

Comenius University proclaims its interest in area of international relations and cooperation with foreign partners directly as one of the aim of the work. University takes these activities as an integral part of its strategy and a precondition for its aspiration to become a member of leading European centres of academic excellence. University IRO agenda, available on:
<http://www.uniba.sk/index.php?id=105>

At the present time, the University confirms its position of leader in the university education internationalisation of by its membership in international academic networks and associations: European University Association (EUA), Network of Universities of the Capitals of Europe (UNICA) and under it UNICA-MED (cooperation with Mediterranean partners), Utrecht Network (within the framework we also contribute as member to MAUI – cooperation with US universities and AEN – cooperation with Australia universities; preferably focus on mobility of students), Danube Rector's Conference (DRC), Alliance of Universities for Democracy (AUDEM), Central European Initiative University Network (CEI), Institutional Management of Higher Education (IMHE OECD), European Network Information System (EUNIS), European Association of International Education (EAIE), European Association for Research Managers and Administrators (EARMA), Transforming Education Through Information Technologies (EDUCAUSE), Virtual Technology Library Systems (VTLS), Sustainable Development of Universities (Copernicus). However, there are still visions in spreading the academic cooperation, especially according to new trends and challenges in educational sector.

The newest membership is in ASEA UNINET, cooperation with Asian universities and in European Public Law Organisation, seated in Greek Athens.

The University has the tradition in formalisation of the previous successful cooperation. It means that personal relations of the academic staff and implementation of international projects usually lead to invitation to sign memorandums or cooperation agreements. Choosing and confirmation of the partners has to respect priority territorial areas of Comenius University, what means mainly the European Union, United States and Canada, Taiwan, Japan, Central Asia (e.g. Georgia), Ukraine. The specific territories respect mainly the previous cooperation; the role of the University and Slovakia in the Eastern Partnership relations (Ukraine, Georgia) and in general reflects the priorities of the Slovak republic foreign policy. All current established relations with the partner's countries reflect specific features of the study programmes at the University, in area of natural sciences (cooperation with Japan, Taiwan), social sciences (US, Canada) and humanities (Ukraine, Georgia). The EU cooperation in the education area reflects the priorities of all cycles of studies, traineeships in laboratories and research centres and also conditions for recognition of study and placement achievements in the unified European system.

Another area of interest of the University is a double/multiple or joint degree. At present time, the University has several of them, in different areas. On the other hand, this area of international cooperation needs the fundamental support for development not only from the University level, but also from the national administration (ministry) especially from Accreditation Committee and Centre for equivalence of educational documents. The current double degree in the form of cotutelle is applied in area of joint degree with French universities and research institutions, preferably in the third cycle (in area of legal, social and natural sciences). The University provides a multiple degree in area of law and human rights (E.MA – European Master in Human Rights and Democratisation, the home institution is University in Venice). The joint degree university is given in social psychology (joint

degree with College in Koln, Germany), cognitive sciences (joint degree of 5 universities). The current preparatory activities focus on the common PhD study programmes (e.g. in Social Anthropology with UK and Germany; European studies and policies within Erasmus network submitted by TEPSA – Trans-European Political Science Association; European studies and policies in cooperation with Institute of Applied Sciences in Vienna, Austria, etc.). The most important objective in international strategy is to continue as a national leader, the biggest and the top ranked educational university institution in the country respecting multi-diversity and prohibition of discrimination of any ground to become a regional leader in Central Europe. In practice it means to eliminate weaknesses the university has and to strengthen its strong points (mainly the existing international relations, existing research projects, the quality of the doctoral study programme). And also to reflect new challenges, such as Green Footprint University, call of 2012 from UNICA.