlete wants to avoid the moment when the talented top athletes have to decide between education and sport or work and sport, he or she must be highly motivated, committed, resilient and responsible. Such program of "dual career" must be useful for an athlete's career and at the same time allow him or her to study or work. It must also support the chances of finding a new job after finishing the sport career, protect and guarantee this long-term position of the athletes. The programs of "dual career" stand for quite new challenges within the countries of the European Union as well as the sport itself. In member coun-

tries where such measures have been implemented for a longer time these countries had no fixed conventions between the system of sport and the sector of education or labor market. Legal framework or sustainable government policy was also missing. The guidance might help in developing and improving of the conditions required for sustainability of the "dual career" programs which are tailored for talented top athletes in Europe who are either in a position of a student-athlete or employee-athlete. As presented by prof. Šimonek during the first meeting of project supervisors in Bucharest in January 2016, the project of dual career of the athletes should contribute to the improvement of education of talented athletes as well as the solution of this matter within the Slovak legislative in accordance with new Sport Act which came into force in January 2016. The total endowment of the project is 400.780 EUR, the share of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra is 31.118 EUR.

prof. PaedDr. Jaromír Šimonek, PhD.,  
Department of Physical Education and  
Sport of the Faculty of Education  
photo by: National Research Institute for  
Sport in Bucharest

## Our Student Awarded for the Most Creative Journalistic Work

Kristína Biela, the editor-in-chief of the "Občas Nečas" magazine from Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, was awarded the prize of the general director of the News Agency of the Slovak Republic. The prize of 400 EUR and the internship in the News Agency of the Slovak Republic was awarded for her success in building a functional and influential medium which addresses wide public, bravely analyses local topics and sensitive problems. The winner is currently finishing her studies at the Department of Journalism at the Faculty of Arts of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. Why journalism in Nitra? Kristína said: "I must admit that I have decided to study at the Department of Journalism of the Faculty of Arts in Nitra because of my feelings since at the same time I was admitted to the

studies of journalism in Bratislava, too. I believe that it was one of the best decisions I have ever made in my life. I have spent here almost five extraordinary years for which I will always be grateful because I moved on - both from the professional and personal point of view." The fact that journalism is an essential part of her self is proved also by her hard work since childhood. She was a member of juvenile radio group of Radio Regina in the studio in Banská Bystrica, she also became part of live broadcast of the Saturday show for children called "Halabalakde" where she is still working. Kristína has tried the work of regional journalism, she learned more about TV news broadcasting, worked as a lyricist and currently works full-time as an editor-in-chief of the students' periodical magazine of Constantine the Philosopher



University called "Občas Nečas". "We have all invested a lot of enthusiasm, energy, free time and patience into our work. But at the time of finishing you can see what is left behind - a fully functional mini medium with stable and quite wide readership. That is the moment of true satisfaction, the feeling that it was all worth it.", she added.

source: TASR, photo: TASR

## Post-colonialism in Central Europe

On 5<sup>th</sup> of May 2016 the Institute of Central European Languages and Cultures of the Faculty of Central European Studies at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra held a lecture of professor Boguslaw Bakula from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, a host professor at the Institute of Central European Languages and Cultures, called "Post-colonialism in Central Europe".

The lecture featured a presentation of the book by Dr. Dobrota Pucherová, D. Phil. and assoc. prof. Mgr. Róbert Gáfrik, PhD. Called "Post-colonial Europe? Essays on Post-Communist Literatures and Cultures."

The lecture was opened by prof. PhDr. Tibor Žilka, DrSc., director of the Institute of Central European Languages and Cultures and member of "Klub nezávislých spisovateľov" (Club of Independent Writers), who welcomed the speakers, teachers and students. This opening was followed by a lecture on post-colonialism. His study which aims at this problem has been published in Poznan in 2015 in the publication "Dyskurs postkolonialny we współczesnej literaturze i kulturze Europy Środkowo-Wschodniej. Polska, Ukraina, Węgry, Słowacja" (Post-colonial discourse in modern literature and culture of Central and Eastern Europe. Poland, Ukraine, Hungary, Slovakia) the editor of which is Boguslaw Bakula. Next speaker was Boguslaw Bakula who in the beginning of his speech informed the audience that the terms of "post-colonialism" and "post-modernism" are often being confused and at the same time this topic is difficult to approach. Bakula defines the term of "post-colonialism" as the expression marking historical period which followed the acquisition of independence of the former colonies in the 1950s and 1960s of the 20th century. It is a theory that tries to characterise and describe social, economical and cultural

situation of the colonies and metropolises after the fall of political independence. The term of "post-colonialism" is related to post-colonial theory, post-colonial studies, post-colonial discourse or post-colonial criticism. Post-colonialism as a theoretical phenomenon connects literature, political studies, philosophy, ethnology, film etc. Thanks to the lecture we learned that the post-colonial theory is linked to new historiography, post-structuralism or feminism. For better understanding prof. Bakula added that post-colonialism deals with the traces of colonial era still present in times of formal independence within social relations, mentality, laws, literature, philosophy, and education. He also underlined that the core of contemporary post-colonialism is formed by Orientalism which is thoroughly analysed by Edward W. Said in his publication "Orientalism: Western Conceptions of the Orient". Post-colonial reflexions within Central Europe are analysed by Slovak scientists like Tibor Žilka, Renáta Deáková, Dobrota Pucherová, and Róbert Gáfrik. Last two scientists, members of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (Institute of World Literature), have presented a publication "Post-colonial Europe? Essays on Post-Communist Literature and Cultures" part of which are their scientific studies dealing with the problematics of post-colonialism. At the same time they are the editors of this publication. In 2009 Pucherová finished her PhD studies at the University of Oxford and currently works as

a lecturer at the university in Vienna. In her study she dealt with interpretational analysis of the novels by Viliam Klimáček - "Horúce leto 68" and Pavol Rankov - "Stalo sa prvého septembra" in which she is representing a traumatic colonial event from 1968. Her study also deals with the novel by Lajos Gren del "U nás dome, v New Honte" where she point out the hybrid identity of the city. In his lecture Gáfrik focused mainly on Orientalism.

At the end of this article let me quote both Pucherová and Gáfrik: "Post-colonialism was formed in 1980s of the 20th century as a interdisciplinary field of research of power and knowledge in the world marked by European colonialism." This is their definition of post-colonialism published in scientific journal "World Literature Studies". The 3rd issue of this journal published in 2012 was titled "Post-colonialism and literature of Central and Eastern Europe".

This lecture was unquestionably interesting and enriching for all attendants because it taught us more about post-colonialism. Lively discussion which followed the speeches of all lecturers stands the proof of the fact that the lecture was indeed captivating.

Mgr. Hana Guzmická  
PhD student of the Faculty of Central  
European Studies,  
photo: András Kelemen





# High School Students Part of Mini-Erasmus Once Again

The project Mini-Erasmus is an activity of the "Future Generation Europe" civic association, an organisation which focuses on supporting of education of young people between the age of 16 and 25. The project is aimed at Slovak high school students who are interested in experiencing one-week genuine university life at the university in Slovakia, all this during their studies at high school.



Due to successful realisation of the project during spring semester 2015/2016 Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra with its section ESN UKF decided to join the Mini-Erasmus project again during the academic year 2015/2016. This time it was carried out between the 3rd of April to 7th of April 2016. The project was joined by 25 high school students from Bytča, Námestovo, Žilina, Myjava, Piešťany, Partizánske, Topoľčany, Nitra, Zlaté Moravce, Banská Bystrica, Trebišov and Sučany.

First day of the activities of students in the Aula Magna of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra the students were warmly welcomed by prof. PhDr. Gabriela Miššiková, CSc., the Vice-Rector for International Relations at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. The aim of this opening event was to meet the students and their ideas and questions, collection of written agreements, short introduction to our university, basic rules and time schedule of the project. The students were provided with schedules for three days of lectures, promotional materials about our university and information about the cultural program prepared by the ESN UKF section, which featured the end of each day as a compulsory part of the project realisation. The students were also provided with the tutor from among our students whose task was to keep the company to the students during their stay, accompany them to their dormitories, lectures and out-of-school program. During the project these high school students attended genuine lectures and seminars within the subjects offered by the faculties at the time of the realisation of the project, mainly the courses on ecology, pedagogy, mass media studies and journalism, literature, psychology, geography, philosophy, management, gerontology, biology, arts, political studies, anthropology, social work, IT studies, technology, ethnology, history, botanics, physics and foreign languages. The participants had a chance to participate on ŠVOUČ (Students' Scientific Conference) organised by the Faculty of Arts for the university students of Bachelor's and Master's degrees on 6th



of April 2016. The project was joined by more than 55 teachers who warmly welcomed the high school students at their lectures or seminars. Studying at the university is also typical for life at the dormitories and this is what our high school students experienced, too. For such purposes we provided the students with accommodation in the Student Dormitory Nitra. Several students stayed at their relatives', etc.

Since we appreciate high school students' interest in our university, we are constantly trying to improve the conditions of their stay at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. Thus we asked them to fill out anonymous forms to express their satisfaction with Mini-Erasmus and the study at our university. These forms informed us that the most interesting part of the project for the students were lectures and seminars on pharmacology, psychology, chemistry, physics, journalism, diplomacy, pedagogy, technical studies, arts, management and culture. Some of them would welcome more lectures or seminars dealing with what they would like to study in future, namely the lectures on natural sciences and health care. Many

of the students would join the project again but at different faculty or university participating on this project in order to be able to compare the studies. The students appreciated the Mini-Erasmus project and according to their words found in the forms the answer to the question whether they would choose Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra as their future university was positive in case of more than half of the participation high school students.

The aim of the Mini-Erasmus project was to allow the high school students to orientate themselves within the college market and thus choose the most relevant one. We are glad that we could again show these students the learning process and everyday life of the students of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra and we also hope that it was a motivating experience which will help them to decide for our university in future.

Ing. Katarína Butorová, PhD.,  
International Relations and Mobility Office  
photo: LB





# EXIT

Reflection on current global situation expressed in the works of the students of the Department of Creative Arts and Art Education at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra offered during the “Exit” exhibition in Nitra Gallery.



The exhibition consisted of semestral works of the students from the Department of Creative Arts and Art Education at the Faculty of Education of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. The exhibition featured sculptures and objects, multimedia and interactive installations. The main theme of the displayed works was a reflection on current social and political situation in Slovakia and abroad. The works reflected the topics like immigrants, uprooting, elections, and interpersonal relations. They also reflected the phenomena we encounter while traveling from place to place: food and hygiene problems, plundering, awareness, as well as the problem of acceptance and alienation. The curators of the exhibition (M. Kratochvíl, J. Minariková, L. Zabadaľ) arranged the exhibition into several rooms in such way that if joined together they formed one undivided whole. The EXIT exhibition could thus be called “a superwork of the students and teachers of the department”.

The opening of the exhibition was held on 18th of February and the exhibition itself lasted until the 6th of March 2016. The exhibition featured two happenings. First one was held during the opening of the exhibition when the visitors were offered a soup made of root vegetables. This happening stood for a metaphor of multicultural societies in which various races and religions exist side by side, just like a delicious vegetable soup. The result of this happening - a cooking plate and empty pot - turned into showpieces and were thus part of the exhibition.

Another happening was a reaction to the installation of white protective suits located at the entrance door of each room of the exhibition. The visitors could dress up in these suits and thus become the part of the exhibition. While in these suits the audience turned into the researchers of the displayed artefacts and at the same time they were live artefacts themselves by which they shifted the meaning of perception of the entire exhibition. By passing through individual rooms with titles: (NON)FOOD, POLL ROOM, CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND, BOXES FROZEN IN TIME, DESTRUCTORS OF WORLDS, REMINDER OF BETTER TIMES and with the help of interpretational text the audience could confront their feelings and thoughts with what they saw, heard or read.

Ľubomír Zabadaľ commented on the concept of “superwork”: “At the time when this thing is complete, by looking back we have a feeling that all the pieces fall into place, as if the sculpture was elucidating the video, the video elucidating the sculpture, the relief elucidating the book, the book elucidating what was written, as if it were one story with clear beginning and clearly unclear ending. All this just in case we are looking back. In the time of the birth of this work we just observe how things are being done and we are just mere coordinators of accidental processes within us as well as outside of us. We are searching for check points in order to find the meaning in what is being created. We are emanating signals towards the students and our colleagues hoping that we are communicating... and all of a sudden we feel that we understood each other. Against all dark stories this delivers a positive feeling.”

Mgr. Martin Kratochvíl, PhD.  
Department of Creative Arts and Art Education  
at the Faculty of Education, photo: LB



Curator of the exhibition  
Mgr. Martin Kratochvíl, PhD.  
explains the concept of the  
exhibition - the problem  
of human uprooting  
to visitors.

The installation  
„Oven“ was  
created as  
a response to  
a specific space  
of the gallery and  
allowed viewer  
to perceive  
it in different  
contexts.







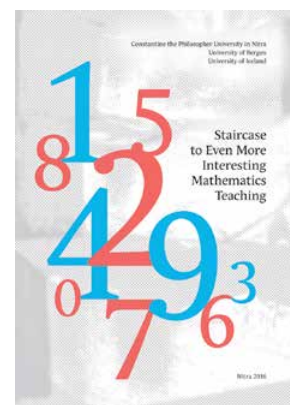
Fourteen months of four short-term mobilities, two conferences and preparation of university course-book.

## UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP OF THREE UNIVERSITIES

Between the 10th of April and 13th of April 2016 discussions, final evaluational meeting and a workshop marked the end of the international project "Improvement of the quality of university education on the basis of the development of institutional multilateral cooperation" funded by Norwegian Financial Mechanism, a grant program of the European Economic Area (EEA Grants), along with state budget of the Slovak Republic. The uniqueness of this project is defined by the international partnership of three universities - Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, University of Iceland in Reykjavik, Iceland, and University of Bergen in Bergen, Norway. As Mgr. Ľubica Lachká, guarantor of the project, said: "Our project focused on two goals: first was an exchange of

experiences within the area of innovative form of education of mathematics and other subjects of natural sciences, the other was monitoring of the potentials for international partnership. I think that despite the fact that the project lasted only fourteen months we have achieved a lot. We have realised four short-term mobilities, which means that the students, teachers as well as managers had a chance to travel and get inspired at the associate universities. We have realised two conferences - Summer School and Conference of Mathematics, and Autumn conference of the PhD students of the Faculty of Natural Sciences. We have also prepared a nice course-book." This course-book "Staircase to Even More Interesting Mathematics Teaching" is one of the outcomes of the project. The contents of this course-book are actual and it will significantly contribute to the innovation of teaching of mathematics not only in the associate countries of the project, but also other countries of the European Union and the world with which the universities participating on this project are cooperating within other international projects. As PaedDr. Soňa Čeretková, PhD., the co-author of the course-book,

stated: "In the time of the realisation of the project we relied on the contacts we had made during previous projects. We have been cooperating with the university in Iceland since 2007." The aim of the project was to support the tuition of PhD students within the theory of education of mathematics as well as the students of teaching of mathematics because both collaborating houses at the university in Bergen and Reykjavik are the departments of mathematics training future teachers of mathematics. "As for this area we are also participating on the preparation of scientific articles, but for wider use and wider community of mathematicians we have prepared a university course-book dealing with the theory of teaching of mathematics with main focus on curricular relations as well as the use of IT technologies during the process of teaching of mathematics and other special software - the most widespread system "Geogebra" is for teaching of mathematics. The course-book has eight chapters, four of which were written and composed in Norway and Iceland, and four other were written by our colleagues from Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra." The publication was brought to



It's just the university textbook "Staircase to Even More Interesting Mathematics Teaching" which arised as one of the project results.

life by three co-authors, the representatives of participating universities - Soňa Čeretková, Mette S. Andresen and Freyja Hreinsdóttir - by lighting up the candles as the symbol of new light of knowledge. "Besides strengthening of the network of relations and contacts the biggest benefit of the project is the course-book for the students of teaching", said Mette Andresen. "Although the partners have been working together for a long time, we are still discovering new ideas, subjects and inspiration. Personally, I value the chance to learn more about the Slovak society and Slovak system of education." Another key output of the project is represented by the results of monitoring of the potentials of our university for international partnership with both universities based on the comparison of the study programs and areas of research. Besides the cooperation with these universities within the Erasmus+ (the mobility of the students and employees), which has already developed, we have discussed other possible forms of cooperation such as common solution of educational and scientific projects or organising of conferences, seminars, workshops, and summer school or language courses. "International cooperation and project solutions with our partners from abroad is beneficial on several levels.", said prof. RNDr. Ľubomír Zelenický, CSc., the Rector of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. "Firstly, it is a transfer of the best what is being done at foreign universities into

our university - which makes is better. The other thing is that such projects enable us to form personal contacts among the people and thus start another partnership. Last, but not least, it allows our university to compare with other universities abroad." As a part of the final meeting of the project partners our university hosted Branislav Bédi, a PhD student from the University of Iceland and a graduate of the Department of English and American studies of the Faculty of Arts at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, who delivered two interesting lectures "Using of Authentic Language in Video Games to Improve Actual Communication in Foreign Language" and "From Reality to Virtuality: using authentic language to model a realistic human-agent interaction" to the students of the Faculty of Arts and Faculty of Education at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. The lectures also featured discussions with the audience about life and study in Iceland. Both topics of the lectures were based on the topic of his doctoral thesis. Along with "Center for Analysis and Design of Intelligent Agents group" at Reykjavik University he works on the development of a computer game for teaching Icelandic language and culture. The main focus is on natural language and multimodal behaviour of human speakers in conversations and its application into the design of "conversational agents". The project brought new experiences and comparisons also in the mass media area of the universities as well as the chance



for exchanging professional attitudes on internal and external communication among the partner universities and the public. PaedDr. Ivona Fraňová, PhD., the head of Mass Media Section at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, said: "Specialisation of the employees from individual rectorates, precise definition of work tasks, and competencies and well-set processes of the management of both universities helped us to better understand the success and effectivity of the managerial processes of these universities during the creation of positive reputation of a university in the eyes of the public." During the final meeting all representatives of the participating universities concluded that during such short time of the project we did a great deal of work and the new contacts and experiences should be transformed into another cooperation, especially on the level of particular departments and workplaces. At the same time they stated, based on their personal experiences, that international partnership requires a "complete human" who is required to be qualified within the area of his or her work and motivated to invest his or her private time, sometimes exceeding the basic work-time, into the development of personal contacts and realisation of mutual activities. We believe that the partnership among the three universities will continue by means of other forms of cooperation and that the positive results of the project will contribute to building up the interinstitutional collaboration and the development of education at these three universities.

Mgr. Jana Krajčovičová,  
Ing. Katarína Butorová, PhD., photo by: LB





## HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN A POSITION OF NUCLEAR PHYSICISTS



On 18<sup>th</sup> of February 2016 the Faculty of Natural Sciences of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra hosted an international event INTERNATIONAL MASTERCLASSES. As a part of this event the high school students participated on the lectures of particle physics. They also had a chance to analyse real data measured in the Large Hadron Collider in CERN. The same measurements were carried out at the same time in several countries and were synchronised so that the participants could work with identical data sets. The results were compared during the teleconference with their colleagues from Portugal, Germany and Italy. The event was moderated by the researchers from CERN which added to its uniqueness because the students could thus learn more about the work in CERN.

PaedDr. Ľubomíra Valovičová, PhD.  
Department of Physics at the Faculty  
of Natural Sciences  
photo by: Mgr. Ján Ondruška, PhD.

## A VISIT OF TEACHERS FROM MOSCOW AND KAZAN

Underlining the importance and meaning of the use of virtual distant experiments in current educational programs

22nd of June 2016 marked the visit of teachers from the Russian Federation at the Department of Technology and Information Technologies of the Faculty of Education at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra - assoc. prof. Mária Panatí, PhD., head of the Department of Applied Informatics in Education of Moscow State University of Economics, Statistics and Informatics and assoc. prof. Vladimír Zuev, PhD., director of the Centre for Electronic Education ISGZ in Kazan, both accompanied by Dr. Ing. Jaroslav Kultán, PhD., ISO-IECJNC15C36 expert from EU in Bratislava. The Department of Technology and Information Technologies was represented by prof. Ing. Tomáš Kozík,

DrSc. and Mgr. Peter Kuna, PhD. The meeting was realised upon the initiative of the teachers-experts from the aforementioned universities based on the references on the activities of the department within the field of research and innovation of technical education in distant forms at all levels of education. The basic topics of the talks featured computerisation of education - possibilities and goals of active learning of IT in the process of education, evaluation of the accomplishments and organisation of education, creation of electronic materials and training of experts in



e-learning within a newly-created study program. Besides the presentation of results of successful projects focused on distant forms of education and partnership of the specialised university department with manufacturing companies, prof. Kozík and Dr. Kuna informed the guests about the examples of virtual distant experiments and

the implementation of model computer-controlled machine tools into education. The guests praised high quality of experimental work at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra and underlined the importance and meaning of the use of virtual distant experiments in current educational programs. At the end of the meeting all participants expressed their satisfaction with the results of the meeting and at the same time they were sorry that the time of the stay of the Russian experts at the department was so short. They also stated that this visit opens the way to

new possibilities of close cooperation in establishing of joint learning programs and projects in the future.

prof. Ing. Tomáš Kozík, DrSc.,  
Department of Technology and Information Technologies of the Faculty of  
Education  
photo by: Jaroslav Kultán

## IRISH AMBASSADOR CELEBRATED ST. PATRICK'S DAY AT THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION

On 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2016 our students from the Department of Language Pedagogy and Intercultural Studies at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra commemorated a traditional Irish holiday - St. Patrick's Day.

Although it was already the fourth year of these celebrations organised by the students of the fourth year from the Department of Language Pedagogy, in

the atmosphere of the university premises. This event allowed them to join the university students and learn more about the beauties of Irish culture.



many aspects it was unique. Besides other valued guests the Faculty of Education hosted the Ambassador of the Republic of Ireland, Her Excellency Anne-Marie Callan. The celebrations were also unique thanks to the attendance of the students from primary and secondary schools in Nitra who thus had a chance to experience first-hand

The program consisted of dramatic performances, singing and dancing delivered by the students from the Department of Language Pedagogy and Intercultural Studies in cooperation with the students from the Department of Music. The audience represented by the teachers and students could participate on live program and thus become the



part of the celebrations. The typical green colour and Irish tricolour dominated the decorations, the clothing as well as the exhibition of green food. Selected committee, led by the Ambassador, rated and awarded the most original costumes and dishes. At the beginning of the program the Ambassador spoke to the teachers and students and expressed her sincere gratitude for being the part of this event. Her speech was opened by the words: "I am sure that this is the most charming and biggest celebration of the St. Patrick's Day in Slovakia." The atmosphere of the celebrations created an environment where according to her own words she felt at home just like all those who attended the celebrations of the St. Patrick's Day 2016 at the Faculty of Education.

Bc. Milan Ivenz, Bc. Michal Pigula  
PhDr. Zuzana Tabačková, PhD.  
photo: LB





## Folklore groups “Promni” and “Hornád” became the laureates of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the festival

The 40th year of the International Academic Festival “Academic Nitra”, the only festival of this kind in the world, was opened by the scientific conference called “Folk Dance and Music in Research, Theory and Scenic Practice” on Monday, 4th of July 2016. The entire week the citizens of the city of Nitra and other visitors or tourists had a chance to visit performances of eleven top quality Slovak and five foreign academic ensembles which are the part of colleges or universities. Their art could be seen in the premises of the Andrej Bagar Theatre in the form of two competitive evenings “Vitae Discipulus” and a gala night “Academia Universitas”. As a part of this festival the visitors could join in a street parade across the city of Nitra called “Traditional Costumes Parade”, stage performances of the participants and other performances of the foreign ensembles in the towns around Nitra (“A Guest in Your Home, a God in Your Home”). The 40th year of Academic Nitra 2016 culminated on Thursday 7th of July 2016 with the representative gala program during which the fans of folklore were informed about the winners. The folklore ensemble “Promni” from Poland became the foreign laureate of the festival while the Folklore Ensemble “Hornád” became the domestic winner. This was the decision of a seven-member committee. The winners were awarded by the President of the festival PhDr. Miroslava Líšková, PhD. and a member of the committee Mgr. art. Péter Lévai, PhD. The folklore ensemble “Promni”, led by Żofia Solarzowa, which represents the Warsaw School of Social Sciences and Humanities, dazzled the committee and the audience by the series of dancing, singing called “Tańce Lachów Sądeckich”, which expressed the proud and free character of the local citizens. The folklore ensemble “Hornád” at the Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice became the winner with their program “Maľovani” (Painted) featuring the choreography by Mgr. Stefan Štec. “We have met several times with the folklore group Parchovianka from

Parchovany and we each time we were stunned even before they began to sing and dance. They were beautiful, neatly dressed, proud, literally starch-stiff and colourful. This is what we feel is emanating from the people coming from a village of traditional costumes in Zemplín in the 21st century. What did the visitors of Zemplín feel in the past? How did the artists treat it? A beauty that needs to be immortalised. Each moment of these people from Zemplín was a one-of-a-kind visual experience. They were painted!” The choreography of “Maľovani” features authentic memoirs of Jozef Teodor Mousson, an artist and impressionist painter, who came to Michalovce in 1911 as a teacher and worked there until the 1940s. The description of his feelings about the unknown beauty of Zemplín and its traditional costumes and people,

Gergana Bulgaria, Sukhishvilebi Georgia, and the golden band was awarded to Borievka Košice, Promni Poland, Hornád Košice, and Poľana Brno Czech Republic. Special awards were granted to the Folklore ensemble Poľana from Brno, Czech Republic for their achievements in maintaining Slovak folklore traditions in foreign countries (Rector of Constantine the Philosopher University Prize) and Tomáš Blažek from the Folklore ensemble Ponitran for their elegant interpretation of the bagpipe songs from the region of Nitra (The Mayor of the City of Nitra Prize). Special prize, the Folklore Union of Slovakia Prize, was awarded to Ľubomír Hobza and Veronika Balážiová from the Folklore ensemble Ekonóm Bratislava for their individual dance interpretation and also to Nikoloz Pukhashvili and Beka Esiava from the Folklore ensemble

**XL. International Academic Folk Groups Festival**  
**AKADEMICKÁ NITRA** Medzinárodný akademický festival folklórnych súborov  
**4.-10. JÚL 2016**

later expressed in his paintings, is an inspiration for the ensemble. At the same time it delightfully completes the possibilities of interpretation, discovery of emotions, feelings, beauty of traditional culture of lower Zemplín region within the particular period of his work. The bronze band was awarded to ADMIU Azerbaijan and Torysa Košice, the silver band was awarded to Ponitran Nitra, Gymnik Bratislava, Technik Bratislava, Ekonóm Bratislava, Poľana Zvolen, Stavbár Žilina, Mladost Banská Bystrica, Zobor Nitra,

Sukhishvilebi Georgia for exceptional dance mastery. The Folklore ensembles Sukhishvilebi and ADMIU also received the prize from the President of the Festival for artistic impression. The representative gala program which stood for an outstanding parade of the best of the festival, was closed by a symbolic handover of the “relay” to Technical University in Zvolen which is going to organise “Academic Zvolen 2017”.

Mgr. Jana Krajčovičová, photo by: LB

# ACADEMIC NITRA 2016





Nitra Summer University is a mutual project of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra and the Slovak University of Agriculture in cooperation with the City of Nitra during which its participants learn about academic environment, nature of university study and selected topics which are the part of the broad offer of study programs of both universities in Nitra. All of this in playful and creative form. The project is intended for children between 8 and 11 years of age. All activities are divided into various thematic sets.

## Nitra Summer University

During the 9<sup>th</sup> year 59 children participated in 19 activities in two weeks

What do a young sinologist, hispanicist, food processor, physiologist, microbiologist, Olympic athlete, Englishman, driver, archaeologist, editor, craftsman, IT specialist, artist, geoinformatician, physicist, hippologist, botanist, falconer and Nitra citizen have in common? All these titles were granted to young attendants of Nitra Summer University 2016 which began on 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2016 with ceremonial matriculation in the Aula Magna of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra and ended on 15<sup>th</sup> of July 2016 in the Aula Magna of the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra. After the authentic university matriculation and admission of the young students to Nitra Summer University during which they obtained the credit books the study could begin. As we were informed by Mgr. Diana Kanášová, PhD. from the Lifelong Learning Office,

this year featured new activities such as "Young Sinologist", "Young Hispanicist" and "Young Geoinformatician". As the part of the first activity during the lecture of Mgr. Changhui Zhang the children were taught basic phrases from Chinese language and learned about Chinese culture. During the lecture "Young Hispanicist" they learned how to greet and introduce themselves in Spanish. They also learned how to sing one of the popular summer hits and also how to cook delicious yet very simple Spanish dish - pan con tomate. Through the videoclips the children were informed about Spanish national

holidays and tourist destinations near the Mediterranean Sea. As a part of the lecture "Young Geoinformatician" they were asked to solve the problems related to ecology while using geographic information systems and GPS gadgets. The study of young students at Nitra Summer University ended by ceremonial graduation attended also by the representatives of the administration of both universities in Nitra and the city of Nitra. The graduates were granted a certificate "Academicus Nitriensis Jr.".

-jk-, photo by: LB



## A Fair of Science

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> of November 2016 marked the day when ten departments and institutes of the Faculty of Natural Sciences organised a Fair of Science for public and schoolchildren in Galéria Mlyny shopping centre where 1500 attendants had a chance to experience science first hand. With the help of mathematicians they were exploring a winning strategy, solved the puzzles and drew the ultimate mathematical picture. With chemists they peeked into a magical kettle to discover its secrets, the ecologists introduced them into the world as it is seen by a predator. With geographers the attendants discovered a treasure of pirates, created their own map and learned more about the world. IT experts introduced them to minibots which only speak the language of colours, showed them a competition of Mini Sumo Bots or presented them Selfiebot. With biologists they enjoyed biological activities and scientific experiments while the physicists proved them that physics can be both hot and freezing. At the end during management course the attendants were explained that to follow latest trends you need to be successful and rich.

PaedDr. Katarína Zverková,  
Faculty of Natural Sciences  
photo by: Lubo Balko





*All educational activities improved theoretical knowledge of people with special needs and allowed them to respect and inspire each other.*

# XXL ACADEMY

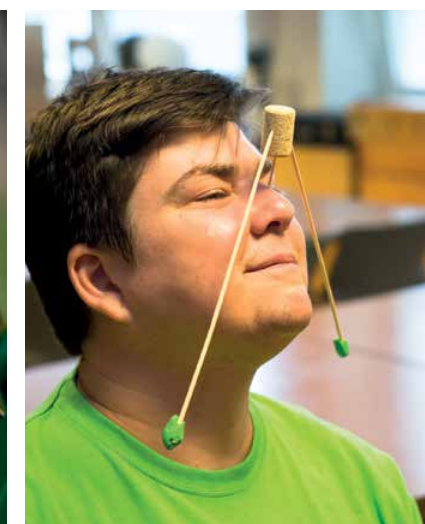
University is a place where the students acquire not only knowledge and skills, but also a place where they can establish new friendships, learn to cooperate, help and respect each other. After finishing integrated education the people with special needs from the facilities of social services get into the environment in which they often spend their time isolated from the society. These young people are unable to change their situation. This is the reason why for the fourth time during the summer holiday Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra and the Centre of Social Care "KREATÍV" in Klasov organised educational activities for people with special needs. These activities were aimed at communication, elementary laws of nature and problems of society. 28 students of XXL Academy confirmed the beginning of their study by ceremonial matriculation where they were granted Registration forms and Study reports by

PhDr. Miroslava Líšková, PhD., a Vice-Rector for Public Relations and Social Affairs and also by assoc. prof. PhDr. Rastislav Rosinský, PhD., the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care. For each day university teachers, professionals in specific study and research areas, and their students responsibly prepared exciting lectures enriched by practical examples and trainings. On Monday PhDr. Veronika Šimonová, along with her colleagues - PhD students at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care - taught the students basics of communication in



sign language which allowed them to understand each other without words. Through interesting educational activities RNDr. Kitty Páleníková, PhD. with the students from the Department of Mathematics introduced the students to mathematics as a scientific discipline which is not to be feared because numbers are all around us. PaedDr. Lubomíra Valovičová, PhD. with her students from the Department of Physics "opened the door" to the laws of physics. In laboratories all students discovered the laws of gravity, mysterious qualities of water, and miracles of the principles of physics accompanying our everyday life - either individually or with the help of their assistants, the students from the Department of Nursing. Mgr. Soňa Petrovičová from KREATÍV Klasov in cooperation with special pedagogues and social care workers solved in a creative form the problematics of the meaning and nature of individual and collective sports which

allowed the students of XXL Academy to let loose their imagination and inventiveness. All educational activities improved theoretical knowledge of people with special needs and allowed them to respect and inspire each other. The entire week the students bore in mind the long-awaited and joyful moment of the Friday ceremonial graduation. The students were granted the diplomas within the premises of peaceful garden park of KREATÍV Klasov facility by the hands of assoc. prof. PaedDr. Marcela Verešová, PhD., the Vice-Rector for Lifelong Learning, and PhDr. Dana Zrubcová, PhD. the Vice-Dean for Study Affairs at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care. The feeling of success of the graduates was shared by the representatives of the Nitra Self-Governing Region, division of Social and Health Care, Mgr. Eva Schmidtová and Mgr.



Viera Kazimírová along with other guests who participated on flawless unfolding of the entire educational activity. At the end I would like to express my thanks to our Vice-Rector, PhDr. Miroslava Líšková, PhD., and her colleagues from the Office for Public Relations and Social Affairs and the Media Office under whose auspices this unique and unusual educational activity was organised. All teachers and participants confirmed the fact that they are not just teaching the students, but at the same time they respect their individuality, interests, and skills and help them develop these abilities. We are looking forward to organising the 5th year of the XXL Academy 2017.

PhDr. Ľuboslava Pavelová, PhD.,  
Department of Nursing at the Faculty of  
Social Sciences and Health Care  
photo by: LB





# INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY

In summer time from 18th of July 2016 to 12th of August 2016 the Department of Archaeology of the Faculty of Arts at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra organised the seventh season of the Summer School of Archaeology in Zvolen led by assoc. prof. PhDr. Noémi Beljak Pažinová, PhD.

The project was joined by more than fifty students from Slovakia (Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra), Poland (Uniwersytet Warszawski), Hungary (Eötvös Loránd Tudományegyetem Budapest) and Czech Republic (Univerzita Hradec Králové). The lecturers of the project from Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra were Mgr. Dominik Repka, PhD. From the Department of Archaeology and full-time doctoral students Mgr. Ladislav Chmelo, Mgr. Matej Styk (study of archaeology), and Mgr. Michaela Niklová (study of Slovak history). The project was also joined by foreign lecturers from Hungary (Dr. Maxim Mordovin, ELTE Budapest), Poland (Dr. A. Zastawny, Museum of Archaeology in Krakow) and Germany (Dr. Dieter Barz from Mainz). The participants worked on an archaeological research of two medieval castles. The first one was Petuša Castle located three kilometres westward from Zvolen near the village of Ostrá Lúka which has been explored since 2011. Another one, the Pustý hrad Castle in Zvolen, is situated on the hill of the same name at the southern edge of the city. Since 2010 the Department of Archaeology has been a local

research partner of the Archaeological Institute of Slovak Academy of Sciences in Nitra with PhDr. J. Beljak, PhD. as the head of the research. The excavations at the castle of Petuša (built in the period of High Middle Ages - end of 13th century and beginning of 15th century) were centralised around the western line of the stone wall which surrounds the location. It is believed that the original height of this wall was 4 or 5 metres. In this part of the castle we had hoped to find the original entrance. Although we managed to explore almost 7 metres of the fortification with the preserved wall of two metres, the original entrance of the castle could not be located. However, the exploration featured a significant discovery of the currently unknown and unforeseen structure in the bailey. This structure with stone foundation has been discovered near the southern edge of the bailey and so far 16 m<sup>2</sup> of this area have been uncovered. It was probably a foundation of the residential watchtower. Another new discovery is an identification of former walkable part of the bailey and some older cultural layers underneath according to which we suggest that the area of the castle had been



Prednáška hosťujúceho archeológa Dr. P. Kováčika zo Slezskej univerzity v Olomouci na Bakovej jame vo Zvolene



Nález hlinenej plastiky zvierata na Bakovej jame vo Zvolene



Sústrediac sa študentka počas kreslenia terénnej situácie na hrade Petuša

rebuilt and modified several times. This is an important discovery. Along with the fact that the material culture of the castle suggests that the castle was in use for almost 200 years, this discovery might help us during gradual reconstruction of shorter development and construction phases of the castle by means of detailed survey. Among the most significant findings of this year's exploration of the Petuša Castle are fully preserved decorated bronze ring and small mercery lead seal which was also decorated on both sides. One side features a winged lion - a symbol of Venice, the other one probably depicts a head and a face of a Venetian merchant or a doge. Thanks to this iconography we are able to classify it as a late 14th century artefact. How this undamaged ring of linen textile from Venice got to

this castle remains unrevealed. In Slovakia this kind of seal is unique and it cannot be found among any of the well-known factory seals discovered in central Europe. This means that although we cannot say who built the castle or who owned it, its keepers were wealthy, with good taste and good trade contacts. As for the Pustý hrad Castle located above the city of Zvolen (built between 12th and 15th century) the most important part of the research within the Summer School of Archaeology was to discover and confirm the oldest development phases of the building of medieval residential towers located at the Upper castle and also the research of the ancient wall made of stone and soil located under the medieval layers of settlement. From the point of view of material culture this period was dominated by the era of early and late Bronze Age during which the strongest concentration of settlement was located in Zvolenská kotlina with significant strategic point on the hill of Pustý hrad Castle. This was for the first time during the Summer School of Archaeology when we explored a new monocultural ancient location in Bakova jama at the north-eastern edge of the city of Zvolen. Despite the area of research was quite small (approximately 25 m<sup>2</sup>), we have discovered a rich source of findings featuring mainly china fragments and stone-cleaved industry from the beginning of the Copper Age, specifically the period of Lengyel IV culture (approximately 4100 B.C.E.). Among important findings we should mention grains of copper and melting troughs which thus define this location as manufacturing. One of the unusual findings is a small clay sculpture of a standing four-legged animal with small tail. Unfortunately this artefact was broken in the area of neck and thus is missing its head. Besides excavations the participants of the summer school of archaeology had a chance to meet professionals directly at the location, namely historicist Dr. P. Maliniak from Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica and archaeologist Dr. P. Kováčik from Silesian University in Opa-va. At the base camp in Zvolen the participants helped with washing and processing of the discovered artefacts. This field practice featured also an archaeobotanical seminar led by assoc. prof. M. Hajnalová from the Department of Archaeology at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra during which the students learned how to wash the samples of soil in field conditions and how to sort out relevant organic material. All the knowledge and experiences acquired during the summer school are important to the students for their study and work ethics. During this project many of them come into contact with field archaeology for the first time. This project has become an inseparable part of the Department of Archaeology's regular summer activities. It provides the students with practical part of the study while the theoretical knowledge and basic methodical steps are acquired during their semestral courses. In 2016 the Summer School of Archaeology was funded by the International Visegrad Fund (IVF Standard grant 21610149) as well as the Banská Bystrica Self-Governing Region (Agreement No. 379/2016/ODDF). Archaeological explorations and workshops at the Castle of Petuša were financially supported by the project of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic - the program "Obnovme is svoj dom" (Renew Our House) (Agreement MK-914/2016/1.3).

Assoc. prof. PhDr. Noémi Beljak Pažinová, PhD.  
head of the project of Summer School of Archaeology  
photo by: author

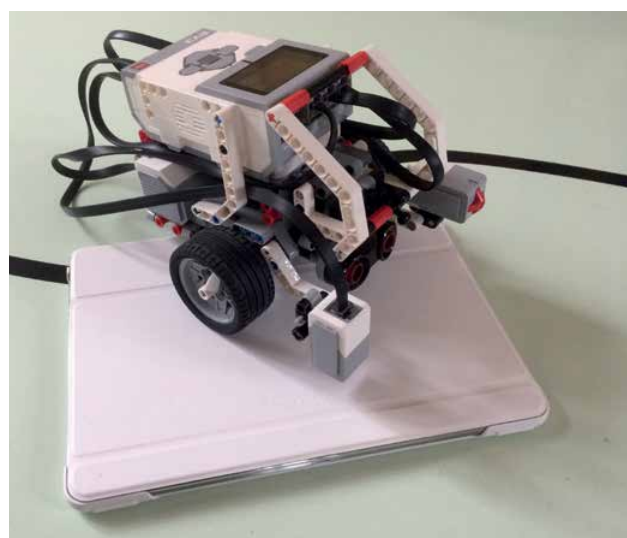




# EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION WITH TABLETS

Fourth year of a summer day camp "ITečk@r" with activities featuring mobile devices.

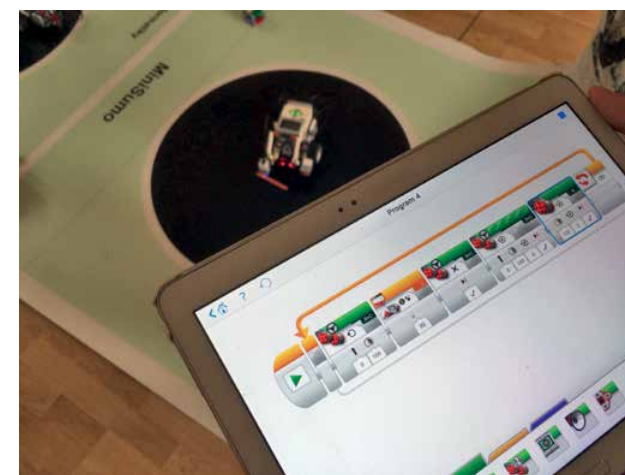
Tablet was a device which enabled us to activate children's commitment, interest in experimenting and acquiring ideas by means of interaction with the environment. Tablets were not just toys in the hands of children, but also means of connection of direct experience of educational environment and its contents. The summer camp was realised by the Department of Informatics as the part of the project KEGA 055UKF-4/2014: Mobile technologies in school for 21st century in cooperation with "Skalka" centre. Our thanks belong also to the management of the Department of Informatics and the Department of Mathematics for hiring the technology required for successful realisation of the camp.



We always try to make the program of the camp original to make it interesting for new and also returning participants. Because of this the camp activities were innovated in such way so that the use of mobile digital devices (pocket PCs, tablets, smart mobile phones, GPS navigation) during leisure time activities could be resumed also after the children return from the camp. Every day featured a different activity. Robotics is already a traditional activity at the opening of the camp. This year we skipped the construction part to begin with programming at once. This time we were provided with newer model of robots which can be programmed with tablets via Bluetooth technology. Children could thus be programming the robots in an iconographic environment

and in real time. All devices were portable so this activity could be carried out also in the premises without computers. The heuristic search solutions based on the experiences was a success - various groups were creating programs of the same layout but in different way. During a short time we managed to cover the content which would be impossible to cover if we used computer and cable connection. Second day of the camp also featured the work with robots. Instead of robotics with tablets we carried out robotics via tablets. We were programming the "Ozobot", a miniature robot with its own intelligence based on randomly generated decisions. To restrict random intelligence we could use a unique colourful language. With the help of four basic colours (black, blue, green, and red) we can program the robot's behaviour on a drawn path. The "Ozobot" detects specific combinations of colour codes upon which we can control the course, velocity, timing, special movements, and commands to terminate its activity. This way we could randomly predict, play a strategical game or creatively form new paths with commands with the robot lying on the tablet. This activity was finished by a synchronised dance of the robots. During this activity the robots were actively responding to changes so children could learn the meaning of individual commands based on their experience.

Third day of the camp featured terrain activity with an activity inspired by the game geocaching. We worked with specially prepared hideouts (mysterious and multi-task), but also with hideouts registered in the global game. This activity was realised by means of experience method as a teamwork within which the children learned how to use



tablets: defining position on Earth via geographic coordinates in online map, navigation by means of coordinates, path tracking or QR code deciphering. The activity continued in the afternoon when the children gained real experience with other terms during the lecture: event cache, travel bug and collecting of SWG. This activity featured an event where active seekers and young talented searchers. During the fourth day we revived the topic of creation of 3D photographs. We also innovated an interactive lecture during which we explained the children how a 3D effect is created on a two-dimensional base. To create a 3D effect of the image it is necessary to process a left-eye image by left eye and the right-eye image by right one. During practical part of this activity the children employed their knowledge while they were creating their own 3D photographs. For this they had to train the method of shifting a mobile device during shooting. They also had to learn how to join the photographs to reach 3D effect. Fifth day of the camp featured a traditional activity of creating a promotional video. This was the only day without tablets. By using the photographs from the previous days we created an image track, added suitable commentaries, used effects and transitions and finally added a sound track. The results were presented to the camp members and their animators.

The task of creating a camp where children would not just sit in front of the computers was fulfilled completely. Every year there is a big demand for the camp in which we try to teach children how to meaningfully spend time with digital technology. The realisation of this camp is not just about a couple of "fun days" spent by working with children. The choice of suitable activities, their planning, preparation, realisation as well as necessary reflection is a long-term process. Such amount of time can be invested into anything only with the support of your surrounding environment. The camp outputs regularly reach beyond the long-term cooperation with teachers from primary and secondary schools. Some activities prepared for the summer camp reached the point when it is possible to present them at the conferences or workshops with exact educational objective. Currently we are working on a publication which summarises these activities and will be thus helpful also for our students of teaching of informatics. I believe that we will have a chance to look for ways of active education outside school tables also some time in future.

Mgr. Martin Cápay, PhD.,  
Department of Informatics of the Faculty  
of Natural Sciences  
photo by: author



## UNIVERSITY OPEN TO THE STUDENTS FROM CHINA

**Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra is the first university in Slovakia to cooperate with a prominent Chinese university.**

Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra is the first university in Slovakia which have made a bilateral agreement of partnership with a prominent Beijing Foreign Studies University. This university is known as a "cradle of diplomats". This agreement signed in April 2017 is a final outcome of many meetings about concrete forms of partnership initiated by prof. RNDr. Ľubomír Zelenický, CSC., Rector of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, and the International Relations and Mobility Office. "This agreement represents a broad cooperation in form of the exchange of students and teachers between the two universities, organisation of various events, conferences or publication of scientific articles in journals. At the same time we have agreed on cooperation within the project Erasmus+ KA107. This project is focused on mobility of students and employees of the universities with the countries outside the European Union and the European Economic Area. Beijing Foreign Studies University expressed their interest also in this kind of cooperation.", said Ing. Anita Ivanková, PhD. from International Relations and Mobility Office.

Beijing Foreign Studies University is currently one of the oldest Chinese universities focusing on foreign languages providing an education with the highest number of foreign languages in entire China (at present it is 67 languages

including all official languages of the European Union). Among these languages is also Slovak language featured in the lectures of PhDr. Marián Macho, PhD., a member of the Department of Slovak Language of the Faculty of Arts at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, who has been a lecturer of Slovak language for four years. "In the course of last 60 years Beijing Foreign Studies University has become an educational institution for experts focusing on less frequently used European languages as well as the national base for regional, linguistic and cultural studies and a mediator of Chinese-European education and cultural exchange.", said the lecturer of Slovak language and culture M. Macho. "The aim of the university is to support talented students with multilingual competence and broad know-how. Besides acquiring of language skills the students attend the courses of regional and national studies or cultural studies respectively. Most of them spend one or two semesters abroad. Along with the study of English as a second language they also complete the study of third and fourth language as a part of their linguistic training."

To enable the students to communicate in Slovak languages the university organises a summer language school (12th - 17th of June 2017) for Chinese students of Slovak language. This summer school will take place at the premises of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra and it will be a unique chance to improve their language competences. "In cooperation with Language Centre at the Faculty of Arts of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra we have prepared a rich program.", said A. Ivanková. "In the morning they will attend the courses and conversations in Slovak language and the afternoon will feature cultural activities." Because both universities are interested in close partnership, several forms of cooperation are being prepared. One of them is an offer of Master studies of Slovak language for Chinese students. This is a significant fact supported by the role of Beijing Foreign Studies University as an educational base for qualified experts with language competency who, after finishing their studies, work as diplomats, interpreters and translators, entrepreneurs, journalists, lawyers or bankers.

-jk-



## DUBBING AND SUBTITLING IN CENTRAL EUROPEAN CONTEXT

### Nitra at first place in audiovisual translation

From 15th of June to 17th of June 2016 Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra hosted the very first Slovak international scientific conference of audiovisual translation called "Audiovisual Translation: Dubbing and Subtitling in Central European Context". The conference was organised by the Department of Translation Studies at the Faculty of Arts of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra in cooperation with LITA (civil association of authors) and the European Association of Audiovisual Translators (AVTE). The rising demand for audiovisual translation in Europe as the type of intercultural communication has been observed during last two decades. This is related to a number of cultural, social, geopolitical and last but not least technological changes of the 21st century. Within this area the Department of Translation Studies at the Faculty of Arts of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra is the leader for several reasons. This department was the first to introduce seminars of audiovisual translation in practice into the study programs of translation and interpretation. Within these seminars the students can develop their professional skills in the field of translation with primary focus on subtitling. The department also contributed to the re-

establishment of the research within this area in domestic academic environment with focus on the most recent subjects of audiovisual translation. The most recent primacy is for organising a successful international conference "Audiovisual Translation: Dubbing and Subtitling in Central European Context". The main organiser of this event was Mgr. Emília Perez, PhD. From the Department of Translation Studies at the Faculty of Arts of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. Thanks to her work the audiovisual translation in Nitra has become a tradition.

"At the time we were launching the audiovisual translation at our department during 2010-2011, our aim was to offer our students another level of translation as a profession. First educational activities were conducted literally in a practical way, in cooperation with mass media and cultural institutions as well as international film festivals. The first year marked a huge demand of the students which encouraged us to expand the activities and this logically led us to more complex research within audiovisual translation. A positive part of this is that thanks to the activities of the department team which deals with the problematics of subtitling for the hearing-impaired the research of the audiovisual translation attracted attention of the professionals from abroad. The international conference was just another logical step and I am personally very pleased with its outcomes." The

conference was attended by many famed translators - one of the most prominent and reputable researchers of the audiovisual translation, professor of translology Jorge Diaz-Cintas from the Centre for Translation Studies (CenTraS) at the University College in London, Elena Di Giovanni from the University of Macerata in Italy, and Agnieszka Szarkowska from the Institute of Applied Linguistics from the University of Warsaw - who were the main speakers and underlined the prestigious character of the event. The conference was also attended by many experts from various countries - Great



Britain, Ireland, Belarus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Iran, Israel, Hungary, Norway, Poland, Spain, Italy, and also scholars from Nitra, Bratislava, Banská Bystrica, joined by the representatives of institutions or dubbing studios. The conference allowed all participants to discuss with the scholars, experts and wider expert public.

The conference featured the topics of history, current development and tendencies of audiovisual translation, new attitudes and technologies in audio-visual, specifics of dubbing, subtitling, translation practice or the process of reception of audiovisual works. One of the sections was focusing on reception of audiovisual works by hearing-impaired audience. Thanks to the long-term partnership with the representatives of the Slovak community of hearing-impaired the Department of Translation Studies at the Faculty of Arts of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra arranged an individual block aimed at this problematics. This part featured the speeches of the representatives of the community of the hearing-impaired, experts in Slovak sign language as well as experts in subtitling for deaf recipients. The lectures were held not only in Slovak and English language, but they also featured the section with Slovak sign language with translation into Slovak and English. The participants had a chance to join two practical workshops focused on contemporary problematics - audio commentary for the sightless in opera led by Francesca Raffi, an Italian practitioner and theoretician. Wayne Garb, director of the international company OOOA spoke about the latest software and devices for subtitling.

The conference was an excellent scientific event full of inspirational lectures and discussions. It also pointed out that the Department of Translation Studies at the Faculty of Arts of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra can keep up with the experts who are recognised all over the world. We would like to thank our sponsors for their help. Special thanks for help and support belongs to the management of the Faculty of Arts at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra.

This conference is one of the main outputs of the project VEGA 1/0547/14: Subtitling for the Deaf: Standards and Recommendations, conducted at the Department of Translation Studies at the Faculty of Arts of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra led by Mgr. Emília Perez, PhD.

Mgr. Andrej Záhorák,  
Department of Translation Studies of the  
Faculty of Arts  
photo by: Department of Translation  
Studies



## On Psychological Aspects of Decision-making

The conference was aimed at the exchange of information and experiences within the field of psychology of decision-making. The main focus was to present the findings of basic research, applied research in decision-making as well as the exchange of experiences in implementing of information and theories of decision-making in practice. The latest topic of the Brits and their decision in referendum naturally echoed in many speakers dealing with the problematics of decision-making from the point of view of rationality and emotions.

This conference followed the previous years of the conference on decision-making. First year of the conference was held in 2009 at the Department of Psychological Sciences at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. During the arrangements of the first year of the conference we established a successful partnership with the Institute of Experimental Psychology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava as well as with the Department of Psychology at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University in Prague, Institute of Applied Psychology at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, and the Slovak Psychological Society. Consequently in 2010 and 2012 we managed to organise second and third year of the same conference. These conferences were once again held at the Department of Psychological Sciences in Nitra. In 2014 the organising of the fourth year was taken over by the Institute of Experimental Psychology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava. During the previous four years the conference featured 52 lectures of mainly research character.

The latest year of the conference was again held in Nitra at the Department of Psychological Sciences. The conference was opened by assoc. prof. PhDr. Tomáš Sollár, PhD., Vice-Dean for Science and Research at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care and PaedDr. et Mgr. Marta Zafková, PhD., head of the Department of Psychological Sciences. The series of requested lectures began with the speech of prof. PhDr. Viera Bačová, CSc. Who focused on those decisions the consequences of which are visible only subsequently. She pointed out that the future outcomes are often underestimated as the result of instant decision-making which is usually called "omnipresent devaluation of future". Second requested lecture delivered by prof. PhDr. Eva Sollárová, CSc. Was aimed at career decision-making. Professor Sollárová introduced us to the problematics of career hesitancy and issues of individuals with career decision-making. Last re-



quested lecture by assoc. prof. Mgr. Peter Halama, PhD. was dealing with the application of new ways of exploring the career decision-making. The entire day featured also other lectures focused on the ability to regulate emotions during decision-making, section of "Súboj titanov: sympatikus vs. parasympatikus v akcii" ("Clash of the titans: sympathetic vs. parasympathetic in action"). This section presented the results of the research of the team from the Department of Psychological Sciences conducted within the project VEGA 1/0446/14 Autonomous decision-making: strategies of regulation of emotions in decision-making process and satisfaction with decision-making. Other sections featured the topics aimed at decision-making of health care professionals, hazardous behaviour of adolescents, role of self-assurance in decision-making or effects of personal characteristics on decision-making.

During the conference 23 lectures were delivered by the speakers from Slovakia and Czechia with the main aim to present their research findings. This number indicates that the problematics of decision-making is a current topic and that there is a growing number of researchers and experts who are dealing with it despite the fact that it is relatively specialised field. On behalf of the organisers we would like to express our desire this number grew even more and that this conference created a space for meeting of the colleagues who have their hearts set on the topic of decision-making. We would also like to thank all those who participated on organising and co-organising of this conference. We hope that our partnership with the Institute of Experimental Psychology of the Centre for Social and Psychological Sciences at the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava as well as the Department of Psychology at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University in Prague and the "sister workplace", the Institute of Applied Psychology at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care, will continue. At the same time our thanks for the financial support belong to the grant agency VEGA of the Ministry of Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic within the project number 1/0446/14 Autonomous decision-making: strategies of regulation of emotions in decision-making process and satisfaction with decision-making.

PhDr. Ľubor Pilárik, PhD.,  
organising guarantor of the conference  
and principal investigator of the grant VEGA 1/0446/14  
photo by: Juraj Lavo

## SGEM SOCIAL SCIENCES AND ARTS

Successful participation of the members of the Faculty of Central European Studies on the international scientific conference in Bulgaria.



Every year the sunny sea-side resort of Albena in Bulgaria welcomes not only tourists, but also attendants of international scientific conferences. Every June since 2001 this place hosts SGEM GeoConferences event and since 2014, every August, also SGEM Conferences on Social Sciences and Arts. This year this prestigious meeting was held between 22nd and 31st of August. The attendants had a chance to share new findings in 15 scientific disciplines within the field

of social sciences and arts. The growing reputation of the conference is caused by indexing of the conference almanac in renowned databases such as ISI Web of Knowledge, Web of Science, Thomson Reuters, ELSEVIER products, SCOPUS, CrossRef, EBSCO, ProQuest et al. During ten days of the conference the participants from more than 20 countries had a chance to attend many interesting lectures, join in the workshops, browse the poster presentations and exhibition of paintings. Besides the plentiful program the participants could strengthen formal and also informal connections during several social events. First days of the registration featured organised excursions. First one led the participants to the nearby Aladzha Monastery, Cape Kaliakra and a small town of Balčik, another one was held in a small town of Nesebar included in UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites. The conference program began with the welcome banquet followed by the night of Bulgarian cuisine and folklore in the open-air restaurant, award ceremony and a beach party. The conference was closed by a closing cocktail.

The event was attended also by four members of the Faculty of Central European Studies. The conference allowed them to present the results of their research to a wide scientific public, acquire new information, make foreign contacts and also successfully represent their own faculty and university. "Economy and Tourism" section featured a lecture by Ing. Lucia Hrubalová, PhD. who delivered a speech called "Reception of a town by current and future visitors", co-created by her colleagues from the Department of Tourism, namely PhDr. Zuzana Palenčíková, PhD. and Ing. Terézia Repáňová, PhD. Another participant was PaedDr. Eva Lehoťáková, PhD. who presented a lecture "Emotional experiences and rational thinking of students of primary school of 7-11 years of age" co-created by PaedDr. Helena Pataiová, PhD. The Faculty of Central European Studies was also represented by prof. Andrea Kárpáti, Dr.Sc. with her lectures "Analysis of visual communication abilities by monitoring of an eyesight" and "Teaching visual culture" and also by Mgr. art. Stefan Timko, PhD. with his lecture "Causes of absence of political satire in traditional Slovak audiovisual media".

During their stay in Albena the delegation from the Faculty of Central European Studies was very successful. Prof. Kárpáti, Dr. Hrubalová and Dr. Timko were awarded for best presentations in their sections. All three were also asked to lead individual conference blocks. Attendants of the conference from the Faculty of Central European Studies would like to thank the organisers of the SGEM conference in Albena for high quality of the event. At the same time they believe that, similarly to the last year, the almanac from this year's conference will be indexed in international scientific databases, library and various scientific institutions.

Ing. Lucia Hrubalová, PhD.,  
PaedDr. Eva Lehoťáková, PhD.,  
Mgr. art. Štefan Timko, PhD.  
photo by: authors





## Linguistic - - political Conference

### Key slogan: anti-discriminatory international language communication

For the first time, during the last week of July, the city of Nitra hosted a significant event: the 101st World Congress of Esperanto under the auspices of the President of the Slovak Republic Mr. Andrej Kiska. The congress counted 1300 members from 60 countries of the world. The congress, which took place at the premises of the Slovak University of Agriculture and other sites, featured the main theme "Social Justice - Language Justice". The congress consisted of approximately 120 various cultural, scientific, and social programs. One of the highlights was a performance of the folklore ensemble Lúčnica which presented a perfect image of Slovak folk culture to the spectators from all over the world who reacted to the act enthusiastically. Along with other cultural events such as theatre plays in Esperanto, literary evening, concerts of Esperanto and city bands, successful attempt at a "world record" in dancing of Slovak tango during the penultimate evening on the Svätopluk Square (with more than 80 dancing pairs) and a football match of Esperanto team consisting of the mayors from Nitra county (resulting 5:4 in favour of the mayors). There were also many scientific programs: International congress university, Esperanto conference, a so-called Kleriga lundo (Learning Monday) within which the participants - linguists from Slovakia and abroad - delivered their lectures on Great Moravia, historical development of Slovak language and its current state. Additionally there were many meetings of scientific sections of World Esperanto Association. The congress was accompanied by several important events: Medical congress of doctors - esperantists, Interreligious forum, Philatelic exhibition featuring an inauguration of Esperanto stamp and Linguistic-political conference titled "Perspectives of Language Communication in the EU" which was organised under the auspices of Miroslav Lajčák, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic. This conference took place between 28th and 29th of July 2016 in the



Prof. G. Miššiková  
speaking to  
the conference  
attendants

premises of the Faculty of Education at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. The organiser of the conference was the Faculty of Central European Studies of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. It would be unfair not to mention and praise responsible attitude of the management of the faculty and its employees towards the preparations and realisation of the conference which resulted in creation of a very pleasant and friendly environment. Main discussion languages were Slovak, English and Esperanto by means of masterful simultaneous interpretation. The main goal of the conference was to elaborate the problematics of three basic topics: 1. Multilingualism, language democracy and social justice, 2. State and perspectives of education in foreign languages in the EU, 3. Language problems of civic participation and language problems of economic integration.

The conference was ceremoniously opened by prof. PhDr. Gabriela Miššiková, PhD., Vice-Rector for International Relations at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra and Dr. Mark Fettes, President of World Esperanto Association. The opening speech was delivered by a valued guest, Dr. Vytautas Povilas Andriukaitis, European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety from Lithuania. In his speech - delivered in Esperanto - he underlined several facts: "In today's world English is very useful and widespread language, but it will never offer the equality in communication found in Esperanto, which is an easy, neutral language avoiding imperialism of one national language which gives lifelong and undeserved privileges to the native speakers of English and disadvantages half of the mankind..." Among other words he also said: "One of the tasks of Esperanto within the European Union could be strengthening of European identity to make sure that the European Union becomes more effective in its role of a supporter of peace in Europe and the entire world."

The European Union realises a broad potential of Esperanto to draw its citizens closer to European integration and also to each other..." This speech was followed by a plenary meeting during which several lectures were presented, namely by Eva Poláková from Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica: "Activities of Slovak Civic Platform in the Area of International Communication", Ildikó Vančo from Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra: "European Language System: Nations, Minorities, Languages" and Seán Ó Rain from Ireland: "Propaedeutic Attitude Towards the Improvement of Language Education".

The afternoon of the first day focused on panel discussion and round table discussion both of which aimed at more detailed questions of individual topics. During these discussion a genuine work atmosphere was created to grab the essence of individual problems. Second day of the conference continued with panel discussions about individual topics, followed by final plenary meeting led by prof. Humphrey Tonkin from the University of Hartford, USA. After the discussion dealing with the suggestions for conclusive documents three declarations with recommendations were accepted which verbalised the priorities addressed to the European Commission as well as the governments of member states of the European Union. These priorities are very extensive and there is no place to enumerate them all, let alone to analyse them. Let us just point out several statements from the first declaration: "The growing globalisation is leading to an increased dominance of one language - English. This tendency is clearly visible within both European and worldwide sphere. The increasing use of English language has many positive attributes, but also many negative ones which are heavily ignored. Among the negative attributes we belong the significantly increased alienation of the citizens of the European Union whose languages are not commonly used within European institutions. Multilin-

gualism is a key value of the European Union to maintain anti-discriminatory attitude towards European citizens. There is a general tendency, both within Europe and in the entire world, to ignore the importance of language policy. This attitude automatically leads to persistent strengthening of the status quo, which is the increasing dominance of English language in disfavour of other languages - either national, regional or languages of minorities, and also unfair granting of undeserved privileges to English native speakers." Among the number of recommendations based on the fact that Europe urgently needs transparent public discussion about language policy with the main aim to increase the public's awareness of its importance, it is possible to accept at least some of them:

- European Commission will ensure the elaboration of a codex of language directives in institutions of the European Union aimed at the equality of all citizens of member states in the course of European integration regardless of their native language.
- Institutions of the European Union should elaborate active language policies to fight language discrimination. For example the recruitment of new employees shall not discriminate native speakers by particular language, either de jure or de facto.
- the Commission should elaborate a serious study on use of Esperanto as a connecting and central language for communication within the European Union and calculate short-term expenses used for teaching of Esperanto and long-term financial savings related to the implementation of a system of international communication based on Esperanto.

To conclude we must state that the conference discussions, which were a significant accompanying event of the 101st World Congress of Esperanto, featured a golden-thread challenge to eliminate discrimination dominating the current



international language communication. However, the results of the conference formulated in specific recommendations

**EU Commissioner Vytautas Andriukaitis during his opening speech**

require an open attitude of the European Union as a whole as well as of the governments of member states to ensure that their declarative character is projected into gradual change of current chaotic and unjust language policy of Europe to make it a defining antidiscriminatory principle.

PhDr. Stanislav Košecký, CSC.  
photo by: Faculty of Central European Studies

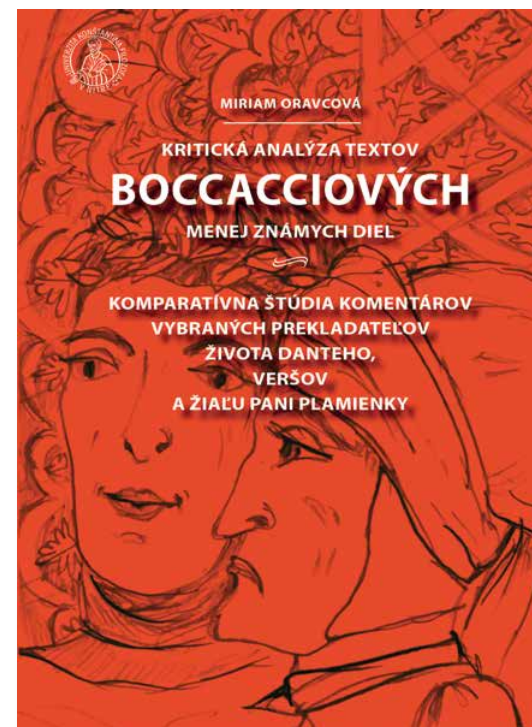


# "FLAIANO" PRIZE



Mgr. Miriam Oravcová, PhD., assistant professor in the field of "Theory of Literature and History of Concrete National Literatures" at the Department of Romance Studies of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, is the first Slovak awarded a foreign prize "Flaiano" for literature in Italian studies.

Full name of the prize is "Flaiano - international award recognising achievements in the fields of creative writing, cinema, theatre and radio-television". It was created as a former award for literature, theatre and film in 1974 in Italy. The prize was introduced by a screenwriter Ennio Flaiano (winner of the literary prize Strega for his novel "Time to Kill") along with the director of Italian television (RAI for Abruzzo and Molise) Edoardo Tiboni in Pescara. The chairman of the first committee was Eduardo De Filippo, a dramaturgist from Naples. First year's winner was Mario Pomilio with his work "Fifth Gospel". The awards for all categories are granted in front of more than 2000 spectators. In the course of the last years the awards for Italian studies are granted separately to achieve better organisation of the event. This prize has already been awarded to Alain Delon, Paulo Coelho, Arthur Miller, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Nastassia Kinski, Jiří Menzel, Franco Zeffirelli, Giulietta Masina (in Slovakia known as "Perinbaba"), Kabir Bedi ("Sandokan"), Horst Tappert (inspector "Derrick"), Paolo Villaggio ("Fantozzi"), Roberto Benigni (director of the movie "Life is Beautiful"), Ornella Muti, Claudia Cardinale, Marcello Mastroianni, Gina Lollobrigida, Willem Dafoe, Michele Placido (police commissioner Cattani known as the lead character of the series La Piovra ("Octopus") about Sicilian mafia), Kim Rossi Stuart



(prince Romualdo in "Princess Fantaghiro"), Vittoria Puccini ("Elisa di Rivombrosa"), Gigi Proietti ("Inspector Rocca"), Luca Zingaretti ("Commissioner Montalbano"). Oravcová's book was nominated for Flaiano prize by Antonia Grande, director of Italian Institute of Culture in Bratislava. The contest received 83 publications from Italian institutes of culture from all over the world. Eight works were short-listed out of which three winners were selected. The awarded book is called "Critical Analysis of Boccaccio's Texts of Lesser-known Works. Comparative Study of Selected Translators' Commentaries of Life of Dante, Verses and The Elegy of Lady Fiammetta". Because the year of 2015 marked the 750th anniversary of Dante's birth, the criterion for the selection of these works was primarily aimed at current and narrowly defined topic - a universal analysis of Dante's life, but from the point of view of Boccaccio. The entire work of Boccaccio is influenced by Dante which is the reason why one of the sources of his works is the commendation of Dante. The publication was reviewed by assoc. prof. PhDr. Viera Marková, PhD. From the Faculty of Arts of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, PaedDr. Júlia Kiššová, PhD. from the Faculty of

Education of the Comenius University in Bratislava and Mgr. Alexandra Kučmová, PhD. from the Faculty of Education of the Comenius University in Bratislava. For literature this prize was awarded to José Saramago (Nobel Prize for literature), Andrea Camilleri, Claudio Magris, Carlo Sgorlon, Antonio Tabucchi, Peter Handke, Luigi Malerba, Michele Prisco, Peter Carey, Roberto Saviano, John Crowley, Javier Marías, Dacia Maraini, Hanif Kureishi, Ismail Kadaré, Silvia Avallone, Roberto Pazzi, Hisham Matar, Charles Tomlinson, John Banville. For achievements in theatre it was Dario Fo, Vittorio Gassman, Massimo Ranieri, Sergio Castellitto, Isabella Ferrari. In film making it was Michelangelo Antonioni, Liv Ullmann, Giuseppe Tornatore, Ennio Morricone, François Truffaut, Massimo Troisi, Fernando Pérez Valdés, Jean Pierre a Luc Dardenne, Alberto Sordi, Stefania Sandrelli, Emilia Fox ("Prendimi l'anima"), Valeria Golino, Raoul Bova, Riccardo Scamarcio, Pierfrancesco Favino, Nicoletta Braschi,

Stefano Accorsi, Stefania Rocca, Ferzan Ozpetek, Pupi Avati, Istvan Szabó, Niccolò Ammaniti ("Io non ho paura"), Roberto Faenza, Silvio Soldini, Marco Risi, Margherita Buy, Nancy Brilli, Carlo Verdone, Neri Marcorè, Veronica Pivetti, Massimo Ghini, Claudia Gerini, Giovanna Mezzogiorno, Ambra Angiolini, Mario Monicelli, Francesca Inaudi, Lino Banfi, Claudia Pandolfi, Antonio Albanese, Sabrina Ferilli, Aitana Sánchez-Gijón, Nino Frassica, Emilio Solfrizzi, Claudio Bisio, Ficarra a Picone, Nino Manfredi. Among the awarded are also television personalities such as Mike Bongiorno, Pippo Baudo, Vittorio Sgarbi a Paola Cortellesi. For achievements in radio and television Maurizio Costanzo and a singer Luciano Ligabue. The contest was organised by Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, E. Tiboni Foundation, Ennio Flaiano Cultural Association and National Institute of D'Annunzio Studies in Italy.



foto: Milan Oravec





the previous years of the contest which represent an important part of the "jewel-box" of Italian culture in the world. The author of the book would like to thank her family and reviewers for their valued advices, the management of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra and the Faculty of Arts, professor PhDr. Pavol Koprda, DrSc. for an opportunity to work at the Department of Romance Studies and assoc. prof. PhDr. Eva Švarbová, PhD. for her incitement to increase the amount of creative work, her colleagues for their love and support, former teachers of Italian and German language, dr. Grande, professor Marianacci, Daci Maraini and the organisers of the contest.

Mgr. Miriam Oravcová, PhD.  
photo by: LB, Milan Oravec

### Mgr. Miriam Oravcová, PhD.

*Since 2009 Mgr. Miriam Oravcová, PhD. works at the Faculty of Arts of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. In 2016 she published a scientific monograph in domestic publishing house called "Boccaccio's Filocolo: Critical Analysis of the Works", in 2015 the aforementioned monograph published in domestic publishing house, in 2014 a scientific monograph "Critical Analysis of the texts of canticle Paradise. Comparative study of selected translators' commentaries of "Divine Comedy". In 2013 she wrote a scientific monograph with prof. PhDr. Pavol Koprda, DrSc. called "Italian Literature 2a: Fourteenth Century" as the part of the project History of Italian Literature for first and second level of university studies. In 2013 she published a university course book "Introduzione alla fonetica e alla fonologia italiana".*

The ceremony of the 15th year, materialised as a Golden Pegasus ("Il Pegaso D'Oro") for promotion of Italian culture in the world, was the pinnacle of the 43rd year of the conference on Italian artist Gabriele D'Annunzio called "Le città di d'Annunzio. Erbe, parole, pietre", which took place between 21st and 22nd of October 2016 within the premises of Italian Mediamuseum in Pescara. The award for Oravcová was granted by Italian author Dacia Maraini - head of the jury along with other members: Dr. Edoardo Tiboni (chairman for international awards for literature, film, theatre, radio and television), prof. Dante Marianacci (director of the Institute of D'Annunzio Studies in Italy which has been nominated six times for a Nobel prize in literature), prof. Giorgio Patrizi (University in Molise) and prof. Paola Ciccolella (Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs). Along with works of two other winners ex-aequo - professor Armando Maggi from Chicago and professor Fernanda Bravo from Buenos Aires - the aforementioned book written by Oravcová will become the part of library heritage of the archive in Pescara in section "Italian Book in the World" which belongs to the sector of Italian studies. This section already counts 44 publications from

Between 11<sup>th</sup> of September and 15<sup>th</sup> of September 2016 the Department of Technology and Information Technologies conducted an international scientific symposium "Embedded Systems and Trends in Teaching Engineering" within the premises of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra.



## INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

University of Applied Sciences in Engineering" was delivered by prof. Dr. Carsten Wolff from TU Dortmund University. The symposium was attended by more than 70 participants and it featured 54 lectures within four sections. The program also included a round table discussion on the evaluation of the scientific and teaching achievements at the universities and the problematics of the preparation of international projects. This discussion was attended by all academic officials of the participating universities as well as the project managers.

The symposium also featured a Workshop on Basys3 - preparation in FPGA, led by the representatives of the Digilent company. The principal day of discussions included a presentation of results achieved during the cooperation of the Department of Technology and Information Technologies with experts guaranteed by Mgr. Peter Kuna, PhD. The international symposium featured



foto: Miroslav Šebo

The symposium featured the findings of a three-year project Tempus called "Development of Embedded System Courses with Implementation of Innovative Virtual Approaches for Integration of Research, Education and Production in Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia" opened by the research team of the Department of Technology and Information Technologies of the Faculty of Education at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra along with the academics from Armenia, Georgia, Ukraine, Poland, Hungary, Germany, and Belgium. All participants

of the international symposium were welcomed by the opening speech of prof. Ing. T. Kozík, DrSc., who also greeted prof. RNDr. Ľ. Zelenický, CSc., Rector of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, and prof. PhDr. E. Szórádová, CSc., Dean of the Faculty of Education of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. The opening speeches were also delivered by prof. RNDr. Ľ. Zelenický, CSc. And Ing. Dirk Van Merode, MSc., coordinator of the project Tempus "Des-IRE" from Thomas More University in Belgium. The symposium presented new teaching

methods and development of courses in embedded systems within university educational institutions of the European Union as well as the partners of the project Tempus in Ukraine, Georgia, and Armenia. The main goal of the symposium was to create an environment for the participants to exchange acquired knowledge and well-established methods within the development of parallel courses and modules and their realisation at affiliate universities. The key lecture "Ruhr Valley and Ruhr Master School: Two Pillars of a New Cooperative

also a social evening called "Know your friends and their culture". The organising board would like to thank all who directly or indirectly supported this symposium and thus contributed to its successful realisation as well as a positive promotion of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra abroad.

prof. Ing. Tomáš Kozík, DrSc.,  
Assoc. prof. PaedDr. Viera Tomková, PhD.,  
Faculty of Education of Constantine the  
Philosopher University in Nitra  
photo by: ↑↑ LB, ↑ Miroslav Šebo



# UNIQUE RESEARCH

“As the final step of our efforts we will elaborate a methodics of improvement of ova which could be implemented into practice at the clinics of assisted reproduction.”



“Will we manage to create a synthetic organism?” - this was the name of the lecture delivered by prof. h.c. prof. Dr. MVDr. Jozef Laurinčík, DrSc. on 16th of November 2016 at the Faculty of Natural Sciences of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. The aim of the lecture was to inform the audience about unique research which was discussed with prof. Laurinčík in the following interview.

**Professor, could you tell our readers what is the subject of your research and how long have you been working on it?**

The subject of our research is to study fibrillar sphere of the ova in mammals (mice, swines and humans) to identify its structure and potential influence on early development of embryos after in vitro fertilisation. The fibrillar sphere is located in the nuclei of ova (oocytes) at the stage of vesicula germinativa, that is before meiotic maturation. We think that the fibrillar sphere at this stage contains key proteins and RNA which are necessary for the development of embryo. Current research showed us that once the fibrillar sphere is extracted from the ovum, the ovum can mature in vitro, however it does not develop after the fertilisation. This means that by extracting of fibrillar sphere from the ovum we also remove proteins and RNA which are necessary for further development of the embryo. It seems that fibrillar sphere is vital for the creation of life and successful embryonic development. Fibrillar sphere in general has been known to biologists for years and it has been wrongly defined as acinus. However, female sex cell differs from somatic cells by its absence of fibrillar sphere which is not part of a somatic cell. Our previous research proved that fibrillar sphere contains various key proteins and RNA, however at immunocytochemical level we were not able to prove the presence of all proteins and RNA. We can only do this these days when we have elaborated a method of extracting of fibrillar sphere from the ova of mammals by means of micromanipulative aspiration and consequent transcriptome and proteomic analysis.

**How did you come up with this topic?**

It all started 25 years ago during our research of the development of acinus in ova and embryos of mammals. Back then we already discovered and published a finding that nucleogenesis of ova and embryos differs from nucleogenesis of somatic cell. Our study at the level of electron microscopy and ultrastructural immunocytochemistry showed us that fibrillar sphere of

ovum can function as a deposit of proteins and RNA which are necessary for the development of an embryo after fertilisation of an ovum. It has been a long time of study of oogenesis and embryogenesis at the level of cellular and molecular biology. The current expansion of new and sensitive methods of transcriptomics and proteomics enables us to study the structure of fibrillar sphere which will allow us to examine the regulation mechanisms and the function of individual proteins and RNA which are necessary for the creation of life.

**How can a common man utilise the findings of your research in future?**

The study of structure of fibrillar sphere will have a great impact on the growth of knowledge within the area of regulation and improvement of quality of human ova which are used in the programs of assisted reproduction. Today each fifth child in Western Europe, USA and Australia is born with the help of assisted reproduction, that is after the fertilisation of an ovum in vitro. The problem is that women in their age of fertility usually postpone the birth of their first child beyond the 30 years of age. Within the developed countries this age is still being postponed and is gradually reaching 40 years of age. However, the quality of ova decreases with the rising age of a future mother which consequently decreases the chance of pregnancy. However, these days there is no global method which would enable us to improve the quality of women's ova. It is possible to improve the fertility of women by adjusting their diet, but a direct method of artificial improvement of quality of women's ova has not yet been discovered. We believe that we will manage to do so by means of studying of the structure of fibrillar sphere as well as the impact of individual proteins and RNA on the creation of life and early embryonal development.

**I am sure it is not a project of one institution - can you name the collaborating partners of the research?**

These days it is impossible to conduct a top level research within one premises. Among the limiting factors we must include human potential and available technology. In other words, with the huge spectrum of methodics and information it is necessary to employ the information and skills of other teams. It is also necessary to use the finest technology of other workplaces. The development of methodics and technology is very fast and thus, from the global point of view, we are not able to keep up with all methods. Today each laboratory is specialised in particular techniques and technology and it is only a cooperation of several finest workplaces by which we can achieve the required results and the leadership in this particular area. That is why cooperate with several prominent workplaces in Europe and USA, such as the University of Bonn (Germany), INRA institutions in France, University of Copenhagen (Denmark), University of Southern Denmark, University of Missouri (USA) et al. We utilise these premises mainly to analyse our samples within the area of 3D projection of chromatin, bioimaging, electron microscopy, transcriptome and proteomic analyses etc. Consequently we collaborate in publishing of our findings in the prominent scientific journals on a global scale.

**What are the further steps of the research in near or possibly distant future?**

In near future we will primarily focus on optimisation of methods of extracting of fibrillar sphere from the ova of a mouse, a swine and a human. The main concern is to securely obtain fibrillar spheres with the lowest possible level of contamination by proteins and RNA from the nucleus or cytoplasm respective-



ly. Another step will be transcriptome and proteomic analysis of fibrillar sphere during which we would like to find out which proteins and RNA and how much of these it contains. Then we will be able to think of which proteins and RNA are vital for the creation of life and how they can be used for the improvement of the quality of women's ova prepared for fertilisation in vitro. As the final step of our efforts we will elaborate a methodics of improvement of ova which could be implemented into practice at the clinics of assisted reproduction.

Many thanks for the interview by Jana Krajčovičová.  
photo by: archive of J. Laurinčík

**Prof. Dr. MVDr. Jozef Laurinčík, DrSc.**

*Prof. Dr. MVDr. Jozef Laurinčík, DrSc. belongs to the most prominent experts in biotechnology of animals and biomedicine. In his work he focuses on the study of activation of the genome of embryos produced in vivo and in vitro with the help of the latest methods of micromanipulation, genomics, transcriptomics, proteomics and epigenetics. As a host professor he taught at the University Copenhagen, University of Bonn, Columbia College in Missouri, etc. His scientific work is currently focused on the improvement of the quality of female ova (oocytes) and embryos produced in vitro.*



# A Decade of Successful Festival

32<sup>nd</sup> year of "Agrofilm" festival featured 114 films by filmmakers from 26 countries.

The days between the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October and 8<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 marked the 32<sup>nd</sup> year of "Agrofilm" festival, a presentation of documentary films dealing with the problematics of agriculture, food sector and development of regions with the main focus on rural environment. The International film festival "Agrofilm" is organised by National Agricultural and Food Centre - Research Institute for Animal Production in Nitra, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic and Slovak Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The co-organiser (partner) of the festival is represented by Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. "Agrofilm" opens to the wide public through projection days organised at several places (National Agricultural And Food Centre - Research Institute for Animal Production in Nitra, Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, Technical University in Zvolen, MLYNY Shopping Mall in Nitra). Our university has already been cooperating with the National Agricultural and Food Centre for ten years. The main organiser of the three projection days at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra was the Faculty of Natural Sciences. Each projection day offered the audience various international films as well as the lectures of the experts from our university who specialise in research of the concerned area. The opening day - 6<sup>th</sup> of October - focused on the problematics of food and human health. As the part of the opening lecture assoc. prof. Ing. Ida Petrovičová, PhD. from the Department of Zoology and Anthropology pointed out a negative impact of phthalates contained in plastic material on human's health as well as the



impact of these on the environment. The program continued by the presentation of 10 movies focused on food, its production and quality or unusual, but effective ways of crop cultivation in various parts of the world. Very popular were the films of domestic production which informed the audience about the processes of production of milk or the finest Slovak sheep cheese. The filmmakers from Germany presented a compelling film "Good Soy - Bad Soy" in which they referred to soybean cultivation as a double-edged sword - in Brazil the growing of soybeans is the reason for wide deforesting of rainforest which has a global importance. A manifold mixture of films was completed by the movies featuring microscopic view at human body and its microorganisms living on its surface or inside called "Life on Our Body". Second day of the film projections featured the topics of nature, landscape and global problems. The opening speech was delivered by RNDr. Peter Mederly, PhD., from the Department of Ecology and Environmental Sciences, who has been successfully dealing with the utilisation of ecosystem services in the evaluation of landscape and its natural resources. The projecting part was opened by a documentary "Life with Mice" by the team of authors from the Department of Ecology and Environmental Sciences in which they presented in an engaging form mice as an important part of current landscape. Other films also had educational character within ecology and environmentalism. The importance of protection of natural areas was underlined by a documentary about Tribeč mountain range which belongs to protected areas of Europe. A movie called "Tatra Decennium" which drew attention to the changes

through which the nature has gone during recent decade offered a retrospective and detailed view on wind calamity in High Tatras in 2004. Problematic areas of the world and the issue of global warming were stressed in another movie. A documentary "Temples of Forest" presented the importance and significance of forest in natural and social-economical part of the landscape. This documentary introduced the audience to mysterious parts of those areas which has not succumbed to human activities. Final day of the festival focused on the topics of geography, tourism and travelling. For those interested prof. RNDr. PhDr. Martin Boltižar, PhD. and RNDr. PaedDr. Ján Veselovský, PhD. from the Department of Geography and Regional Development prepared an exclusive lecture on their expedition on the highest peak of Africa - Mount Kilimanjaro. Their recollections featured authentic pictures and videos which added up to the atmosphere and thus inspired the audience to watch the movies. The documentaries focused on the problems of various regions from the point of view of physical, humanistic, and regional geography. The audience had a chance to learn interesting facts about a picturesque countryside of the ancient volcano "Polana" or about the creation of the dam "Liptovská Mara". As for the foreign production the festival featured movie about Canadian national park Riding Mountain, ways of rice growing in Philippines or the problems of Alpine glaciers. 32<sup>nd</sup> year of "Agrofilm" festival featured 114 films by filmmakers from 26 countries. Best of them were picked by expert jury consisting of filmmakers and scientists from the resort of agriculture. Various categories included 14 awarded films. Main

prize of "Agrofilm" festival was awarded to Slovak documentary called "Premeny" ("Metamorphoses") written and directed by Maria Martiniaková from the production of Radio and Television of Slovakia. Since one of the partners of "Agrofilm" was also Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, its Rector, prof. RNDr. Ľubomír Zelenický, CSc., awarded one of the films - "Ovečky na oblohe (Sheep in the Sky)" by an author from Lithuania. A significant success was achieved by a movie called "Life with Mice" which was awarded by an international jury in the category "Prize for Slovak film". This documentary is a result of cooperation of the members of the Department of Ecology and Environmental Sciences (assoc. prof. Mgr. Ivan Baláž, PhD., Mgr. Imrich Jakab, PhD., Mgr. Filip Tulis, PhD.), a graduate of the same department Mgr. Matúš Kováč and a filmmaker and documentarist Mgr. Stanislav Kováč. The main goal of the film was to highlight interesting facts about a plentiful group of



these rodents and insect-eating animals. We are very proud of this award because it represents a good promotion of the work of the scientific researchers from our faculty and its presentation in the eyes of both professional and non-professional



public. The projection days traditionally caught attention of teachers and students of our university as well as the high school students. The organisers of the projection days were: assoc. prof. Mgr. Ivan Baláž, PhD. - Vice-Rector of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, prof. RNDr. Mária Bauerová, PhD. - Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, RNDr. Marek Cíváň, RNDr. Dominika Kaisová, RNDr. Jakub Kamenišťák - doctoral students of the Faculty of Natural Sciences. We would like to wish "Agrofilm" festival many successful years within the premises of our alma mater and growing number of satisfied visitors.

RNDr. Marek Cíváň,  
Department of Geography and Regional  
Development, Faculty of Natural Sciences  
photo by: LB



ochutnajte náš festival!  
**agrofilm**





# CZECH LITERATURE AND FILM

## Fourth year of an international scientific conference

19<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 marked the day of the fourth year of an international scientific conference "Czech Literature and Film" which took place at the Faculty of Central European Studies at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. The guarantors of this annual event are the professors working at the institution - prof. PhDr. Miloš Zelenka, DrSc. and



prof. PhDr. Tibor Žilka, DrSc. Traditional and remarkable is a partnership with the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Bratislava which also participated on a financial support of the project. The opening ceremony of the conference was joined by Dr. habil. PaedDr. Žofia Bárcziiová, PhD.,

Dean of the faculty, who expressed her sincere satisfaction with the success of the conference which attracts every year many experts in the given problematics from Slovakia and abroad. The following speech was delivered by Mgr. Ondřej Pometlo, First Secretary of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Bratislava, who again honoured us with his participation on the conference. In his speech he expressed his satisfaction with the fact that each year the conference gains a high academic quality. He also said that he is looking forward to future cooperation with the faculty. This was followed by the speech of prof. PhDr. Tibor Žilka, DrSc., director of the Institute of Central European Languages and Cultures, who welcomed the guests and commented on the significance and meaning of specific events such as this conference which hosted experts in Czech culture and art. In fact, the members of our faculty are dealing with Czech studies very intensively. The first lecture was delivered by PaedDr. Petr Kučera, PhD. from the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen. The central character of his speech was Ota Pavel. Along with Bohumil Hrabal this distinguished "writing reporter" of the Jewish origin represented an alternative to what used to be officially published in the Czech Republic during 1970s. His literary work was centred around the Jewish context - he was fond of using a contradiction of Jewish visual tradition and the Western world, his characters bore biographic features and were often presented as outsiders. His works are typical for using of anti-literariness such as kitsch and sentiment.



Dr. Roman Shkilev from Kazan Federal University spoke about Holocaust and the "Prague Spring" in the works of Czech Jewish writers. He underlined the contribution of the works of Lustig, Grosman or Kafka as well as the overall significance of Jewish migration because of which the Central European Jewish literature and works of its authors spread beyond the borders. The following lecture was delivered by Mgr. Petr Bubeníček, PhD. from Masaryk University in Brno who recently participated on the conference in Oxford which dealt with the problem of adaptations. In his speech Dr. Bubeníček analysed modern processes of adaptation and other current topics such as the problematics of the originality of a text or a model of adaptation studies which go beyond the studies of intermediality. Assoc. prof. PhDr. Michaela Malíčková, PhD. from the Institute of Literary and Artistic Communication of the Faculty of Arts at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, whose long-term research focuses on semantic validation of a vampire character, presented a fictional saga written by Jenny Nowak. This saga was divided into three series in which she analysed and compared various narrative situations which often resemble Faust rather than a traditional story of vampire characters. Another lecture was delivered by PaedDr. Alexej Mikulášek, a literary historicist and author, who has previously participated on the publishing of a dictionary guide "Literatúra s hviezdou Davidovou". His speech at the conference aimed at the problematics of stereotypes in the works of Martin Nezval and the use of these

end of the morning part of the conference assoc. prof. Mgr. Petr Žantovský, PhD. from the Faculty of Journalism at Charles University in Prague delivered a lecture in which he mapped Czech literature as a source of inspiration of Czech cinematography before and after the year of 1990. He also mentioned Czechoslovak New Wave of cinema which is generally considered a significant period of not only local cinematography. Following a short break the afternoon part of the conference featured two sections. The opening lecture was delivered by Mgr. Tatiana Ďuricová, a full-time PhD student from Charles University in Prague, who deals with a research of movie adaptations of "Strakonický dudák", a story written by Jozef Kajetán Tyl, and their comparison. During the discussion Kučera identified Tyl as "iconic character of Czechness". Another interesting lecture called "Semiotics of attic and cellar with primary focus on the movies Na půdě aneb Kdo má dneska narozeniny? and Do pivnice" was pre-



stereotypes in a movie adaptation of his novel "Ulovit miliardáře". Assoc. prof. Mgr. Radek Malý, PhD. spoke about current Czech children's and youth literature and its portrayal in film. He offered an insight into several Czech movies for children such as "Už zase skáču přes kaluže", "Káťa a krokodýl" or "Táto, sežeň štěně!". Relying on a rich tradition of Czech works for the above-mentioned age group he pointed out the change of terminology - despite preserving of sources of inspiration in classic Czech literary works and other aspects, following the model of Western production in recent past even the Czech film industry started to prefer the use of a term "family movie". At the

sented by Mgr. Petra Baďová, PhD. from the Institute of Literary and Artistic Communication of the Faculty of Arts at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. In her speech she presented a model of a cellar and attic in horror stories and fairytales. The topic "Markéta Lazarová - From Vančura to Vlášil" was analysed by Mgr. Martin Lukáš from Palace University in Olomouc. In his speech he focused on literary and critical reception of Markéta Lazarová as an object of social discussion. Last lecture was delivered by Mgr. Jan Jindra from Charles University in Prague in which he elucidated the adaptations of Lucerna by Jirásek in the movies of Karel Lamač, defined by Jindra as "the

leading figure of a so-called golden era of interwar Czechoslovak cinematography". Second block of the afternoon part of the conference which was parallel to the first one was presided by Mgr. Anna Šírová-Majkrzak, PhD. At the beginning of this block Mgr. Nikola Danišová spoke about a motif of transfiguration in František Hrubín's poetic fairytale Kráska a zvířata and its film adaptation Panna a netvor filmed by Jury Herz, a Czech director of Slovak origin. Besides the attributes of traditionally partly human and partly animal character his character of "animal" has dominant negative or fearful mental and physical characteristics of a monster in the true sense of the word. The interest in modern authorial adaptations of this narrative religious-mythological phenomenon has been present for thousands of years and its alternatives are being repeated within the cultures of the entire world. The following lecture by Mgr. Lenka Tkáč-Zabáková aimed at the analysis and searching of common and individual features of the movie adaptations dealing the the problematics of the Operation Anthropoid. The speaker focused on the original 1964 film by Sequens called "Atentát" and the modern adaptation of the same event made by Sean Ellis in 2016 with the help of an international co-production. The last lecture of this block was delivered by Mgr. Martin Kudláč from Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, who, similarly to the previous speakers of the section of PhD students, explored the present state of the Czech cinematography and its future as well as various forms of literary sources which influence it. Kudláč underlined the uniqueness of current postmodern adaptations of traditional as well as less traditional historical motives with the focus on visuality of their adaptations, experimenting, breach of traditional genre patterns and the creation of hybrid formats which has become an inherent part of modern Czech cinematography. Besides commercialism these adaptations are getting closer to European and global movie standards. The official part of the conference was closed by the final speech of Mgr. art. Štefan Timko, PhD., special assistant at the Institute of Central European Languages and Cultures and the guarantor of the conference Czech Literature and Film. However, a discussion on the uniqueness of all lectures and the conference itself echoed within the premises of the Faculty of Central European Studies long after the official closing of the conference.

Mgr. Hana Guzmická,  
Mgr. Lenka Tkáč-Zabáková,  
Faculty of Central European Studies  
photo by: Andráš Kelemen



# CAREER DAY

Personal meeting of the students and graduates with the representatives of the companies contributed to the communication and partnership.



On 11<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 students and graduates of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra had a chance to meet potential employers and attend motivational and instructional lectures. The "Career Day", organised by Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra for the first time in cooperation with National Career Centre, was attended by well-known domestic and foreign companies (Amazon, Accenture, PSA GROUP, Billa, E-KU, Injoy, Camp Leaders, Your Choice, SAIA and Google). Within the premises of the Aula Magna of the university and the presentation stalls these companies advised the students about their chances to get a job after graduation, presented job offers and latest internships, and informed them about the possibilities of spending one semester at a foreign college or in summer programs in USA.

"It is our interest to prepare the students from the professional point of view and create for them the conditions in which they could utilise their knowledge and skills in order to find a good job," said prof. RNDr. Lubomír Zelenický, CSC.,



Rector of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, who, along with PhDr. Miroslava Líšková, PhD., Vice-Rector for Public Relations and Social Affairs, and Miroslav Koleník from National Career Centre, opened the venue. "I think that this first career day which we are organising is not the last one and that it will become a permanent part of our activities towards the students and future graduates."

Besides the meetings with the employers the students had a chance to attend an accompanying program. A guest from abroad, Owen Fernandez, the only certified coach of the prestigious company John Maxwell Team Slovakia who gave lectures in more than 40 countries all over the world, delivered his speech "Your Career - Map It, Tap It,

Grow It!". Another inspirational event was a workshop called "Choose your job - come and discover the area, job and position that suits you" which aimed at helping the students at choosing which job to take after their graduation. The workshop was led by Katarína Hencová and Paula Pastierová, advisors from the Association for Career Advisory and Career Development, and also Mgr. Katarína Baňasová, PhD., from the Institute of Applied Psychology of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. Veronika, a student of teaching in primary education studies, summed up the workshop with following words: "It was very interesting. It was like an insight into one's self - how to decide in certain situations, what is important to us, what qualities can we

offer at labor market and thus decide what to do next. We have discovered which qualities can help us and with which occupation, which job." The end of the event featured a workshop of Your Choice company "Be a professional translator" during which the students could get practical information on how to become a professional translator and how to get an internship in a translation agency. The workshop was led by Mgr. Silvia Holécziiová, official translator and interpreter for English language. "Despite that it is a first activity of this kind, I evaluate it as very positive," said Miroslav Koleník from the National Career Centre. "This is the first mutual contact of the students with the companies. Lots of learning. The students apparently learned about the job possibilities they had no clue about because they pigeonholed them into different areas. I am glad that this communication

has begun, that they were presented job opportunities after graduation and also that they learned more about various programs for students, such as development programs and others. I believe that this communication will continue also after this venue is over." Along with PhDr. Miroslava Líšková, PhD., Vice-Rector for Public Relations and Social Affairs, they estimate that 450 to 500 students attended the event: "Within our competencies we have been dealing with the idea of organising a career day at the university level for a long time and this year, with the help of National Career Centre we have put it into practice. This request is based on long-term surveys realised among our students about their satisfaction with the services offered by the university. Although this was the first time we were organising such event, the attendance was high. We suppose that we will organise this event also next

year. Furthermore, in cooperation with National Career Centre we are preparing other activities aimed at career support of our students during Students' Days of Nitra Universities." We firmly believe that personal meeting of the students and graduates with the representatives of the companies contributed to the communication and partnership and thus brought new ways of finding a job, an internship, a temporary job or training.

Mgr. Jana Krajčovičová  
photo by: Lubo Balko





# WELCOME WEEK FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



For a long time our university is always full of life a week before an official beginning of the academic year. Doubt that? Read on!

Before the beginning of the semester and all related tasks we are organising a so-called Welcome Week for our foreign students - a week full of events which should help our freshmen to discover unknown environment and people.

## MONDAY

The week was traditionally launched by a tour across the city of Nitra. Our students were shown the dominants of the city, the university buildings and other landmarks. A visit at the Castle of Nitra was the highlight of the day. Because we had beautiful, almost tropical weather during the entire tour, we also invited our ERASMUS students to have a glass of cold Kofola. In the evening we stayed at Epicure Teashop to do various ice-breaking activities. In the pleasant atmosphere we played games and discussed about what to expect and also what do they expect from their Erasmus+ mobility.



## TUESDAY

Student's life is not just fun. That is why we organised a so-called Infomeeting in cooperation with Ing. Katarína Butorová, PhD. from the International Relations and Mobility Office. Here the students acquired basic information about the university and study opportunities. We spent our time here by discussing organisational matters and at the end of the meetings the students learned about the role of Erasmus Student Network at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. For quicker orientation in the countries of Erasmus students we prepared "Welcome Flag Party" in cooperation with ESN SUA. By reading the flags and the faces of the students we could guess the country of their origin. Some of them were hard to guess... A classic fun enriched by various competitions such as "Beer-pong" was sometimes livened up by creative dance activities.

## WEDNESDAY

In the middle of the week we followed the motto "Fun is over, let's get to work!". And so along with devoted "Buddiks" and the students we began to cruise study the departments, university depository, Centre of Information Technologies, Foreign Police Department and so forth until we have completed all necessary documents. Well, most of them. As it usually happens, some documents are missing and you wander from one place to another. No wonder that this process of "red tape torture" continued even the next week. Not to mention the Internet which is, so to speak, a nightmare for foreign students. And not only for them. To get rid of this sad mood we invited our heroes to play bowling which was a sweet reward for such a tiring day. Pins, balls and eruptions of laughter filled the air. Who imagined whom instead of the first pin we will never know. We could not resist beautiful weather and so at the end of the day

we conquered Calvary hill where we went for a picnic. We also took pictures of the beautiful panorama, said goodbye to the sun and watched the city of Nitra sinking into the dark of the night. The charming atmosphere with amazing people!





## THURSDAY

Thursday afternoon we decided to introduce our Erasmus students from both universities to another exceptional place in Nitra - with the agreement of the manager we threw a barbecue party in Hidepark. While the embers were getting hot, the brains of our Erasmus students were getting hot during various games. After (not so) challenging activities we started the barbecue and enjoyed sausages, bacon and vegetables. However, the main ingredients were exercising, laughter and great atmosphere.



## FRIDAY

The entire week was full of questions about the hill above the city and if we could get there. There was no way out, we announced to climb Zobor hill! Ready as genuine tourists we got on the bus heading for Medical Institute. We refreshed ourselves with the water from Svorad's Spring and walked towards the cave of a legendary hermit. After this there was no way back, we got over the feeling of convenience and conquered the pride of the city of Nitra. The view from the Pyramid and smiling faces of the Erasmus students was the greatest reward for us. Late evening was dedicated to the farewell to summer. For those interested there was a concert in Hidepark where they could move their bodies in the rhythm of Reggae!



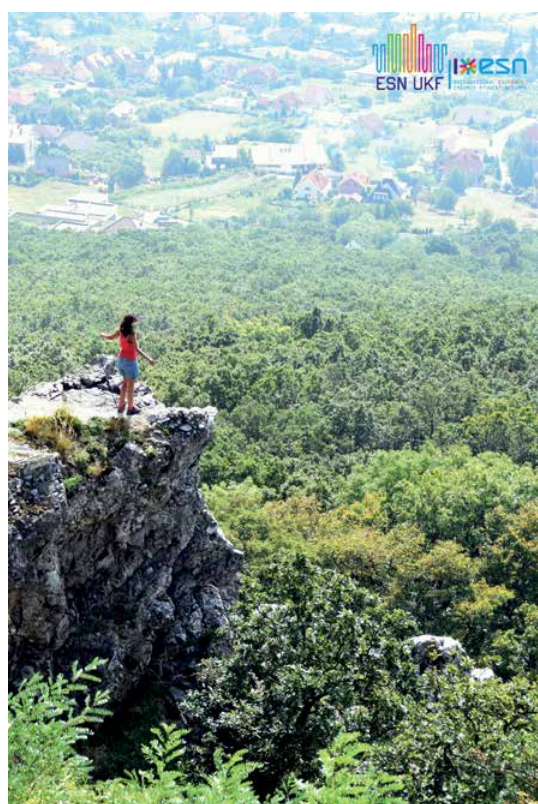
## SATURDAY

The dynamics of this year's Erasmus students was an inspiration for even more action. On Saturday we visited the biggest laser arena in Czech Republic and Slovakia. We were all drowning in sweat and the arena filled with laughter. The rivalry stayed within the limits of a game field and thus we decided to dine all together. Our plans were interrupted by a sudden rain shower and so instead of dining together we were drying our clothes together. Just another way to solidify friendships.

## SUNDAY

On Sunday we got together like a big family during lunchtime. We had to recharge our power because the end of the week featured a rich program. Once we recharged ourselves we headed towards traditional "Trafotrhy" where the people promoted their products, both edible and inedible. The admiration towards skilful hands was replaced by tasting which was followed by a short walk through the city park. Local animals caught our attention for a long time. We were also lucky enough to see a great swing band performing in front of Biskupský tap-house which fulfilled our need of culture. To sum up the entire week we decided to take a stroll to a church in Dražovce. It was worth it. The setting sun underlined the magical atmosphere of this significant place. With the last rays of sun our orientational week was over and we believe that our students enjoyed every bit of it.

Martin Zemko,  
Erasmus Student Network at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra  
photo by: Sarah Graf, Lubo Balko



## „Labor Socialis“

## Successful international scientific conference

21<sup>st</sup> of September 2016 marked the day of the first year of the international scientific conference "Labor Socialis" which took place at the premises of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra under the auspices of JUDr. Ján Richter from the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic. After ten years of the conference "Days of Social Labor" the Department of Social Work and Social Sciences resumed the tradition of the conferences under a new name "Labor Socialis". The aim of the conferences is to reflect on current social problems related to social labor. The topic of the first year was "Social Labor in Changing Europe of the 21st Century". The co-organisers of the conference were the Slovak Chamber of Social Workers and Social Assistants as well as Kazimierz Pułaski University of Technology and Humanities in Radom, Poland. The rich program of the conference, the guarantors of which were prof. PhDr. Martina Mojtoová, PhD., head of the Department, and prof. PhDr. Ján Gabura, CSc., started with the opening speeches of distinguished personalities of the academic environment and the representatives of state administration and local self-government. In their speeches prof. RNDr. Ľubomír

Zelenický, CSc., Rector of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, and assoc. prof. Ing. Milan Belica, PhD., the chairman of Nitra Self-Governing Region, underlined the significance of this conference which put stress on the need of social labor as an inherent tool for solving the current social problems which modern Europe has to face. A wide spectrum of the representatives of the academic environment and their scientific lectures (for example prof. PhDr. Iveta Radičová, PhD., prof. Anna Zamkowska, PhD., prof. PaedDr. Vladimír Labáth, PhD., prof. PhDr. Beáta Balogová, PhD., prof. PaedDr. Milan Schavel, PhD., assoc. prof. PhDr. Slavomír Krupa, PhD., PhDr. Pavla Kodymová, PhD., Mgr. Marie Špiláčková, PhD., PhDr. Viera Vavrečková, PhD. and others) formed inspiration to think about how important is the work of social workers in the field of solving the social problems at both micro and mezzo level. The conference was enriched by accompanying program during which the employees and the clients from the facilities of social services "Nitrava" from Nitra, "Kreatív" from Klasov and "Svetlo" from Olichov presented their products. These products could be supported by voluntary donations by the participants of the conference as well as the students and members of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. Thanks to the fact the the first year of the conference "Labor Socialis 2016" was a successful scientific event and a pleasant meeting of the participants and guests,



the Department of Social Work and Social Sciences is planning to organise additional years of the conference "Labor Socialis". I would like to acknowledge the great atmosphere during the preparations of the conference and thank my colleagues from the Department of Social Work and Social Sciences, including the PhD students, for their energy, ideas and creativity. I would also like to thank the students - volunteers who decided to participate on the conference. We are looking forward to Labor Social 2017!

prof. PhDr. Martina Mojtoová, PhD.,  
Department of Social Work and Social Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care, photo by: Lubo Balko





# OPEN DOOR DAY

Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra once again hosted a lot of applicants

Thursday 16th of February 2017 marked the Open Door Day at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. The applicants for study and the public had a unique chance to have a free tour across the premises of the university as well as to learn more about its structure and activities. "Currently the study at our university is realised solely within accredited study programs both in full-time and external form.", said assoc. prof. Mgr. Ivan Baláž, PhD., Vice-Rector for Development, Implementation of ICT and Marketing Communication. "I would also like to mention that during the process of complex accreditation all study programs underwent full innovation with the main focus on the study results related to practice. In May 2016 the Accreditation Commission confirmed that Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra maintains its status of university because it fulfilled all required criteria."

A new part of the study at the university is the change of the model of final state exams at the Bachelor's degree. As stated by prof. RNDr. Ľubomír Zelenický, CSc., Rector of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, from a formal point of view the main part of the state exam will be the defense of the final thesis. The aim of this is to improve the level of creativity, expertise and scientific knowledge of the student's final thesis. "Future employ-

ers are looking for the graduates not according to their grades during the state exams, but rather according to their skills and ability to work and solve problems. This ability demonstrates within the way of solving the problematics of the final thesis. Many times the topic of the thesis is based on practice. The change will already enter into force this academic year and will affect Ba-



achelor's degree study programs except for those which train the graduates for regulated occupations." The Open Door Day was organised by all five faculties (Faculty of Natural Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care, Faculty of Central European Studies, Faculty of Arts and Faculty of Education). Study assistants, PhD students and teachers from individual departments were responding to the questions about study programs, admission process conditions or important dates within the premises of the main building of the university as well as at individual workplaces.

The applicants could thus learn more about the system of education and tour the premises of the faculties (seminar rooms, research rooms, technology rooms and libraries) accompanied by professional lectures. They were also informed about the possibilities of semestral studying abroad, cooperation of the departments with domestic and foreign institutes or about the job opportunities of individual study programs realised by the university. The event also featured the presentation of activity and programs of youth organisations such as AIESEC or Erasmus Student Network as well as SAIA, n.p.o. The Media Centre of the Faculty of Arts prepared a temporary TV studio where the students had a chance to try to work as an editor or redactor. Even this time the Open Door Day featured



the advisory services for students with special needs as well as the advisory on social scholarships and students' loans. At the Faculty of Natural Sciences the students were interested mainly in laboratories (laboratory of gerontology, microbiology, and physiology, laboratory of molecular biology, environmental, thermophysical, chemical or zoological laboratory and other) in which the PhD students presented practical examples of the experiments. At the premises of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care the applicants could join practical and experiential trainings, discussions with the graduates of the studies or try out a cardiopulmonary resuscitation controlled by a computer.

The Faculty of Central European Studies offered information about the activities of individual departments and institutes both in Slovak and Hungarian language. General information about the study programs at the Faculty of Arts was delivered by assoc. prof. PhDr. Jarmila Jurová, PhD., Vice-Dean for Study Affairs in full-time forms of study, at the premises of the Aula Magna of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. This was followed by a performance of a university student theatre "VYDI" directed by Peter Oravec which presented individual workplaces of the faculty. Another part of the Open Door Day was an exhibition called "Audit" presenting the works of fine art of the students

from the Department of Creative Arts and Art Education at the Faculty of Education of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra covering a period of a spring semester 2016/2017.

The exhibition is open until the 15th of March 2017 to all visitors who can learn more about the problematics of art education with which the department deals. The exhibition presents visual products of the students covering a range from classic disciplines to the latest multimedia outputs. The works are installed within individual study blocks according to the year of study which allows the visitors to have a more systematic look at the structure of

the entire study. A new building of the Pavilion of Music hosted several workshops related to music, jazz dance, and classic and musical singing. The lecturers offered valuable advices and consultations about the choice of the artistic material required at the talent admission exams.

Mgr. Jana Krajčovičová, photo by: LB





# Doctor honoris causa

Honorary titles for prof. Khan and prof. Helus granted by Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra

Thursday 2nd of March 2017 marked the day of the ceremonial meeting of the Scientific Council of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra joined by a Scientific Council of the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Education. The meeting was held on the occasion of granting a honorary title "doctor honoris causa" to two distinguished personalities and close associates of the university - a philosopher prof. Abraham Habibulla Khan, PhD. from the University of Toronto in Canada and in memoriam to a pedagogical psychologist Dr. h.c. prof. Zdeněk Helus, DrSc. from Charles University in Prague.

The ceremonial inauguration was held at the Aula Magna of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra and was attended by prominent personalities of Slovak cultural and social life. As we were informed by prof. RNDr. Ľubomír Zelenický, CSc., Rector of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, the title was granted to Abraham Habibulla Khan for his lifetime creative scientific and pedagogical achievements in the area of human sciences and particularly for his achievements in the area of the study of world religions and significant commitment to the development of a long-term partnership with Constantine the Philosopher



of this cooperation is a significant and internationally accepted Acta Kierkegaardiana as well as mutual yearly international symposiums and conferences guarantor of which is professor Khan. This allows the members of our faculty to broaden other contacts.", said prof. PaedDr. Bernard Garaj, CSs., Dean of the Faculty of Arts. As stated by prof. Khan, the Central European Research Institute of Søren Kierkegaard matures and thus becomes a partner for a dialogue within the area of the research of Søren Kierkegaard. All this thanks to interdisciplinary publications and by creating a synergy of talents and skills at the time of cooperation of individual researchers. A solitary researcher can only dream about such results within an academic environment. The cooperation across disciplines and cultures enlarges the number of opportunities to be creative. For this reason I dare say that creative imagination is



a key element in the process of education. Upon this basis we can all become distinguished scientists, innovative explorers, exceptional artists, inspirational teachers, brave entrepreneurs, and promising social leaders or politicians who are able to face the challenges of the modern society. We have to ask questions that matter to rid us of worries of "other", questions which neutralise the polarisation of the society and at the same time support a natural diversity and complementariness during the creation of a flourishing environment." According to him the role of the university is to nurture one's mind and cultivate creative imagination. "Only thus we can be successful, if we move the border of our knowledge together, if we reinforce the significance of academic fellowship, if we tolerate each other." Zdeněk Helus, a prominent personality of the Czech pedagogical psychology and a representative of educational policy, was nominated for the award by the Faculty of Education of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra and the Scientific Council of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra accepted this proposal on 19th of November 2015. "By rare synthesis of his lifetime scientific and pedagogical achievements professor Zdeněk Helus significantly affected a development of pedagogical psychology and at the same time guided several fields of science within psychology and pedagogy. He belongs to the most prominent representatives of the conception of the so-called personally orientated attitude towards a child.", said prof. PhDr. Eva Szórádová, CSc., Dean of the Faculty of Education. "As a distinguished personality of Charles University in Prague professor Helus influenced the training of teachers and other pedagogical

workers in a broad international context until his death on 26th of October 2016. He maintained long-term contacts with the Faculty of Education at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. As a founder, expert and a spokesman of the Association of Deans of the pedagogical faculties in Czech Republic and Slovakia he participated on the creation of the training materials for future teachers. During his entire life he tried to restore the respect and appreciation of teaching profession so that it acquires a social status which it deserves in this civilised society." The award was accepted on behalf of prof. Helus by his daughter PhDr. Ivana Vajnerová, who, similarly to her father, finished her studies of psychology and although most of her life she devoted to journalism and sociological research, she has currently returned to psychology as a psychological advisor. She recalls: "From the very beginning of his career this was his mission. He was, if not the first, among the first pedagogues and psychologists who, thanks to his contacts with the abroad, dared to introduce a term of "black pedagogy" (a kind of education featuring oppression and authoritarianism) which in fact was black back then. He fought against it and during his last lectures he underlined the fact, that education and pre-school upbringing should be affectionate. This is the only way to achieve a certain effect." Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra has already granted eighteen honorary titles of doctor honoris causa. The first laureate was cardinal Ján Chryzostom Korec in 1998. Doctor honoris causa is a honorary doctoral degree which is granted by the university for special achievements.

Mgr. Jana Krajčovičová, photo by: LB

University in Nitra within the research of the legacy of Søren Kierkegaard. Zdeněk Helus was granted the title for his significant contribution to the development of pedagogical sciences. Abraham Habibulla Khan was nominated for the award by the Faculty of Arts of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra and this proposal was accepted by the Scientific Council of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra on 14th of April 2016. "Abraham Habibulla Khan visited our university for the first time in 2007 at which time he delivered his speech at the conference on Søren Kierkegaard. This led to a fruitful and ongoing partnership which resulted in a foundation of the Central European Research Institute of Søren Kierkegaard at the Department of Applied Ethics of the Faculty of Arts of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. The outcome



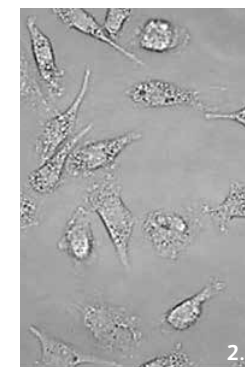


# LIFE IS IN THE BONES... OR IT USED TO BE.

Together they discover the mysteries of bones and explore new ways of applications from historical sciences to medicine.

Let us introduce you to a scientific team conducting a research at the Laboratory of molecular biology within the premises of the Faculty of Natural Sciences.

*They were the first to prove the existence of osteoporosis in the bones of historical animals.*



## Why do we explore bones?

Bones are vitally important and in many aspects exceptional organs. Even children at primary schools are taught that bones are in fact a body support. However, bones have a lot more functions without which we would have problems with the function of heart, muscle movement, blood clotting or even our hearing (bones participate on the transmission of sound in the middle ear). Life is in the bones although it is often hard to imagine that bones are alive. Except for diseases of bones we do not feel them although the process of bone degradation and its synthesis is happening within million parts of our skeleton. Bones actively react to external stimuli. Many processes within the bones are still unexplored which is caused also because of their unusual features - bones are rigid, they contain many types of cells and the study of bones is very complex. However, we have decided to accept this fact as a challenge and began a complex research of bones and bone tissue of man and animals.

## How do we conduct our research?

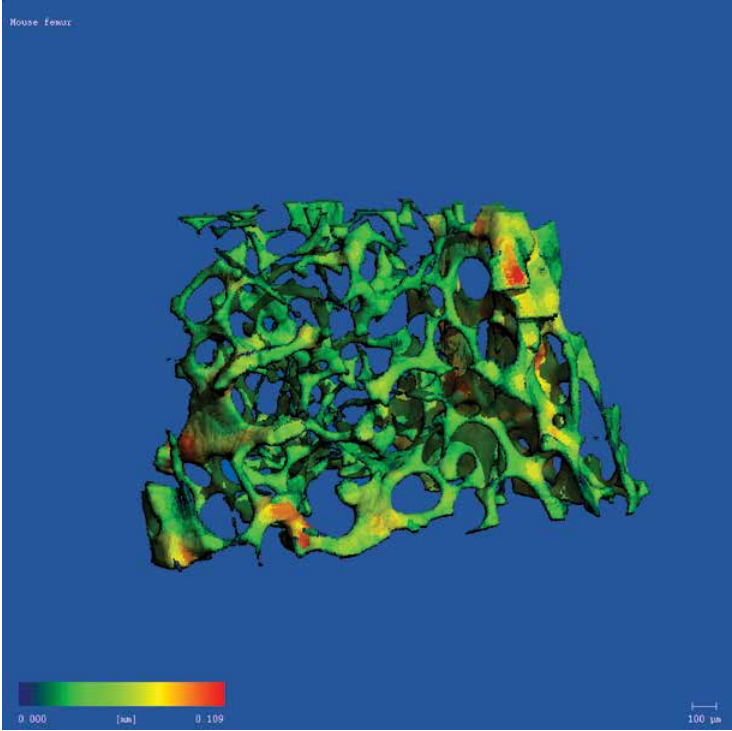
In our laboratories we are analysing bones at various levels - at macroscopic level we are observing anatomical-morphological parameters of bones, at microscopic level we are looking inside the bones to analyse its microstructure. At the level of cells we cultivate bone cells in medium and finally at molecular level we are analysing genes which affect the processes within the bone tissue. We are working with bones and bone cells of various types of animals, including human bones, but our research focuses also on historical bones found at different burying grounds within archaeological explorations. To analyse a microstructure of a bone we use special microscopes. A piece of bone is made into a sample which we consequently observe and evaluate its microscopic structure within the bone section. Latest technology within this field of research includes 3D analysis of a bone which we acquire via computer tomography. This is a technology similar to CT examination found in hospitals, however this one is optimised for research purposes. If we want to explore processes at the level of cells in detail, we extract bone cells



1. Extraction of a sample of historical bone  
2. Cultivated bone cells  
3.-4. By cultivation of bone cells RNDr. Krajčovičová and Mgr. Lukáčová explore the processes active within the cells

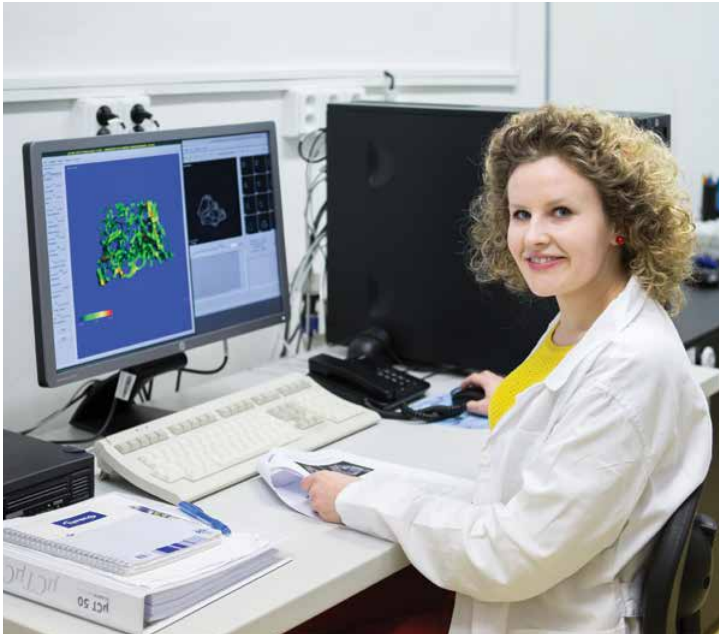
and cultivate them in a medium. In such conditions, called in vitro, we can observe the growth of cells, their reaction on chemicals from the environment and we can even make them create a bone just like in natural conditions. Most of the processes in bones are genetically influenced - thus it is interesting to explore genes which code building proteins of a bone or important regulation proteins. Changes within these genes can affect the entire structure and function of a bone. In most cases these are the changes within DNA - mutations or changes in the activity of genes. In the laboratory we are able to identify these changes with the help of standard molecular-genetic methods and also by using the latest technologies of the sequencing of "new generation" or by means of chip technology which is called microarrays. With the help of these methods we can discover which genes within bone cells under certain conditions are active or inactive and at which time. By means of these methods or by combining them we are able to learn a lot about bones.





3D visualisation of spongy bone, source: Mgr. Kováčová

*Latest technology within this field of research includes 3D analysis of a bone.*



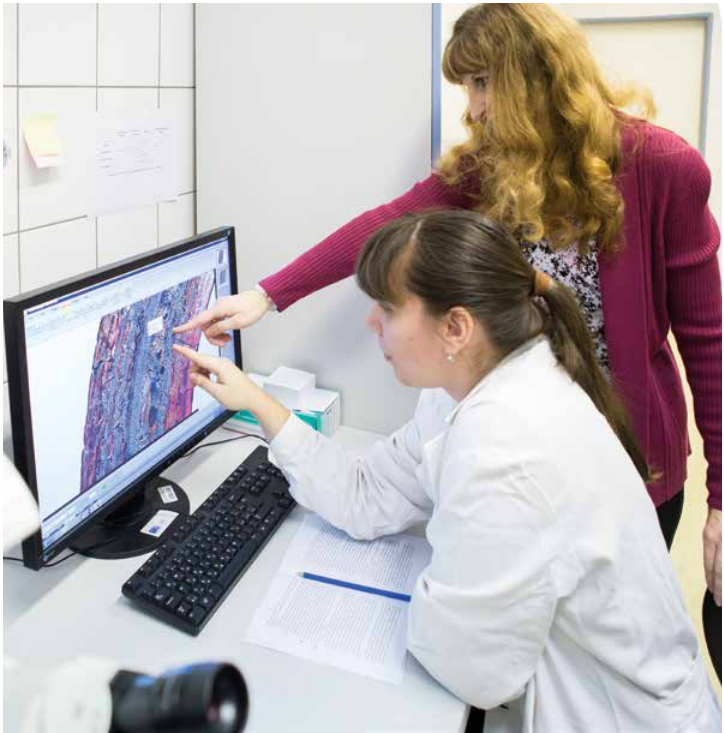
← Mgr. Kováčová analysing 3D structure of a bone via computer tomography

← Extraction of historical samples for DNA analysis is carried out in sterile conditions. The sample is extracted by Mgr. Šranko

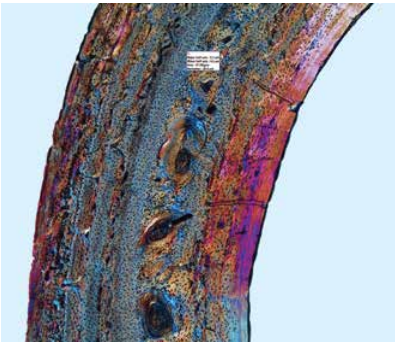
↓ RNDr. Babosová and prof. Martiniaková identifying changes in the bone according to its microstructure

Besides our own methods we also implement other standard procedures which enable us to determine the age of an individual at the age of its death or its gender. The latest molecular methods allow us to discover geographical origin of the subjects or their relatedness by which we can acquire new information about the life of people in the past. The findings within this field can be useful for anthropology, archaeology or criminology. This is why we have published them in indexed journals of anthropological or forensic focus. By application of the above-mentioned methods we could genetically describe medieval populations from the burial grounds near Nitra and analyse their origin. Among the most interesting findings of this research is that medieval woman and child found in a common grave were not related within maternal line. By means of molecular methods we determined the gender of individuals buried in medieval burial grounds of western Slovakia or in sacral objects such as St. Martin's Cathedral in Bratislava.

Another interesting object of the research in our laboratories are the bones of experimental organisms - laboratory mice, rats or rabbits. By their analysis we find out how does the bone react to various chemicals from the environment which can enter the body by means of feeding. When the bone is experimentally exposed to different chemicals, we can very accurately identify changes that occur within the bone at all levels - from microscopic to molecular. The findings of this research were published in indexed journals of veterinary, toxicological or environmental focus. We have described the effect of several toxic substances - pesticides, heavy metals or mild toxins - on the structure and function of bones. Thanks to our research we know that the processes within the bone occur at a higher speed that we expected - for example microscopically visible changes are observable within a day and a half after the exposure to toxins. Some combinations of dangerous substances received in sufficient amount lead to osteoporosis and can not be avoided by using "protective" substances such as antioxidants. Speaking of osteoporosis - one of the factors of this multifactorial disease in human being are our genes because more than 60% of the bone density is genetically determined. These genes can protect one individual and include another into risk group. At our workplace we have analysed several genes which significantly influence the processes within the bones. We have identified several genes which are related to osteoporosis in our population. Currently we are analysing relations of these genes and the effect of medicaments in order to choose the best treatment for a patient based on genes of individual patient. Because this is a problematics belonging to the field of medicine within this research we appreciate our partnership with MUDr. Drahomír Galbavý, PhD., an expert in diagnostics and treatment of osteoporosis. Recent findings have been published in journals indexed in WOS and Scopus databases of anthropological and medicinal focus. The use of these results in practice is still a matter of future.



*Medieval woman and child found in common grave near Nitra were not related within maternal line.*



Microphotography of a bone section showing various orientation of collagen fibres



Prof. Omelka - head of the Laboratory of molecular biology and team manager

**What have we discovered so far?**

One of our first tasks was to describe microscopic structure of a bone of various animal species. Although we know that various species have different structure of bones, our findings significantly enhanced the accuracy of the identification of species by means of structural analysis of a bone. These findings can be used during analyses of fragmented historical bones when other methods simply fail. We can also mention the application of this research within forensic sciences because our findings were published in a prominent indexed journal which deals with forensic sciences and are also cited every year. We were pleased by the fact that last year our publication was recommended by a prestigious database of Oxford Bibliographies as a basic literature for scientists and students from all over the world who are dealing with the histology of bones. This publication is the part of the list of recommended publications thanks to prof. Sam D. Stout from Ohio State University, USA, a distinguished expert in microstructure of bones. The above-mentioned method was thus included among the technologies which significantly influenced a global development and direction of the research within the histology of bones.

Our methods of identification of species were also adopted by several American course books of forensic anthropology. Another success is our analysis of a unique historical sample - thigh bone of a medieval sheep. By means of microstructural analysis we were able to accurately prove the presence of the disease of osteoporosis. It was the first time ever when somebody proved the existence of this disease in the bones of historical animals. These findings were published in a publication in Oxford.



*Processes within  
the bone occur  
at a higher speed  
than we expected.*



↑ Professional guarantors of the team -  
prof. Martiniaková, prof. Omelka, prof. Bauerová  
↗ Young special assistants and PhD students of the team -  
RNDr. Babosová, RNDr. Dúranová, Mgr. Šarocká,  
RNDr. Krajčovičová, Mgr. Lukáčová, Mgr. Kováčová



↑ Observation of  
activity of genes  
in the bone via  
molecular methods

← Laboratory  
refrigerator:  
molecular analyses  
and cultivation of  
cells require costly  
chemicals and  
mediums

Our research and project partners

A number of our findings were acquired thanks to the partnership with foreign and domestic universities or research institutes, namely University in Göttingen, Germany, Pedagogical University in Krakow, Poland, Medical University in Vienna, Austria or Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra or Research Institute for Animal Production in Nitra. The research is realised thanks to the projects among which the most significant are three international projects with the universities in Austria and Poland as well national projects of VEGA and KEGA agencies. Our laboratories have been equipped with latest technology thanks to structural funds of the European Union known under the acronym "AgroBio-Tech", "CEGEZ", "LAGEZ" and "Markery" which we acquired within the partnership with Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra or Research Institute for Animal Production in Nitra.



Who are we

Our research is conducted in the Laboratory of Molecular Biology which is located within the premises of biological departments (Department of Botany and Genetics, Department of Zoology and Anthropology) of the Faculty of Natural Sciences. Despite our latest technology all the findings represent the work of people. The research at macro and microscopic level is realised under the leadership of prof. RNDr. Monika Martiniaková, PhD. who created a know-how for some of the structural analyses of bones and implemented these in our workplace. Currently these methods are successfully utilised by RNDr. Hana Dúranová, PhD., RNDr. Ramona Babosová, Mgr. Veronika Kováčová and Mgr. Anna Šarocká. Molecular research of bones and bone cells of model organisms and human beings is conducted under the leadership of prof. RNDr. Radoslav Omelka, PhD. and is guaranteed by RNDr. Vladimíra Krajčovičová, PhD., Ing. Mária Adamkovičová, PhD., Mgr. Martina Lukáčová and Mgr. Patrik Šranko. Molecular research of historical bones was started by prof. RNDr. Mária Bauerová, PhD. along with her PhD students who have already successfully graduated. We all are discovering the mysteries of bones and explore new ways of applications from historical sciences to medicine.

Mgr. Jana Krajčovičová  
photo by: Lubo Balko



On Wednesday 27th of April 2017 the premises of the Faculty of Arts at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra hosted a famous French expert in political studies, Mr. Nicolas Tenzer who openly discussed with teachers and pedagogues about current topic "Quel avenir pour l'UE?" (What is the future of the European Union?). The event was opened

STUDENTS DISCUSSED  
THE FUTURE OF THE  
EUROPEAN UNION

by assoc. prof. PhDr. Eva Švarbová, PhD., Head of the Department of Romance Studies, accompanied by PhDr. Miroslava Lišková, PhD., Vice-Rector for Public Relations and Social Affairs and Vice-Dean assoc. prof. PhDr. Martina Hettényi, PhD. Among other unique guests were the representatives of the Embassy of France Mr. François-Xavier Montreuil, attache for university partnership Mr. Manon Darphin and a director of French Institute in Slovakia, Mr. Jean-Pierre Jarjanette. The event was moderated by assoc. prof. PhDr. Peter Kopecký, CSc. To make the discussion available not only to students of French language, the event featured two interpreters. Professor Nicolas Tenzer is the editor-in-chief of "Le Banquet", a journal commenting on current political and social status of the world. A discussion on "What is the future of the European Union?" is a part of a cycle of debates called "Les grandes questions 2017" ("Serious questions 2017") organised by French institute. In his speech Professor Tenzer stressed the inevitability of solidarity, unanimity and cooperation of nations

and cultures related to tolerance and the ability to be attentive to the others. His speech featured valuable examples from his own practice, social and political reality with which he enriched and supported his claims. It is important to note that his view on the function of the European Union and its future was realistic and concrete. He avoided creating of idealised world and critically commented on some aspects of the European Community. The audience was introduced to various scenarios of what might happen in the European Union and the consequences. Professor Nicolas Tenzer left enough space for questions and reactions of students who, besides the future of the European Union, were also interested in the elections in France and their possible aftermath. The message of the professor was mainly about respect towards each other, moderate expression and tolerance.

Mgr. Veronika Labancová,  
Faculty of Arts  
photo by: LB

WORKSHOP ON MULTICULTURALISM

On 4th of May 2017 students of Master studies from the Department of Language Pedagogy and Intercultural Studies of the Faculty of Education at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra organised a workshop called "To Melt a Salad Bowl in a Pot?". The aim of this event was to motivate the participants in a fun way to discuss on the problematics of multiculturalism and migrants. For a short time students of the first year of Master studies turned into Arabian, Chinese, Japanese or Mexican Americans to introduce the attendants of the workshop to interesting features of "their" culture by means of practical tasks. The attendants also had a chance to learn more about the principles of purification in Jewish culture, cultural background of Arabic hijab, consumption of food with sticks or they could try to create their own cherry blossom tree. The event also featured culturally typical food prepared by

the students themselves. The attendants and the professional public had a chance to try out Arabic hummus or Chinese tarts. The event was organised as the part of the seminar "Multiculturalism and Ethnic Authors in American Literature" during which they learned about the culture of concrete American minority by means of literature of minority authors. Through critical interpretation of specific literary features students of the first year of Master studies gradually discovered various ways of identity perception within multicultural society - society which can not exist without well-informed individuals who are willing to respect and tolerate ethical and cultural differences.

PhDr. Zuzana Tabačková, PhD.,  
Department of Language Pedagogy  
and Intercultural Studies,  
Faculty of Education  
photo by: author





# LEISURE EDUCATION AS AN ADVANTAGE AT LABOR MARKET

Students were offered a Course on Slovak Sign Language and Course on Roma Language and Realia



The aim of a newly-created idea of the development of leisure education at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra is to offer students attractive themes and fields the completion of which will favour them at labor market. "During the academic year of 2016/2017 we were focusing on reinforcement and development of communication skills in languages of marginalised or disadvantages minorities",



said assoc. prof. PhDr. Rastislav Rosinský, PhD., Dean of the Faculty. "Our students and graduates of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care were offered a course of sign language and a course on Roma Language and Realia. Leisure education is at the same time available to our former students who want to develop their professional skills in the chosen profession. After successful completion of the course each student acquires a certificate issued by the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care."

The first course - Course on Slovak sign language 1 - organised during the semester at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra was successfully completed by twenty students from different departments of the faculty on 20th of December 2016. This course was a part of a plan of leisure education for students and graduates of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care. For their successful completion of the course ranging twenty hours all students obtained a certificate confirming their basic skills in sign language. The students acquired basic theoretical knowledge about the community of hearing-impaired and their culture as well as about the principles of communication with the deaf, including vocabulary of basic topics. The course was led by PhDr. Veronika Šimonová, a full-time PhD student of social work at the Department of Social Work and Social Science. "Currently there is only a handful of indi-



viduals within helping professions who are skilled at least at basics of sign language and thus can communicate with the hearing-impaired clients in their native language which is a Slovak sign language. This is why I appreciate it that I had a chance to be a part of this great project and offer the students another alternative to education and improvement.



During the course we had a chance to meet our colleagues from various departments, share our knowledge from various fields and have a detailed look on this problematics. Our students were disciplined, highly motivated to study sign language and they also expressed their will to join other courses as well.", said the lecturer of the course. For new attendants this course - Course on Slovak sign language 1 - will be open during the spring semester of the academic year 2017/2018.

Similarly successful was also a Course on Roma Language and Realia completed by our current students as well as by the graduates of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care. Among the knowledge they acquired the students mostly valued the basics of communication in Roma language which represent an inevitable skill of helping professionals and also the ability to develop their skill in sensitive perception of social disadvantages and limitations. We are working on broadening of our course offer and this will be available at the beginning of a new academic year.

PhDr. Miroslava Čerešníková, PhD., PhDr. Veronika Šimonová,  
Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care  
photo by: Veronika Šimonová





## ALL GLITTERS IS NOT GOLD

Each one is an expert in various geoscientific fields, they work together and complete each other. We are talking about the Institute of Gemmology and its three members whose work is full of beauty - jewels and precious stones.

The scientific progress of the 21st century is affecting everything, including precious stone or gems. The development of science allowed us to wander into quite uncharted waters which is an identification of various materials, both natural and synthetic, in order to point out the shortcomings of this field. At the beginning it was all about the identification of all historical jewels. Later on there was an opportunity to inform jewellery companies as well as wide public who are investing huge money into jewels. It is obvious that the purchaser wants to be sure about the originality and value of a gem bought in a form of a solitaire or an entire jewel. This is the task for gemological laboratories who cooperate with scientific institutions and use the latest

technology. In recent years this task is in fact being fulfilled and the development of gemmology achieves very good results. Among such institutions we can also include the Institute of Gemmology of the Faculty of Natural Sciences at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. Within Slovakia this institute is the only one providing education in this field. At the same time it is unique for its equipment of the laboratories and its achievements. In 2014 the institute became a regular member of International Colored Gemstone Association, a global gemological company with all its rights and tasks.

The main aim of the institute is to solve the problematics of Slovak jewel gemstones and precious stones enter-

ing Slovak market. Within this field we achieved success in a prominent journal The Journal of Gemmology. The work of our team was significantly influenced by a top quality device used for analysis by means of Raman spectroscopy. Another aim of the institute is to conduct expertise and advisory services (identification and evaluation) for the public. The results are aimed at practice where it allows the graduates to apply their skills in creative work, design and to carry out this activity. To evaluate the quality and price of precious stones or jewels is a difficult and responsible job which should be carried out by experts in gemmology, e.g. individuals with adequate educations (diplomas, certificates) and prominent gemological laboratories and institutes. Evaluation

of precious stones from the financial point of view features several aspects and is also very challenging. To define a value of a precious stone is practically impossible. Rare occurrence in nature is one of the factors affecting its price. The price also differs according to whether the stone is raw or cut or even embedded in jewellery. As for the material the price usually includes the costs of its extraction and transport. Pricing of precious stones and their control is carried out by world gemological laboratories, companies as well as world stock exchanges. The price movement of some precious stones (usually a set of 26 standard specimens) is being updated every day.

The development of prices is different in some countries and also within common business practice. Precious stones with no exception, including diamonds, are being purchased at various discounts and are being sold for a price with a very high additional charge. Their price, however, does not reflect their real quality presented in the shops. Thus it is necessary to purchase diamonds or other precious stones at certified, credible and serious vendors. Similar applies to jewels with embedded precious stones. Such precious stones with certificates purchased at unknown vendors or companies (usually available on the Internet) are often a case of fraud with synthetic stones which can not be distinguished from the original by a common purchaser or a vendor. In case of those who buy and consequently sell such stones within our market the quality of these stones does not correspond to their real price. They are usually sold for a much higher price compared to the quality of a precious stone. The certificate usually does not state its price. The global market of precious stones and diamonds is full of vast networks of frauds selling synthetic diamonds, synthetic opals, synthetic amber, synthetic ruby and sapphire, synthetic emerald and others. The experts raise the alarm. For this reason many certified laboratories and companies have recently added to their programs an educational and control activity. They spread the knowledge in different countries within their branch stores and laboratories and organise the courses for everybody.

In Slovakia such activity belongs to the Institute of Gemmology which identifies every precious stone or ever a complete jewel for partnering organisations and the public. Since ancient times jewels used to be a symbol of wealth and at the same times they were a symbol of

social rank. Until these days they are usually considered a garnish and are being purchased as a gift on different occasions. During evaluation of a jewel we rely on our knowledge about precious metals and their qualities as well as the knowledge about the process of their manufacturing. The final price of a jewel is thus a sum of the price of material, work and trade margin or additional charge. Prices of materials, e.g. precious metals, are being derived from the movement of prices at the market which is publicly announced every day.

All that glitters is not gold - this saying applies on precious metals (gold and gold-plated or made of other metal) where the quality of the metal is determined by a device owned by the Institute of Gemmology. This device is an X-ray fluorescent spectrometer DELTA CLASSIC+ made by Olympus (USA) intended for nondestructive quantitative analyses of precious metals and alloys of precious metals. This analyser is able to accurately and tracelessly



The purchaser wants to be sure about the originality and value of a gem bought in a form of a solitaire or an entire jewel.

The Institute of Gemmology which identifies every precious stone or ever a complete jewel for partnering organisations and the public.

determine the percentage of elements such as Au, Ag, Pt, Pd, Ir, Rh, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn, Zr, Nb, Mo, Hf, W, Ta, Re, Pb, Sn, Bi a Sb. The results of the analyses are published on cooperation with affiliate institutions (Institute of Archaeology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences or museums) in a monograph called "Bohaté hroby z doby rímskej z Krakovian-Stráží" (Rich graves from Roman times from Krakovian-Stráže). These analyses include the analyses of beautiful golden clips, silver bowls, jugs and other decorative or practical objects or a complete analysis of a rare golden ring with precious stones and other.

Assoc. prof. RNDr. Ľudmila Illášová, PhD.,  
Faculty of Natural Sciences -  
Institute of Gemmology  
photo by: Ján Štubňa







# CLIL METHODICS

## International conference at the Faculty of Education

Between 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2017 the Faculty of Education hosted an international conference called “Exchange of Language Education Practice among European Teachers” organised by the office of the Dean of the Faculty of Education in cooperation with the Department of Language Pedagogy and Intercultural Studies and the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava. The conference was held under the auspices of prof. PhDr. Gabriela Miššáková, CSc., Vice-Rector for International Relations of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, on behalf of prof. RNDr. Ľubomír Zelenický, CSc., Rector of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, as a statutory representative of the project. The conference was realised as an output of the international project Erasmus+ called “Transnational Exchange of Good CLIL Practice among European Educational Institutions”. The partners of the project were represented by educational institutions from Lithuania, Latvia, Italy, Sweden and other university partner from Bratislava.

The conference was attended by 91 participants from the university sector as well as by teachers from primary and secondary schools in Slovakia, Poland, Austria, Czech Repub-



lic and Italy. The plenary lectures were delivered by Mrs. Eva Olsson from Sweden (University of Gothenburg), Asta Statkeviciene from Lithuania (Vilnius University), Ilona Ustinova from Latvia (Daugavpils City Education Department) and Jana Luprichová, a coordinator of the project (Faculty of Education of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra). Primary aim of the plenary lectures was to reflection of CLIL methodics in the process of education in particular partnering countries of the project, its contribution and perspectives of its reinforcement at individual levels of education and at the same time a discomfort brought by the implementation of the new methodics into the process of education. Another part of the conference were the workshops realised in the afternoon during the first day of the conference. The aim of these workshops was to introduce the attendants to concrete application of CLIL methodics at primary and secondary level of education. The workshops were realised by



the partners of the project team who completed a training in this methodics within this project and by the participants from other institutions. Our invitation to the conference was accepted by erudite expert in CLIL methodics, Mr. Philip Ball, BA, MA, from Spain who has been dealing with the methodics for several years. His primary aim was to introduce the teachers and other scientific and general public to the advantages of the implementation of the methodics into the process of education. His knowledge is summed up in a publication which was available at Slovak market last year called “Putting CLIL into Practice”. The publication, published by Oxford University Press, was written as a co-authorship of Philip Ball, Keith Kelly and John Clegg.

By his attendance at the conference Phil Ball acknowledged the work of all participants of the conference which is carried out in relation to CLIL methodics and enriched the conference with his own workshop held during the second day of the conference. During his workshop “Using the 3 Dimensions of Content to Structure a CLIL Sequence” all attendants had a chance to learn some elements of the implementation of CLIL methodics into practice. At the same time they could consult the problems they are facing in practice with an expert.

PaedDr. Jana Luprichová, PhD., Faculty of Education  
photo by: Branislav Ziman

# 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  
(Nábřežie 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  
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9. Student Dormitory Brezový háj  
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## 9 Nábřežie mládeže 1

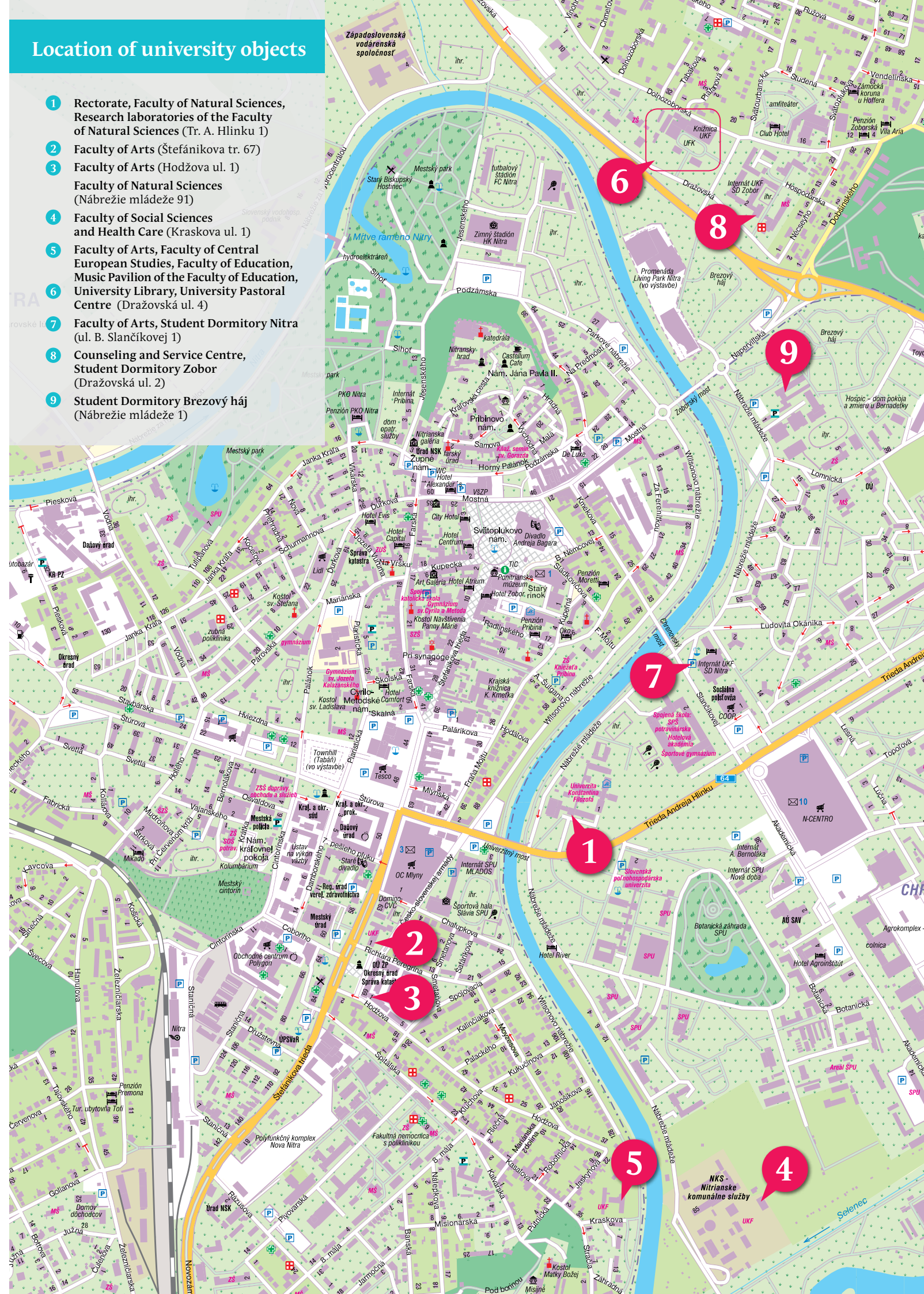
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**Central Administration on web:**  
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## Location of university objects

- 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)  
Faculty of Natural Sciences (Nábřežie mládeže 91)
- 4 Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care (Kraskova ul. 1)
- 5 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)
- 6 Faculty of Arts, Student Dormitory Nitra (ul. B. Slančíkovej 1)
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