Our university has given Slovakia a president, prime ministers and cabinet ministers as well as many top scientists, sportspeople and other personalities from social life. We are preparing a new generation for the knowledge society. We are training an elite...
2015 marked the beginning of a new executive team at Comenius University in Bratislava. Prof. RNDr. Karol Mičieta, Ph.D., was reappointed rector by Slovak President Andrej Kiska. Prof. Mičieta is serving his second term in this office.

The university executive is the permanent advisory body to the rector. The members of the executive include the rector, the vice-rectors, and the registrar.
Comenius University has thirteen faculties, which are managed by deans, vice-deans and faculty secretaries.

1—CU management: in the upper row sit the vice-rectors and Chairman of the Academic Senate; in the lower row sit the deans. The rector is standing at the front.
2—The appointment of new deans.
3—The deans’ insignia.
The economic, social and cultural development of medieval cities was essential to the establishment of the first universities, those of the type now commonly found in Western Europe. The sovereigns or other authorities who stood at the birth of the first universities realized that universities could produce a well-educated intellectual elite which could use its knowledge and abilities for the benefit of the city where they were educated as well as for everyone who would be interested. At the same time in Western Christianity, which in the 11th century experienced a turbulent development, there was an increasing conviction that God had created the world as a knowable entity and that he had wanted mankind to learn more about it. A requirement for acquiring a full university education was the mastering of the seven liberal arts, collectively comprising the trivium (grammar, rhetoric, and dialectics [logic]) and the quadrivium (arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, and music). These arts refined the art of original thought and correct argumentation. Only after the successful completion of these subjects could scholars then study medicine, law or theology at artistic faculties.

The University of Bologna, which was established in 1088, is considered to be the oldest university in the world. Following the Bologna model, the Universitas Istrapolitana was established in Bratislava in 1465. In October 2015 Comenius University celebrated the 550th anniversary of the establishment of this medieval university on the Danube, and it proudly follows in its tradition. In doing so, it has raised the significance of classical universities for the modern world and its future.
Our university has given Slovakia a president, prime ministers and cabinet ministers as well as many top scientists, sportspeople and other personalities. We are preparing a new generation for the knowledge society. We are training an elite; our graduates occupy a number of positions on various levels and in many areas of society.

The university contributes to the wealth of knowledge and is a significant bearer of the legacy of humanism and ethical values. The resolution of important social issues and problems in Slovakia is hard to imagine without the participation of Comenius University (CU).

From the very beginning, the founders of European universities perceived them as more than just centres of learning and spreading knowledge. They instilled in them the obligation to spread common values of ethics, humanism and tolerance. This mission has not weakened over the centuries; if anything, it has become stronger.

CU proudly embraces its traditions and enhances the values upon which it was founded. The education of its students and the spreading of learning outside of the university’s grounds is primarily founded on its own scientific activities and on knowledge gained from international interdisciplinary research.

The core mission of CU is to serve the community by developing and spreading scholarship, undertaking scientific research, and creating values which contribute to the overall wellbeing of society. CU guarantees the preservation of freedom and democratic principles on its grounds as well as beyond them; it considers the spreading of these values and principles to all of society to be a core responsibility.

CU is one of the leading universities worldwide. The university contributes to the wealth of knowledge and is a significant bearer of the legacy of humanism and ethical values. The resolution of important social issues and problems in Slovakia is hard to imagine without the participation of Comenius University (CU).

The role of schools which are part of the European Higher Education Area and the common European Research Area is to develop knowledge, wisdom, goodwill and creativity so that people become harmonious individuals and contribute to the level of scholarship, science, culture and health for the wellbeing of all society.
In the 2015/2016 academic year, Comenius University opened its gates to students for the ninety-seventh time in a ceremony held in the refurbished Auditorium. The university’s existence is inseparably linked to the history of Slovakia as well as Slovak scholarship, science, culture, art and sport.

The strategic direction of Comenius University (CU) in individual areas is defined in its Long-Term Development Plan for the period from 2014 to 2024; this document is based on the university’s mission, the long-term strategy to date and strategic documents forming the framework of the scope of higher education in Slovakia and the European Union.

In the area of education, CU has maintained its position as the most significant national university and a university of international repute. Through its systematic activities, the university will continue to prove that it is focused on students and receptive to their needs. It will stand out among providers of higher education for its high quality of tuition and will continue to innovate the study programmes it offers. It will mould students into critically thinking people with a highly specialized education and ethical, social and communicative competencies at the highest level who are ready to assume responsible roles in society. The university will increase the academic mobility of students and teaching staff, expand the range of study programmes in foreign languages, and continue to actively advocate for its students in the most significant international academic organizations. It will create joint study programmes with respected universities abroad and preserve those study programmes which do not have any parallel at other Slovak universities for the nation’s cultural and educational development. It will also support fields of study focusing on national life, customs and traditions, and will introduce new impulses into lifelong education.

In the area of science and research, CU has placed a priority on areas with exceptional potential in research and its practical application by focusing on the closest possible connection between research and social needs. The university will strengthen its present position as a leader and will place an emphasis on innovation and excellent research on an international level. It will be an equal partner in building a common European Research Area. The university operates the Technology Transfer Centre, which aims to effectively transfer the results of science and research into practical application. By implementing a university-wide system of evaluation meeting international standards, the university will support the highest quality of science and research. It will support interdisciplinary research programmes by maximizing its scientific capacities and concentrating them in the university’s Science Park, Centres of Excellence and Competence Centres. The university will continue its work in creating excellent conditions for the completion of big projects supported by international grants and in organizing top-level academic events on university grounds.

In the area of management, CU has set itself the following strategic goals: developing human resources, creating a pleasant and environmentally responsible workplace, focusing on professionalism and performance in administrative tasks, using the most modern information and communications technology, freeing creative personnel of their administrative burden, implementing a university-wide system of management quality, and making the internal organization of the university flexible to present demands.
INDEPENDENT EVALUATIONS

The level of provided education alongside the quality of science and research undertaken at Comenius University is regularly assessed by independent ranking agencies.

On a national level, the highest authority which ranks the performance of institutions of higher education is the Accreditation Commission. In its last report, the commission stated that:

**Comenius University Stands Out For**
- its tradition as a prominent scientific research and cultural institution in Slovakia
- its concentration of elite research teams and Centres of Excellence
- the professional awareness of university affiliation among its students
- its international reputation and recognition
- its desirable geographical location in terms of national and international significance
- its well prepared long-term plan and internal quality assurance system
- its quality system of library services at university level as well as at most faculties
- its publishing activities
- its institutional support in securing grants and its success in acquiring extra-budgetary financial resources from domestic as well as international grant agencies
- its institutional support of scientific and research activity among doctoral students and young scientists
- its cooperation with a number of centres at the Slovak Academy of Sciences and other prominent national and international institutions

**Rating**
The Accreditation Commission has positively evaluated Comenius University for many years, in particular for its high concentration of top-level scientific teams, its international reputation and recognition, its training of successful students and graduates, its cooperation with a large number of scientific centres, and its support of the scientific and research activities of doctoral students and young scientists.

**Top 500**
The quality of Comenius University has also been shown in evaluations by international ranking agencies. Comenius University is the only Slovak university to feature in the University Ranking by Academic Performance (URAP) as one of the top 500 universities in the world.

The results of the comparisons of outputs by universities reflected in the methodologies of the international rankings confirm the continuity of quality offered by our university.
In 2015 Comenius University (CU) was ranked:

494th

In 2015 URAP placed CU in 494th place out of 2000 evaluated universities, which were initially selected from a total of 20,000 universities from around the world. This means that CU is in the top 24.8% of universities worldwide and has importantly kept its place in the top 500 of that group. The university’s activities were evaluated according to objective criteria, including reputation on both a regional and global level, credibility among academics and employers, publication productivity measured upon the basis of significant research publications and articles in renowned journals, the number of citations and patents, the extent of international cooperation, and success in the form of international awards received by scientists and students as well as the employability of graduates and their levels of success.

135th

In the BRICS & Emerging Economies Rankings, CU placed 135th within the top 200 universities from thirty-five countries worldwide. The evaluation criteria include teaching, research, citations (research influence), international outlook and industry income.

601st—800th

The same parameters are used by the Times Higher Education World University Rankings, where CU placed in the 601–800 band among the top 1,128 universities worldwide.
As the successor to its tradition, in 2015 Comenius University commemorated the 550th anniversary of Academia Istropolitana’s establishment. This ceremonial scientific and academic event was held under the auspices of Slovak President Andrej Kiska.

Accreditation Commission identified six teams at the faculty working at an elite level. Additionally, prestigious international rankings have given brilliant evaluations to the faculty’s study programmes. The Faculty of Natural Sciences has significant scientific and research and pedagogical potential for Comenius University, Slovakia, and the whole world.

Over more than half a century, the Faculty of Physical Education and Sport has trained physical education professionals (trainers, coaches and teachers) and elite sportspeople who regularly represent Slovakia at the Olympic Games, world championships and European championships, such as Marianna Némethová-Krajčírová in gymnastics, Mária Mračnová-Faithová in athletics, Anton Tkáč in track cycling, Ivan Bátory and Martin Babčák in cross-country skiing, Pavel Hurajt in biathlon, Michal Riedorfer and Erik Vlček in canoe sprint, and Jozef Gönci in shooting. The university’s first medallist at the Olympic Games was Bohuš Golian, who was a member of the Czechoslovak volleyball team which won a silver medal at the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo. The graduates of the faculty have thus far won fourteen medals at the Olympic Games in total. The faculty’s main aim in the future is to prepare elite specialists in physical education and sport as well as in the areas of research in sports sciences (sport educology, sport humanistics and sport kinanthropology).

SOCIETY

To celebrate the seventieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, the university hosted the “Seventieth Anniversary of the United Nations – Current and Further Challenges” conference. This conference was organized by Comenius University, the Diplomatic Academy – Karol Rybár Institute of International Relations based at Comenius University’s Faculty of Law, the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, and the Slovak Society of
International Law based at the Slovak Academy of Sciences. The conference was held under the auspices of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Miroslav Lajčák and university rector Karol Mičieta. Part of the conference involved the awarding of an honorary doctorate from Comenius University to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. The speakers talked about the roles of the UN in the modern world, Slovakia’s bonds to the organization, migration as a current challenge, and the UN Charter and associated reforms within the organization.

Building on this event, the Slovakia Model United Nations (SlovakMUN) Conference 2015, which was the first university model UN meeting in Slovakia, was also held at Comenius University. This project was organized by Comenius University and the European Law Students’ Association in Bratislava in partnership with the Chancellery of the National Council of the Slovak Republic. The conference was attended by many students, teaching staff, media representatives, experts in the field, and other guests. The speakers included such personalities as Iveta Radičová (the former Slovak prime minister and currently the special adviser to the European Commissioner for Justice), Mária Patakyová (the university’s vice-rector for legislation) and representatives of various diplomatic missions. Vladislav Mičátek, the vice-dean of the university’s Faculty of Law, stated that:

“This and similar international conferences organized by the academic community in partnership with state bodies contribute to the spreading of expert awareness among the public and reflect the challenges the UN faces in achieving a permanent state of sustainable development and in engaging the citizenry in discussions about the world we live in and our common future.”

In 2015 Comenius University hosted a number of panel discussions on current social topics, including energy security and the building of an energy union, themes touching on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership between the United States and the European Union, the Ukraine crisis, and the future of transatlantic security. The aim of these events was to direct attention to certain society-wide issues and create a space for expert discussion. This and similar events contribute to the spreading of expert awareness among the public and reflect the challenge set by the EU of including citizens in discussions about the world we live in and our common future.

Comenius University awards honorary doctorates to important Slovak and international figures who have significantly contributed to the development of education, science, culture, democracy, and human values, and who have personally helped bring about civilizational progress by spreading learning and humanism. In 2015 Comenius University awarded honorary doctorates to two significant personalities.

The First of these people was the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. He received his honorary doctorate for his role in finding peaceful solutions between nations and spreading the ideas of

**CURRENT TOPICS**

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**HONORARY DOCTORATES**

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The First of these people was the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. He received his honorary doctorate for his role in finding peaceful solutions between nations and spreading the ideas of
humanism, democracy and understanding between nations in politics and in practical law, legal science and legal education. He played a crucial role in many international agreements; his activity has a worldwide scale and impacts events in Slovakia and even in the scientific and teaching activities at Comenius University.

In 2015 an honorary doctorate was also awarded by the rector to Prof. Bernhard G. H. Eitel, who is a pioneer in the use of innovative geophysical and geochemical methods and geoinformatics in archaeology in Slovakia as well as abroad. Prof. Eitel received his honorary doctorate for his contribution to interdisciplinary and inter-institutional research in the historical and natural sciences, the use of innovative methods in archaeological research, and the development of cooperative partnerships and support for archaeological research projects between German and Slovak institutions, particularly Heidelberg University, Comenius University, and the Slovak Academy of Sciences.

In 2015 Comenius University continued its series of public lectures by significant academic figures. The aim of these lectures is to present scholarly insights for both the academic community and the general public in a way that is accessible, appealing and understandable. The chance to hear about highly specialized problems and issues surrounding current events in combination with the opportunity to meet with significant experts and the holders of many prestigious prizes met with an exceptionally positive reception.

The series of lectures given by Nobel Prize winners included one given by Finn Erling Kydland, who was a co-recipient of the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics for his work on dynamic macroeconomics. Alongside his colleague Edward Christian Prescott, he had pointed out the presence of time consistency in economic policy. Their key contribution to science was the integration of the theory of economic cycles into the theory of economic growth. They laid down the foundations for the creation of new models which assess cycles as the collective result of decisions by households and companies concerning consumption, investment and the labour force.

In November 2015 Comenius University welcomed James B. Steele, a two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize and one of the most distinguished investigative journalists in the world. In his lecture, entitled “The Voice of Truth in Times of Global Concealment”, Steele emphasized that the media need investigative journalists so that, in addition to following everyday events, they can identify certain cases that are off their “radar” and analyse them.
In the spirit of the core mission of Comenius University, which is to serve society and contribute to wellbeing through its created values, the university organized the sixth annual University Drop of Blood campaign in cooperation with the National Transfusion Service of the Slovak Republic. The aim of this event was to encourage students to get into the habit of regularly giving blood, which is one of the most precious of liquids. A unit of donated blood is processed into three different components: red blood cell concentrate, blood platelets, and fresh frozen plasma. This means that the donor can help up to three patients. The latest University Drop of Blood saw 429 students, staff and friends of the university participate as donors.

The message of Christmas, the most beautiful holiday in the year, inspired students from Comenius University to start a charity project called The University Wishing Tree. The students behind this initiative collected more than 200 Christmas wishes from people in difficult life situations: chronically ill children in hospital, elderly people in social care homes, people living in crisis centres and social accommodation, and children living in children’s homes. They then gave the students and staff at Comenius University the opportunity to fulfill these wishes. The project joined those who needed a bit of cheer at Christmas with students and staff who were only too happy to make the holiday season an enjoyable one for them. As a result, Christmas was made a more beautiful occasion for those who otherwise could not manage to make it so on their own.

This sort of initiative is proof that Comenius University is fulfilling its mission and leading its students, its future graduates, towards personal and professional excellence as well as humanism and humaneness.

“WE ARE ALL CITIZENS OF ONE WORLD, WE ARE ALL OF ONE BLOOD.”

John Amos Comenius

The core mission of Comenius University is to develop and spread learning. As a research institution, it does this in a creative and scientific way. Comenius University pays special attention to the value of its scientific work and teaching so that its students are guided by top-level experts who provide knowledge from their own research and from world-class sources of academic inquiry on an interdisciplinary basis.
Motivational Scholarships

Comenius University (CU) encourages efforts at excellence by students and teaching staff in the form of Academic Mentions which are traditionally awarded by the rector on International Students’ Day. In 2015 the award ceremony was held for the eleventh time. Thirty students and twenty-eight teachers from CU were awarded Academic Mentions for activities which spread the good name of their faculty, university, and Slovakia in a European and broader context. For quality results in studies, the university awarded financial awards ("motivational scholarships") to the amount of €1,137,421.

The talent and intellect of the students from CU excelled in a range of fora in 2015.

In the 2015 Medical Student of the Year competition, featuring 114 medical students in the fifth and sixth years of study at Slovak universities, students from Comenius University’s Faculty of Medicine and Jessenius Faculty of Medicine took the first three places. The Medical Student of the Year was Andrej Skvašík from the Jessenius Faculty of Medicine.

The 2015 winner of the seventh annual interactive conference of Young Scientists was Adriána Furdová, a student at Comenius University’s Faculty of Medicine. Her work stood out for its innovative ideas and application and educational outputs focusing on alternative diagnostics and the management of eye diseases in developing countries.

The eleventh year of the Student Personality of Slovakia competition was organized by Junior Chamber International under the auspices of the Slovak president. This event, focusing on the 2014/2015 academic year, saw CU students win in two categories. The winner of the Informatics and Mathematical and Physical Science category was Mgr. Zuzana Kovaľová, a doctoral student from the Department of Astronomy, Physics of the Earth and Meteorology at the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics. RNDr. Lukáš Krivosudský, Ph.D., from the Faculty of Natural Sciences was the winner of the category of Natural Sciences and Chemistry.

The prestige of CU was also reflected in the election of Jana Šmelková, a doctoral student at the Faculty of Law, as the new chairman of the student council for higher education, which is the highest representative body of university students in Slovakia.

The dominant position of CU in higher education in Slovakia is ensured by the diversity and number of study programmes it offers. Moreover, the university has the largest number of students and the largest number of applicants for its study programmes. Graduates of the university enjoy a very high rate of employability and are among the best earning professionals in the job market.

Study Programmes

The profile of CU as a classical university allows students to choose from the widest range of study programmes in Slovakia. In 2015 the university offered 709 accredited study programmes which covered a diverse array of social, educational, medical, natural science, economic, legal, and theological disciplines: quite literally, everything from A (Applied Informatics) to Z (Zoology). Within its great range of programmes, CU has traditionally offered courses (such as Curative Education and Asian Languages and Cultures) which are not taught at any other Slovak university.

In 2015 CU had 25,349 students studying at three levels, which accounted for about 15.5% of all students at public, private and state institutions of higher education in Slovakia.
The university had 2,082 students in doctoral study, which is more than 25% of all doctoral students in Slovakia.

In an attempt to expand the educational profile and improve the standard of education, the Confucius Institute at CU commenced its activities in September 2015. Its mission is to provide students and the broader public with a solid knowledge of the Chinese language and culture in the form of courses and a diverse spectrum of various activities and to become a platform for cultural exchange between China and Slovakia.

An important landmark in education at CU was the opening of a joint Master’s study programme Physics of the Earth with the University of Vienna. This was the first such programme between a Slovak university and a foreign one. This programme is only offered in the English language. Graduates of this programme are graduates of both universities. The study programme is oriented towards the study of physical processes in the Earth’s interior and the cosmic space around our planet.

A wide range of study options in lifelong education is offered by CU for the public. In 2015 thousands of people attended career and language courses offered by the university’s Centre for Continuing Education as well as traditional summer schools and expert lectures.

The centre actively contributes to the education of senior citizens. In 2015 the University of the Third Age celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary. It offered thirty-seven branches of study and sixty-two study groups for 1,894 students.

The number of students enrolled in the first year of study and the number of graduates for 2005—2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Students Enrolled in the First Year of Study</th>
<th>Graduates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>5,328</td>
<td>3,859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>5,628</td>
<td>4,167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>5,841</td>
<td>4,086</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>6,125</td>
<td>4,724</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>6,662</td>
<td>4,803</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>6,822</td>
<td>4,803</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>7,582</td>
<td>5,125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>8,854</td>
<td>6,108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>9,086</td>
<td>7,533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>8,785</td>
<td>8,152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>8,780</td>
<td>7,983</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The dominant position the university enjoys in this regard is due to the work of the university’s creative staff, their ability to secure financial aid for scientific inquiry, and the achieved results. In 2015 the university was involved in 760 scientific projects in various areas with multi-source funding totalling €61.8 million.

The year was also a historically important one for the widening of the university’s research capacities. It has fifteen Centres of Excellence, and investments in science and research reached a total amount of €120 million including investments in the scientific infrastructure. The university will make a priority of supporting its research potential in key areas through the opening of more research centres from 2015.

### 15 CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

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### CUMULATIVE DATA FROM 2006 TO 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Publications</th>
<th>Citations</th>
<th>Citation per publication</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>1,617</td>
<td>31,356</td>
<td>19.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>1,180</td>
<td>11,609</td>
<td>9.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Medicine</td>
<td>1,195</td>
<td>7,271</td>
<td>6.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology &amp; Biochemistry</td>
<td>888</td>
<td>6,492</td>
<td>7.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant &amp; Animal Science</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>2,717</td>
<td>8.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All fields</td>
<td>7,947</td>
<td>80,102</td>
<td>10.08</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** The evaluation principle works on the basis of cumulative data for the previous ten years. This is updated every year.

### THE LARGEST SCIENTIFIC INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN THE UNIVERSITY’S HISTORY

**Comenius University Science Park and BioMed Martin**

**Comenius University Science Park**

are the Science Park and the affiliated BioMed Centre at the Jessenius Faculty of Medicine in Martin. Both research centres, which have had about €68 million invested in them to date, were successfully finished and put into operation in 2015.

The Science Park, based in a modern and architecturally interesting building, is a part of the university-complex at Mylná dolina. *The Science Park* is a platform for the creation of innovative solutions reflecting the needs of the market and the future direction of the EU. The Science Park was established with the aim of increasing the attractiveness of Slovakia in terms of innovation. In its activities, it connects the academic and scientific sphere with industry and
the state, and as a functional platform it allows new innovative solutions to be created and brought into use. The Science Park is focused on the fields of biomedicine, biotechnology, environmental medicine and social challenges. Over the course of 2015, the Science Park concluded an agreement on building a new scientific research and service centre with the ZTE Corporation and the Faculty of Informatics and Information Technologies at the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava. The value of this investment is €20 million, and one hundred new jobs are to be created by 2020.

BioMed Martin, which is the centre for biomedicine at the Jessenius Faculty of Medicine in Martin, is an excellent place for science and research which offers an intellectually stimulating environment for innovative projects with the possibility of their application in clinical practice. It primarily supports the growth of quality in four areas of medical research – neuroscience, molecular medicine, oncology and respirology. It creates the ideal conditions for the protection of intellectual property and the transfer of technology to practical application. The ultimate aim of research and development at the Jessenius Faculty of Medicine is the improvement of people’s health. “You are making a good name for yourselves in Slovakia, in Europe and the whole world, and we must thank you for that,” said Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico at the ceremonial opening of the new BioMed Martin building on 21 May 2015.

In 2015 the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics opened the Centre for Nuclear and Accelerator Technology; its most important asset is a tandem ion accelerator. The centre will significantly influence research in Slovakia in the areas of natural sciences (the use of isotopes in researching climate change; research into processes in the atmosphere, hydrosphere and biosphere; environmental pollution by radionuclides and heavy metals; and groundwater protection), physical sciences (e.g. research into nuclear reactions for thermonuclear reactors and nanotechnological structures), technical sciences (e.g. new materials for thermonuclear reactors and research into the damaging of materials by radiation), biomedical sciences (a nuclear microscope, radiation damage to DNA, and isotopic pharmacological research), cosmic sciences (meteorite research), and archaeological sciences (radiocarbon dating and the authenticity of pictures and statues). The building of the centre was funded by
a project run by the Centre of Excellence for the Physics of Complex Systems (European structural funds) and a contribution from the International Atomic Energy Agency.

In February 2015 Slovak President Andrej Kiska ceremoniously opened the ESET Research Centre at Comenius University, which is a joint project between the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics; the Faculty of Informatics and Information Technologies at the Slovak University of Technology; and ESET, which is an information security company. Information security at Comenius University and the Slovak University of Technology has a more than fifteen-year tradition in the form of teaching, research in cryptology, computational sophistication, models of computing, software engineering, operation systems, networks and conception activities, and cooperation with the business sector and state bodies. The purpose of the centre is to provide consultations to students in their preparation of scientific work and space for the undertaking of practical experiments in the field of information security. The centre will also be the location of various exercises related to the Basics of Reverse Engineering elective course. This subject will be taught by ESET security experts.

"Today this place is precisely an example of what we want to occur. Namely, the linking of studies and their practical application," said President Kiska.

Comenius University’s strategic goals in science and research, CU scientists formed a partnership with Synkola Ltd., a Slovak chemical company, and have managed to develop a process which allows them to considerably shorten the period of flu medicine preparation. A top team of organic chemists from the Faculty of Natural Sciences has contributed to this considerable achievement led by Prof. Radovan Šebesta. Their solution is currently under patent proceedings with the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic.

In terms of transferring findings and innovations and deepening cooperation with the private sector, which is another of the university's strategic goals in science and research, CU scientists formed a partnership with Synkola Ltd., a Slovak chemical company, and have managed to develop a process which allows them to considerably shorten the period of flu medicine preparation. A top team of organic chemists from the Faculty of Natural Sciences has contributed to this considerable achievement led by Prof. Radovan Šebesta. Their solution is currently under patent proceedings with the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic.

In February 2015 Slovak President Andrej Kiska ceremoniously opened the ESET Research Centre at Comenius University, which is a joint project between the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics; the Faculty of Informatics and Information Technologies at the Slovak University of Technology; and ESET, which is an information security company. Information security at Comenius University and the Slovak University of Technology has a more than fifteen-year tradition in the form of teaching, research in cryptology, computational sophistication, models of computing, software engineering, operation systems, networks and conception activities, and cooperation with the business sector and state bodies. The purpose of the centre is to provide consultations to students in their preparation of scientific work and space for the undertaking of practical experiments in the field of information security. The centre will also be the location of various exercises related to the Basics of Reverse Engineering elective course. This subject will be taught by ESET security experts. "Today this place is precisely an example of what we want to occur. Namely, the linking of studies and their practical application," said President Kiska.

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research and artistic activity, a seminar entitled “How to Evaluate the Value of Research Results at University” was held in the Auditorium. Various methods and views on the matter were presented by Prof. Igor Podlubný, a mathematician and expert in scientometrics from the Technical University of Košice; Prof. Miroslav Urban, a chemist and Accreditation Commission member from Comenius University’s Faculty of Natural Sciences; Jana Šaváčková, Ph.D., an information specialist and expert on scientometrics from Comenius University’s Academic Library; and Prof. Moczo, who, in addition to the roles mentioned above, is also a physicist.

AWARDS FOR SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

Comenius University can be justly proud of the number of its successful scientists and teachers, who are part of the Slovak and world elite in their fields.

A research team from the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics which is led by Prof. Moczo was awarded the M. R. Štefánik Prize by the minister of education Juraj Draxler and the French ambassador Didier Lopinot. The bilateral Slovak-French research and technical cooperation on the SIMSHA project focused on the comparison of developed and used numerical methods for the modelling of seismic activity and disturbance at selected real locations and in canonical models representing typical local surface sedimentation structures. This comparison is of primary importance for the testing of possibilities of modern-day seismology to numerically reproduce recorded seismic activity and then reliably forecast seismic movements in significant places of interest in relation to future earthquakes within a comprehensive analysis of the seismic threat such areas face.

An award by the World Health Organization (WHO) in recognition of World No Tobacco Day was given to Assoc. Prof. Tibor Baška from the Jessenius Faculty of Medicine for his work in the field of tobacco control. Assoc. Prof. Baška is the Slovak representative in a number of international organizations which deal with smoking. He has led a number of representative studies on the prevalence of smoking in Slovakia for the WHO and has published specialized literature on the subject.

Comenius University featured in the nineteenth annual Scientist of the Year prize, which is organized by the Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information. Prof. Tibor Hianik from the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics received an award in the category of Personality of the Year in EU Programmes for his significant contribution and results in the area of developing biosensors designed for the diagnosis of prion diseases and the monitoring of food quality and contamination and environmental pollution; his work was made possible through EU programmes.

The Young Scientist of the Year award was won by Assoc. Prof. Tomáš Piecner, also from the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics, for his exceptional research and publication activity in the physics of solid materials connected with the use of nanotechnologies in sensors, biomaterials and superconductive materials.

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

The training and support of young scientists is essential to the further direction of scientific research at any research institution. Every year the university supports young researchers through specially designed grants. In 2015 a total of €255,490 was used in such grants to support 269 projects.

In terms of human resources, Comenius University remains one of the largest employers in Slovakia. This was once again confirmed in 2015, with the university recording a total of 4,439 employees. Most employees are teachers and researchers (2,442). On average there is a total of eleven students for every teacher.

In 2015 the university witnessed the habilitation of forty-three associate professors and the inauguration of eighteen professors. In that year the university had a total of 294 professors. However, their age structure indicates a significant need for the university to develop its human resources in this area.
Comenius University has also established itself in the European Higher Education Area as a sought after and respected partner in terms of international academic mobility, with an increasing number of students and teachers taking part in Erasmus, CEEPUS, Leonard da Vinci, Aktion Österreich-Slowakei, and other programmes. As a part of academic mobility, in 2015 the university sent 710 students and seventy-five teachers to universities and research centres abroad and accepted 449 students and 105 teachers within the abovementioned programmes.

The university’s international standing has also been strengthened by membership in significant academic organizations. In 2015 the university was an active member of the European University Association (EUA), the Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe, the Utrecht Network, the Danube Rectors’ Conference, the European Network Information System, the European Association of International Education, and the CEI (Central European Initiative) University Network. The university also became a member of the ASEAN European Academic University Network (ASEA-UNINET) and Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie.

One of the significant events in this field was the meeting of representatives of ASEA-UNINET members from Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, and Myanmar at the University of Vienna and at Comenius University in Bratislava, which included a two-day excursion around Slovakia.
Comenius University representatives regularly take part in international fora which are organized by European bodies dealing with ensuring the quality of education, science and research. In 2015 the tenth European Quality Assurance Forum was held in London and was organized by the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education, the European Students’ Union, the EUA, and the European Association of Institutions in Higher Education.

Comenius University hosted a working meeting of the EUA’s Council for Doctoral Education on the theme of “Capacity Building — Developing Research for Doctoral Education”. This meeting dealt with the development of quality research, which is a core requirement in doctoral studies, and how a quality doctoral education is an essential factor in developing research capacities. An area of vigorous debate included European trends, institutional capacity and the financing of development. The meeting was attended by twenty-two representatives from Belgium, Lithuania, Ukraine, Germany, Croatia, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Finland, the Netherlands, Austria, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia.
Information and communications technology services at CU are covered by forty-three information systems. Their operation, compatibility, security, development and innovation of software and hardware components as well as the cooperation of all relevant centres is provided by the university’s Information Technology Centre.

The university’s Botanical Garden is a unique research and educational centre that was established in 1942. Collections of plants in the garden are regularly maintained and expanded, and the area is used for educational and research activities. The garden is open to the public from April to October, and a number of attractive events are organized there, including the Rock Garden Exhibition, the Cactus Spring, summer concerts and the Fruits of Autumn.

The CU Archive is a specialized centre with more than fifty years of history. The archive collects, registers, preserves, and makes available documents dealing with CU and education in Slovakia which are deemed to be a part of the nation’s cultural heritage. The archive also contains two jewels: two diplomas from 1775 and 1927 which have been specially registered by the Ministry of the Interior. A research room is available for consulting archive material.

The CU Academic Library offered its services to 19 thousand users, most of whom are students of the university. In addition to its online catalogue of faculty libraries, which has more than half a billion titles on record, the academic library maintains a database of publications by university employees. The library’s collections are expanded by 50 to 60 thousand new items every year. The library has a total of 1.4 million

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The automated loans service in the academic library’s online catalogue, which has been in operation for ten years, has been used by 70 thousand library users to date. In 2015 the library prepared and made available the Information and Media Literacy portal http://midas.uniba.sk, where it is possible to get information on matters such as how to avoid plagiarism, how to correctly cite sources, and how to find relevant information. The CU portal won the 2015 Sakačik Award from the Slovak Library Association for the most active deed of the year.

In addition to its rich spectrum of scholarly journals, the university publishes the Naša univerzita (Our University) magazine. Having been published since September 1955, it is the oldest university magazine in Slovakia. In 2015 the magazine celebrated its sixtieth anniversary. It is a monthly publication which is rich in content; it is published ten times a year on a monthly basis (with the exception of July and August) with a run of 3,200 copies, and it features a bonus issue. Over the years, 625 issues have been published. It is also available in electronic format on the university’s website.

CU has a non-investment fund which aims to support the university’s development programmes, create the necessary conditions for presenting and promoting the university’s goals, improve the social recognition of the work that university teaching staff do, and support exceptionally talented students.

The university has the largest accommodation and catering facilities for students in the country. In 2015 it provided accommodation in its own facilities to one third of its students, and 2,283,946 main meals were served in the student canteens. In 2015 the renovation of the couples’ dormitories was completed at the Ľudovít Štúr Campus-Mlyny. The complete renovation of the dormitory building has brought about an increase in accommodation capacity of thirty-two single rooms. The student accommodation facilities include medical centres where general and specialized medical care is provided.

Since 1968 CU has operated a psychological consultancy for students. In addition to individual consultations, the consultancy offers couple and group therapy as well as themed training sessions and courses. The information centre provides advice and support concerning studies. In addition, it offers a range of university merchandise for purchase. Over 2015 the staff of the information centre answered over 2,500 questions from current and potential students as well as the wider public.

The centre for students with special needs. This centre provides information, advice, support services and educational activities for current students and study applicants who have special needs as well as for teachers and the wider public. The centre is based at the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics, and there are special-needs coordinators at every other faculty.
The large number of students at the university guarantees a rich student experience. Each faculty has various student organizations catering to particular interests; some of them, such as AIESEC and the European Law Students’ Association, have a strong international backing. The university’s own folk ensemble Gymnīk (which is based at the Faculty of Physical Education and Sport), the Comenius Choir, and the Collegium Musicum Comeniana chamber music ensemble from the Faculty of Education perform at the university’s ceremonial events. Faculties also have sports clubs which represent the university at academic sports tournaments. In 2015 the university’s rowing team was once again first in the University Regatta Bratislava and kept its hold on the regatta trophy, which was designed by academic sculptor Milan Lukáč.

Media services and communication with the public are carried out by the university’s Department of Public Relations. Those interested in information about the university, news, events, awards, and similar matters can consult the university’s website www.uniba.sk, the university’s Facebook page www.facebook.com/Comenius.University, and the university’s YouTube channel.
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