When you say CU
... the longest
tradition of higher education in Slovakia since 1919,
... the largest
Slovak university, which has 13 faculties —
12 in Bratislava and 1 in Martin,
... more
than 24,000 students, of which more than 2,600 come
from abroad — from over 70 countries,
... top
research that shifts the boundaries of knowledge,
... a great international reputation
regularly endorsed by many world rankings of the
best universities in the world.

The longstanding positive evaluation
by the Accreditation Commission, the independent
evaluations by international ranking agencies,
the concentration of elite scientific teams, and the success
of our graduates in finding financially rewarding work
relevant to their studies are all proof of the fact that CU
provides the highest quality of education in the country.
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.
II. THE UNIVERSITY AND ITS FACULTIES

Abbreviations of names of Comenius University faculties: _CU Comenius University _Fmed Faculty of Medicine CU _Flaw Faculty of Law CU _Fais Faculty of Arts CU _Fns Faculty of Natural Sciences CU _Fedl Faculty of Education CU _Fpharm Faculty of Pharmacy CU _Fsport Faculty of Physical Education and Sports CU _Jfmed Jessenius Faculty of Medicine CU _Fmph Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics CU _Frcht Roman Catholic Faculty of Theology CU _Felth Evangelical Faculty of Theology CU _Fm Faculty of Management CU _Fses Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences CU

The number of students 24 184 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 2 637 The number of study programmes 737 IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES 40
Prof. Rndr. Karol Mieluta, Ph.D. Rector

The number of students 3 308 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 931 The number of study programmes 34 IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES 2
Prof. MUDr. Jaroslav Švarc, DrSc. Dean Fmed CU

The number of students 2 341 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 80 The number of study programmes 24 IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES 3
Assoc. Prof. JUDr. Eduard Burda, Ph.D. Dean Flaw CU

The number of students 2 645 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 76 The number of study programmes 151 IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES 2
Assoc. Prof. RNDr. Milan Tránsa, CSc. Dean Fais CU

The number of students 3 599 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 1 931 The number of study programmes 12 IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES 4
Prof. PhDr. Pavel Mučaj, Ph.D. Dean Fpharm CU

The number of students 3 164 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 694 The number of study programmes 36 IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES 1
Prof. MUDr. Jan Danko, Ph.D. Dean Fmed CU

The number of students 2 226 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 145 The number of study programmes 221 IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES 1
ThDr. ing. Vladimír Thurao, Ph.D. Dean Fais CU

The number of students 2 949 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 338 The number of study programmes 16 IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES 3
Prof. RNDr. Josef Komorník, DrSc. Dean Fses CU

The number of students 1 764 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 102 The number of study programmes 13 IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES 1
Assoc. Prof. Mgr. Lucený Batka, Dr. Theol. Dean Felth CU

The number of students 1 579 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 102 The number of study programmes 13 IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES 1
Assoc. Prof. Mgr. Marián Vanderka, Ph.D. Dean Fses CU

The number of students 1 460 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 72 The number of study programmes 16 IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES 0
Prof. PaedDr. Alica Vančová, CSc. Dean Fedl CU

The number of students 1 308 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 53 The number of study programmes 108 IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES 5
Assoc. Prof. RNDr. Milan Tránsa, CSc. Dean Fais CU

The number of students 1 226 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 40 The number of study programmes 12 IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES 4
Assoc. Prof. JUDr. Eduard Burda, Ph.D. Dean Flaw CU

The number of students 1 193 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 150 The number of study programmes 12 IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES 4
Assoc. Prof. Mgr. Marián Vandervs, Ph.D. Dean Fpharm CU

The number of students 1 073 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 34 The number of study programmes 28 IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES 0
Assoc. Prof. Mgr. Marian Vandervs, Ph.D. Dean Fpharm CU

The number of students 810 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 12 The number of study programmes 13 IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES 1
Assoc. Prof. Mgr. Marián Vandervs, Ph.D. Dean Fpharm CU

The number of students 1 023 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 12 The number of study programmes 13 IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES 1
Assoc. Prof. Mgr. Marián Vandervs, Ph.D. Dean Fpharm CU

The number of students 1 073 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 34 The number of study programmes 28 IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES 0
Assoc. Prof. Mgr. Marian Vandervs, Ph.D. Dean Fpharm CU

The number of students 1 023 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 12 The number of study programmes 13 IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES 1
Assoc. Prof. Mgr. Marián Vandervs, Ph.D. Dean Fpharm CU

The number of students 1 023 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 12 The number of study programmes 13 IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES 1
Assoc. Prof. Mgr. Marian Vandervs, Ph.D. Dean Fpharm CU
We can all take stock when glancing over the past year. Our everyday hustle and bustle can make us blind to acquiring a wider perspective and overview. And we should not lose this. Certainly not if we have set ourselves ambitious goals.

Slovakia took on the Presidency of the Council of the European Union on 1 July 2016 for the first time in its twelve-year history of EU membership. The main priorities of Slovakia’s presidency were an economically strong Europe and a sustainable migration and asylum policy. Presidency has brought to our alma mater opportunities to actively participate in presidential activities at academic level. Slovak education started 2016 with a strike by its teachers. In March there were parliamentary elections which saw the four-year term of a one-party government end. The election results, including the success of an extremist party, has provided new stimulus not only to political scientists. The new government presented the 18th minister of education since the fall of communism. Its manifesto placed a priority on reforming higher education.

The top international event of 2016 was the Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, where more than 11 thousand athletes from 207 countries competed against each other in 28 sports. This 31st edition of modern celebration of tradition and endeavour for permanent progress was, however, overshadowed by growing international terrorism. In addition to the migrant crisis, the European community in 2016 was confronted by the unprecedented decision of the United Kingdom to leave the European Union.

Karol ANAJA, CU Rector.
The Olympic Games were linked to our university not only in terms of their main idea — tradition, universality, and the attempt to make permanent progress (in the meaning of Citius, Altius, Fortius — faster, higher, stronger). Our students, graduates, and employees actually took part in the Rio games either as athletes or officials. The Škantár cousins, graduates of the FSPORT, came back from Rio with a gold medal. CU was also very pleased with the success of Takuya Haneda, a fresh graduate of the FSPORT, who represented Japan and won a bronze medal in the men’s C-1 canoe slalom event. Barbora Mokošová, a student at the FSPORT, competed in artistic gymnastics; Alexandra Longová, a student of the FNS, competed in archery; and Richard Nagy, a graduate of the FARS, competed in swimming. Ľuboš Rupčík, a vice-dean at the FSPORT, took on the role of official in artistic gymnastics. One of the top volleyball referees in the world today is Juraj Mokrý from the JFMED; he is a recognized expert in pharmacology and a teacher who was also a volleyball referee at a number of matches at the Rio games. Last but not least, the Olympic Games and CU have been connected in the person of Marián Vanderka, the Dean of the FSPORT, and the first (and so far the only) Slovak to have represented his country at both the winter and summer games.

Throughout the year, our university actively contributed towards solving the European migrant crisis. Pressing European topics were covered in many student theses. Outside the scope of the curricula, the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights Education based at the FARS, in partnership with the Sharing Perspectives Foundation from the Netherlands, prepared an online course entitled “European Refuge(es): Critical Dialogue on the ‘Crisis’ by Refugees and Non-Refugees,” where around 250 students from 15 European countries did not just learn about refugees but actually with them. CU also arranged a series of discussions with Slovak and international experts for the general public. The internationally comparable quality of competences gained by our students from having studied at our university was proven by students from the FSES, who successfully represented the university at the prestigious international Model United Nations (MUN) student conference, which simulates actual meetings of UN committees. Here students have to be guided by the current state of international relations and present the actual position of the country they are representing. Abroad, and particularly in the United States, success at the MUN is seen to be one of the best ways to start one’s career. The success of our students (Braňo Višňanský — Best Delegate, Human Rights Committee; Jakub Velič — Best Delegate, UN Security Council; and Bibiána Bajzová — Honourable Mention Delegation (third place), UN Women) only confirm the knowledge our students have of the current international political situation and the adequacy of their competence.

I find important to mention the role of CU within the Slovak Presidency. It were just our academic premises that have as the first one in Slovakia brought the discussion on challenges and opportunities of the Slovak Presidency of the EU on the international pre-Presidential conference of the Trans-European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA) in June. In July we have introduced our Science Park to ministers of education and science from the EU. The Science Park also hosted discussions on the link between science and practice with the participation of the Brussels Club of European Diplomats, representatives of the European Association of Universities, Slovak University of Technology, Slovak Academy of Sciences and CU “Cercle International Diplomatique et Consulaire Diplomatic Economic and Academic Days”. To deepen the community knowledge of the current and historically significant topic of the Brexit,
the CU’s top political scientists provided public appearances and published expert’s analyses and commentaries.

CU was also actively engaged in discussing matters directly affecting Slovak society. The demands of the striking teachers and education-sector employees, and their long-term efforts to gain a better social standing and better working conditions was supported by CU in a public statement. This was not only because the university was proud of having trained qualified and high-quality teachers; it was also because it has a deep interest in improving the quality of the education system in Slovakia.

With great interest, the CU has become acquainted with the Proposal for a National Program for the Development of Education and Training for the Higher Education Area — The Learning Slovakia. While respecting the effort of the Government to develop its manifesto, the CU couldn’t identify with most key points of the material. In their joint public statement the Executive of the CU and Academic Senate of CU asked for its major overhaul.

Slovakia is a small country but has 36 domestic institutions of higher education and a number of foreign universities. Those looking for “any sort of” university degree certainly have a wide range to choose from. The longstanding positive evaluation of CU by the Accreditation Commission, the independent evaluations by international ranking agencies, the concentration of elite scientific teams, and the success of our graduates in finding financially rewarding work relevant to their studies are all proof of the fact that CU provides the highest quality of education in the country. However, it is not enough for us to be the best in our own country. CU’s ambition is to become one of the most important European universities. Our development priorities are quality and internationalization.

All of our efforts and activities are focused on the needs of our students. Studying at CU is perhaps not the easiest option. However, it guarantees our students high levels of competence which are comparable internationally. It provides them with a stimulating study environment with a lot of inspiring personalities. It provides them with conditions and opportunities for personal growth. It thoroughly prepares them for their future professions and in many cases offers them employment itself. In the highly competitive job market, more attention is being paid to which universities graduates received their education and university degrees from. In this respect, CU is a mark of quality!
The Accreditation Commission is the highest independent authority providing a systematic external evaluation of the quality of education and science and research activity on a national level. In its latest evaluation, the Accreditation Commission stated that CU provided:

— the tradition of a prominent scientific research and cultural institution
— a concentration of elite research teams and excellent research centres
— an international reputation and recognition
— a desirable geographical position in terms of its domestic and international significance
— a high-quality long-term plan and system of ensuring quality
— quality library services at a university level and at most of the faculties
— publishing activity
— institutional support in acquiring grants and success in acquiring extra-budgetary funds from sources both in Slovakia and abroad
— support for young researchers and doctoral students
— cooperation with the top research institutions at the Slovak Academy of Sciences as well as with other top-level institutions, including research institutions in other countries.

CU has been measuring its quality and prestige according to its success in an international context. The international quality of education and research undertaken at CU has been proven by evaluations of the university in international rankings.

151st place in the BRICS and Emerging Economies University Rankings of the top 300 universities from various countries around the world. The evaluation criteria include teaching, research, citations (research influence), international outlook, and industry income.

545th place out of 2,000 universities which had been selected from 20,000 universities from around the world. This means that CU is in the top 27.25% of universities worldwide.

601st to 800th place out of the top 1,313 universities in the world (coming from 79 countries) in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (THE WUR), which examine the same evaluation parameters.
CU’s Performance in the URAP 2010 — 2016

U.S. NEWS
516th place in the U.S. News Best Global Universities Ranking out of the top 1,000 universities worldwide. The input source for the top 1,000 universities in the world was the Thomson Reuters InCites database.
Universities were evaluated according to twelve criteria which took into account research and reputation.

WEBOMETRICS
752nd place in the Webometrics (Ranking Web of World Universities) from among more than 26,000 evaluated universities, making CU in the top 2.89% of universities in the world.

CWUR
637th place in the Center for World University Rankings evaluation of more than 22,000 universities, meaning CU is in the top 2.89% of universities in the world.

QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS
651st to 700th place out of 900 universities evaluated in the QS World University Rankings (Quacquarelli Symonds). CU is the only Slovak university to have been included among the top 800 universities in the world.

LEIDEN RANKING
599th place in the CWTS Leiden Ranking (Leiden Ranking) out of 842 universities worldwide when taking into account all areas of expertise. The Leiden Ranking has been created by the Centre for Science and Technology Studies at Leiden University, which specializes in bibliometrics. The evaluation focused on one broad area of universities’ activity: science, research, and development. The core source for calculating the parameters is the Web of Science database. In the evaluation of expert areas for 2016, CU received the following rankings: 437th place in Physical Sciences and Technology, 527th place in Earth and Life Sciences, and 533rd place in Biomedical and Medical Sciences.

SCIMAGO
586th place in the Scimago Institutions Rankings out of 5,147 universities and research institutions worldwide. The ranking compares scientific outputs, international cooperation, outputs in periodicals with a high impact factor, and the publication activity of universities and research institutions.

CU is both a national and a European university. It reflects the latest European standards in its activities in terms of providing a quality education and undertaking quality research. The Bologna Process and the EUA European Standards and Guidelines 2015 (ESG 2015) initiative form a core framework in this area.

V. EDUCATION

Prof. RNDr. Štefan Tomáš, DrSc., professor emeritus at the FNS.
A total of 24,184 students studied at CU’s thirteen faculties, amounting to 16% of all university students in Slovakia. Even though the number of enrolled students at CU has fallen due to the ageing of Slovakia’s population for the fourth year in a row, the university’s share of Slovak university students has a longstanding growing tendency. In terms of doctoral studies, CU had a share of ¼ of all Slovak doctoral students in 2016.

More than 10% of CU’s students are foreigners which represent 2637 international students in Slovakia. They come from more than 70 countries.

The high interest of study at CU’s faculties at all levels can be seen in the high number of registered applications for admission to studies; there was a total of 18,132 applications for the 2016/2017 academic year. Of these, 16,918 applicants took entrance exams, with 10,526 of them being successful. A total of 8,321 students then enrolled in their first year of studies. The number of graduates at all levels of study was 7,210, of whom 406 were foreigners.

In 2016 CU offered 737 study programmes at bachelor’s, master’s, PhDr., and doctoral level in a wide range of disciplines of the total 980 accredited study programmes. Of these were 40 offered in foreign languages.

JOINT STUDY PROGRAMMES WITH OTHER UNIVERSITIES

In partnership with the University of Vienna, CU runs the exceptional Physics of the Earth joint study programme. The study’s programme’s graduates simultaneously graduate from 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.

This is a joint programme of five Central European universities: The University of Vienna (in partnership with the Medical University of Vienna), the University of Ljubljana, the University of Zagreb, Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest, and CU in Bratislava are all involved in a joint Cognitive Science master’s programme. Cognitive Science deals with the exploration of human cognition and how such processes take place in the brain. This programme is notable for its interdisciplinarity — combining the disciplines of psychology, artificial intelligence, neuroscience, linguistics, philosophy, anthropology, and other fields.
This is a joint programme of four Central European universities: CU in Bratislava, Charles University in Prague, the University of Ljubljana, and Jagiellonian University in Kraków are all involved in this joint master’s study programme in Central European Studies. The aim of this study programme is to train experts in the Central European region who are prepared in an interdisciplinary way.

In partnership with the University of Economics in Bratislava, CU offers a joint Economics and Law bachelor’s study programme. Graduates of this programme receive a university education up to the first level of studies in the discipline of the National Economy and Law.

CU is a member of the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation (EIUC), which is a result of the cooperation of reputable universities from all member states of the EU. The aims of the centre are to contribute to the protection of human rights and democracy on a global level. The core programme of the EIUC is the European Master’s Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation (E.MA). The position of E.MA Director at CU in 2016 was held by Vice-Rector Mária Patakyová.

1 — The project Jasne–Alles klar was awarded a European Language Label certificate 2016.
2 — Education at JFMED CU.
3 — FMED CU student.
Eva Korňanová, Medical Student of the Year 2016.

46 %
(2,022.6)
18 %
(906.6)
15 %
(763.2)
12 %
(313.1)
09 %
(290.4)

With 4,403 employees, CU is one of the largest employers in Slovakia. In terms of developing its human resources, the university has primarily focused on the most qualified area. 55% of employees are teachers (2,023) and researchers (390). For each teacher at the university in 2016, there was an average of 10.8 students.

Spending a part of one’s studies or specialized training abroad means improving one’s professional, social and multicultural competences, and therefore one’s desirability in the labour market. Supporting student and teacher mobilities is one of the main aims of CU in the area of advanced education.

The FPHARM, Wörwag Pharma GmbH & Co.KG, and the Slovak Pharmaceutical Students’ Association prepared the ATIP educational project for students at the Faculty of Pharmacy, which connect university studies with applied practice.

The Centre for Continuing Education at CU participated in the Jasne–Alles klar international e-learning project, which involved five countries – Germany, the Czech Republic, Austria, Poland, and Slovakia. The project coordinator was the Technische Universität Dresden, which provided the foundations for comprehensive e-learning materials in four language mutations. The project was awarded a European Language Label certificate in 2016 by the national European Language Label panel, a European Commission initiative for innovative language projects, at the 14th European Language Label competition.

The number of employees at Comenius University in 2016:
Professors — 294.1
Researchers — 482.5
Professional assistants — 1,094.2
Assistants — 85.8
Lectures — 66.0

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Professors — 294.1
Researchers — 482.5
Professional assistants — 1,094.2
Assistants — 85.8
Lectures — 66.0
of education and specialized training. The core tool to achieve this is the Erasmus+ programme. Over the past 18 years, CU has sent and received more than 11,500 students and teachers through Erasmus+ programme, making it the leader among Slovak universities in this regard. Erasmus mobilities are complemented by programmes specific to Central Europe (CEEPUS and Aktion Österreich-Slowakei/Mesa Pálsisko-Slovensko) as well as mobilities undertaken upon the basis of bilateral relationships with universities abroad.

Every year the Ryoichi SYLFF provides selected students at CU with doctoral scholarships for study stays abroad lasting a number of months and scholarships which aid students at master’s level in their last two. In 2016, 6 scholarships worth over 40,000 USD were awarded.

NOTABLE SUCCESSES

In accordance with its long-term plan, CU actively supports its exceptional and excellent students and employees. The quality of our academic community is confirmed every year by the many awards and successes which are achieved in a number of areas. Here are a few of them.

Academic Mentions are traditionally awarded by the rector on International Students’ Day to exceptional students and teachers at the university. In 2016, 31 students and 30 teachers received this award for spreading the good reputation of the university both in Slovakia and abroad. For students, the Academic Mentions came with motivational scholarships totaling €11,315.

Students from the FMED were exceptionally successful in the 12th edition of the Medical University of Warsaw international students’ conference in Poland. Adriána Furdová, a student of general medicine, placed first in the ophthalmology section and won the final Grand Prix audience award. Tomáš Havran secured third place in the cardiology and cardiac surgery section, and Štefan Lukáč placed third in the pre-clinical and theoretical disciplines section.

The winner of the Vojtěch Jarník International Mathematical Competition (VJIMC) was Martin Vodička, a student of FMPH. The ACM-ICPC is the most prestigious programming competition in the world which is organized by universities and for universities. Michal Anděl, Eduard Batmendijn, and Ján Hozza, all from the FMPH, reached the final round out of 40,266 competing students from 2736 universities from 102 countries. The 40th annual final round was held from 15 to 20 May 2016 in Phuket in Thailand, where the CU team finished 52nd out of the 128 three-member teams present.

Two teams from the FMPH competed in the PLANKS competition and placed 4th and 21st. The competition is organized by the International Association of Physics Students and took place from 20 to 23 May 2016 in Bucharest. A total of 24 teams from Europe and Singapore took part.

Tomáš Brngál, a student at the FMED, was the winner of the 2016 Student Business Award, the eighth annual nationwide competition of student-led business solutions, with his Virtual Medicine project - an educational application for medical students which functions on the basis of virtual reality. Students just need to put on a pair of special goggles, and, thanks to the application, they then find themselves in a virtual autopsy room. They can better imagine what the organ size or structure is. Thanks to drivers and “Leap Motion” technology, the user can rotate, separate, or enlarge the body’s organs as if he was holding a real part of the body in his hand.

1 — The award-winning student Tomáš Havran.
2 — The Virtual Medicine project by the student Tomáš Brngál from the FMED.
3 — The student of mathematics Martin Vodička, winner of the VJIMC.
autopsy room, where they can examine the human body in 3D. The next stage of the project is to develop a virtual anatomic classroom. This student-led startup was also successful in the Slovak Student Startup Cup in the Science and Medical Technology category. It was also first in the Quick Pitch competition at the Startup or Shutdown conference.

In April 2016, Ria Gehrerová, a student of journalism at the FARS, won the ‘Young Journalists’ Category at the Štúrovo pero (Štúr’s Pen) competition.

**ACTIVITIES FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS**

CU secures the high quality of its education with its acceptance of top high school students, which it actively seeks out; the university works with them while they are still studying at high school.

On 25 May, hundreds of high school students experienced a day in the life of a university student at the FARS. Is the world run by Illuminati? Where is Atlantis? Why is one person a ‘hipster’ and another a ‘punk’? What can be believed online and what can’t? Do historians know how to establish a ‘startup’? These were some of the questions posed by high school students to FARS scholars.

The Trojsten civic association is made up of university students, mostly from the FMPH, who since 1985 have been selflessly bringing joy to motivated primary and high school students through mathematics, physics and informatics with organized correspondence seminars and summer and spring courses. The number of participants in the correspondence seminars has reached an admirable 5,000. In 2016, the 4th year of summer school attended 130 primary and high school students, who listened to 59 professional and 17 soft skills lectures from 37 speakers.

CU presented itself to high school students at the 20th Akadémia & Vapac® education and careers fair, which was held under the auspices of Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President of the European Commission; Peter Plavčan, Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic; and Rudolf Kropil, President of the Slovak Rectors’ Conference.

**VI. SCIENCE AND RESEARCH**

CU is one of the best science and research institutions in Slovakia. The university is responsible for about one quarter of all scientific research in the country. The character of scientific inquiry is transnational, as is international cooperation and support, which are the means by which CU is attempting to strengthen its international prestige. This is undertaken, for instance, in forms of cooperation between top scientists at CU with NASA, their work at CERN, and partnerships with other world centres of science.
CU’s leading position is thanks to its creative researchers, who are among the best in Slovakia and internationally, its ability to secure financial support for scientific inquiry from European research grant schemes and those further afield, and the achieved results. In 2016 there were 735 scientific projects being worked on at CU in various areas of research with multiple sources of funding to an overall amount of €9.9 million, €7.8 million of this funding came from domestic grant schemes. Horizon 2020 is the largest research and innovation programme in the EU. It connects all existing tools which support research, development, and innovation at an EU level. The total success rates for those applying for a grant from Horizon 2020 are relatively low, being around 12%. However, success in this remarkably difficult international competition has been achieved by a number of research teams at CU. In 2016 a total of six projects financed by the Horizon 2020 programme were commenced at the university. In one project CU is the main coordinator, and in the others it is a member of a consortium. As a part of the Horizon 2020 programme, the Excellent Science pillar offers a means by which prestigious European Research Council (ERC) grants can support innovative research projects which push the boundaries of current knowledge. The ERC is the first European subsidy organization for excellent science which pushes the boundaries of knowledge. ERC grants are the most prestigious grants in Europe that scientists can get. The ERC is recognized as a symbol of quality. Only a few researchers from Slovak institutions have responded to open calls for applications. With the aim of making Slovak scientists familiar with the types of grants supported by the ERC, and to improve their competitiveness on a European level, an ERC information day was held at CU on 20 June and included the participation of ERC president, Professor Jean-Pierre Bourguignon. This was a national event which was organized by CU alongside the Slovak Academy of Sciences, and the Slovak Liaison Office for Research and Development in Brussels. Despite the fact that CU is yet to succeed in securing an ERC grant, Professor Darina Malová from the FARS is a member of one of the six ERC panels for Social Sciences and the Humanities. The issue of introducing open access to science is a current European topic. The European University Association, which deals with issues of open access to published results of research, put together an expert working group in 2015 to look at solving important problems when introducing open access to science at universities. CU is a member of this expert group and is represented by Peter Moczo, who is the university’s Vice-Rector for Science and Postgraduate Study.
The elite research teams have excellent international contacts, and it is not a problem to arrange a part of one’s studies at a top institution abroad (in addition to other possibilities), postdoctoral and other working stays abroad, as well as other forms of cooperation, including cooperation with practical application. The Accreditation Commission identified 17 elite research teams at Slovak universities. A high concentration of these (19) are based at CU.

In addition to top-level research, the successful practical application of research results for the benefit of all of society is the peak of scientific endeavour. Every year CU seeks to protect its intellectual property and its commercially applicable scientific outputs on a national, international, and transnational level. An important factor is the prestige and increase of credit of the research organization after a patent has been successfully registered.

On 19 October 2016, the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic awarded CU a patent entitled “Palladium Complexes of Curcumin and its Analogues and their Preparation”. The creators of this technology are Ferdinand Devínsky, Roman Mikláš, and Natália Miklášová from the FPHARM. The technology serves as a new type of chemotherapeutic agent for the treatment of many types of tumorous cells, including those which are resistant to regular forms of treatment. It works on the basis of complex metals, which offer new possibilities of treatment in medicine. In 2016, a total of five applications were submitted to the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic.”

**19 ELITE RESEARCH TEAMS OPERATE AT CU**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Chief of team</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>FARS</td>
<td>Philosophy, Logic, Methodology: Challenges of the 21st Century</td>
<td>Mariana Szapuová</td>
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<tr>
<td>FARS</td>
<td>Language and Linguistics in Context</td>
<td>Juraj Déšák</td>
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<td>FARS</td>
<td>National Literatures Reflected in Literary Science</td>
<td>Ján Žambor</td>
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<td>FARS</td>
<td>Slovak History in the Central European Context</td>
<td>Eduard Némethovič</td>
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<td>FMPH</td>
<td>The Centre of the Physics of Complex Systems</td>
<td>Roman Martoňák</td>
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<td>FMPH</td>
<td>The Physics of Physical Neutrinos, Underground Laboratories, and the Structure of Cores</td>
<td>Fedor Šimkovic</td>
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<td>FMPH</td>
<td>The Physics of Plasma and of Elementary Processes in Plasma</td>
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<td>The Team of Numeric Modelling of Seismic Movement</td>
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<td>The Bratislava School of the Qualitative Theory of Differential Equations</td>
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<td>FMPH</td>
<td>Graphs, Maps, and other Discrete Structures</td>
<td>Martin Slováň</td>
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<tr>
<td>FNS</td>
<td>The Mineralogy and Petrology Team at the Faculty of Natural Sciences of CU in Bratislava</td>
<td>Marián Putiš</td>
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<td>FNS</td>
<td>The Geodynamic Development of the Western Carpathians Research Team</td>
<td>Michal Kavoš</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FNS</td>
<td>Organic Catalysis and other Methods</td>
<td>Radovan Sabota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FNS</td>
<td>Theoretical and Computational Chemistry</td>
<td>Ivan Černulák</td>
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<tr>
<td>FNS &amp; FMPH</td>
<td>Invasive Biology and the Ecomorphology of Fish</td>
<td>Vladimír Kavoš</td>
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<tr>
<td>FNS</td>
<td>Integrational and Behavioural Biology</td>
<td>Michal Zeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMED</td>
<td>The Diagnosis and Surgical Treatment of Tumorous and Functional Diseases of the Brain</td>
<td>Juraj Šteňo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JFMED</td>
<td>The Martin Research Group for Neurological and Tumorous Diseases</td>
<td>Dušan Dobrota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JFMED</td>
<td>Disorders of the Metabolism and Haemostasis during Pregnancy</td>
<td>Marián Mokáň</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

in Slovakia which have achieved a world-class level of quality. The elite research teams have excellent international contacts, and it is not a problem to arrange a part of one’s studies at a top institution abroad (in addition to other possibilities), postdoctoral and other working stays abroad, as well as other forms of cooperation, including cooperation with practical application. The Accreditation Commission identified 17 elite research teams at Slovak universities. A high concentration of these (19) are based at CU.

In addition to top-level research, the successful practical application of research results for the benefit of all of society is the peak of scientific endeavour. Every year CU seeks to protect its intellectual property and its commercially applicable scientific outputs on a national, international, and transnational level. An important factor is the prestige and increase of credit of the research organization after a patent has been successfully registered.

On 19 October 2016, the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic awarded CU a patent entitled “Palladium Complexes of Curcumin and its Analogues and their Preparation”. The creators of this technology are Ferdinand Devínsky, Roman Mikláš, and Natália Miklášová from the FPHARM. The technology serves as a new type of chemotherapeutic agent for the treatment of many types of tumorous cells, including those which are resistant to regular forms of treatment. It works on the basis of complex metals, which offer new possibilities of treatment in medicine. In 2016, a total of five applications were submitted to the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic, the Industrial Property Office...
of the Czech Republic, and the European Patent Office, and there was one application for the prolongation of a utility model. The projects in these proceedings were led by or involved the participation of scientists from the FNS, FME, FMPH and CU’s Science Park.

**The Comenius University Science Park**

On 26 February 2016, CU ceremoniously opened its Science Park, which is a new scientific research centre. Its foundation stone was laid on 27 February 2014. The total expenses for this project amounted to nearly €42 million. With the construction of the Science Park, CU successfully continued its systematic expansion of its research and innovation capacities for developing excellence in the area of research and innovation and the support of competence centres on a European level. The CU Science Park is a member of the International Association of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation. During Slovakia’s presidency of the Council of the European Union, the Science Park was a frequent venue for visits and international meetings.

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**The Science Park**

- undertakes concentrated innovative research in selected scientific areas of biomedicine, biotechnology, environmental medicine, and interdisciplinary research
- supports the practical application of the achieved research results
- is involved in the popularization of science and research
- provides elegant conference facilities for international events

**In the first year of operations, the internal organization of the Science Park was structured in such a way as to ensure the effective fulfilment of the roles entrusted to it. In terms of research, which is its main area of activity, the Science Park provided around 160 scientists and researchers with access to its facilities. Some were involved in the research activities of the Science Park while others were just using various apparatuses at the Science Park for measurement purposes. The Science Park also applied for grants to support its research projects through various national and international grant schemes. One successful application was an international project entitled “EcoInn Danube”, which is financed through the Interreg Danube Transnational Programme. The project is focused on ecological innovations and support for them across the Danube region. Also, the Slovak Research and Development Agency supported two projects in the areas of biochemistry and biomedicine which the Science Park is involved in.**

The roles of securing technology transfer and support for the formation, protection, and commercialization of the results of the intellectual property of CU were performed by the Technology Transfer Centre of CU (TTC CU), which is a specialized centre for this purpose. In 2016, the TTC CU submitted three patent applications with the help of the National Technology Transfer Centre, of which the centre is a member.

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The CU Science Park Incubator and Technology Centre were established to support cooperation with businesses which use the results of research for their own innovative products, or which undertake their own research and development, and to support the establishment of small businesses.
In the first year of its activity, the CU Science Park fully developed its cooperation with several businesses and other economic entities, including Fablab Bratislava; Geneton, s.r.o., GHC Genetics SK, s.r.o; Kompozitum, s.r.o.; Medirex, a.s.; Medirex Group Academy, n.o.; Slovgen, s.r.o.; and Centrum inovácií, o.z. The number of external partners of CU Science Park is growing.

Since 2015 Biomed Martin, which is based at the JFMED in Martin, has been an excellent place for science and research in the area of medicine at the university, specifically neuroscience, molecular medicine, oncology, and respirology. Like the Science Park, BioMed Martin provides an intellectually stimulating environment and the newest infrastructure for innovative projects with the potential for clinical application. 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 JFMED is the improvement of people’s health. As a part of the government’s support programme for the return of experts from abroad, the JFMED had two projects approved in March 2016 which provide support for research staff at BioMed Martin. The faculty was the only such applicant from a Slovak institution of higher education.

The Centre for Nuclear and Accelerator Technology at the FMPH, which has a tandem ion accelerator, has the purpose of developing new technologies in the physical, technical, biomedical, and archaeological sciences.

The ESET Research Centre

The ESET Research Centre was opened by President Andrej Kiska, CU Vice Rector Karol Mičieta, rector Robert Redhammer and the general manager of ESET Richard Marko.

The Scientist of the Year 2016 Prof. RNDr. Pavel Povinec, DrSc. from the FMPH CU and a tandem ion accelerator.

“A scientist in his laboratory is not a mere technician: he is also a child confronting natural phenomena that impress him as though they were fairy tales.”
— Marie Curie-Skłodowska

The winner of the Scientist of the Year category at the 2016 Scientist of the Year awards (the 20th time this award has been held) was Professor Pavel Povinec from the FMPH for his significant contribution and achieved results in the field of developing ultrasensitive accelerator and radiometric analytical methods and their application in research into infrequent nuclear processes and environmental radioactivity. The event was organized by the Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information, the Slovak Academy of Sciences, and the Association of Slovak Scientific and Technological Societies, and was held under the auspices of the President of the Slovak Republic, Andrej Kiska; and the Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic, Peter Paučan.

THE CENTER FOR BIOMEDICINE IN MARTIN

BIOMED MARTIN
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NUCLEAR ACCELERATOR TECHNOLOGY
The Centre for Nuclear and Accelerator Technology at the FMPH, which has a tandem ion accelerator, has the purpose of developing new technologies in the physical, technical, biomedical, and archaeological sciences.
The 2016 Literary Fund Prize in the category of Reward for Three Years of Scientific Citations (for the years 2013 to 2015) was Professor Pavel Povinec from the Department of Nuclear Physics and Astrophysics at the FMPH. According to Google, Professor Povinec is the most frequently cited author at CU.

The 2016 Visual Arts Fund Prize was awarded to Associate Professor Stanislav Harangozó from the FEDU, who is an academic painter, for his significant contribution in the visual arts. This award has been held every year since 2004 to recognize significant contributions in the visual arts and in architecture. Associate Professor Harangozó was the thirteenth person to receive the award.

Associate Professor Michal Mego, an oncologist from the FMED, received the 2016 Crystal Wing for services to medicine. Associate Professor Mego’s work focuses on researching circulatory tumour cells in the process of metastasis, which are important as indicators of prognosis and as answers to treatment options for oncological patients.

As an elite national educational and scientific research organization, CU maintains and develops its international relationships on both a bilateral and multilateral level. Creating and sustainably maintaining an international environment at the university is a targeted priority and is being made possible thanks to the university’s membership in many European and other international organizations. Like every year, 2016 saw world-renowned foreign experts and personalities give lectures at the university.
MEMBERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

CU has upheld its international status through membership in a number of core international organizations bringing together institutions of higher education. CU is an active member of European platforms such as the European University Association, the Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe, the Danube Rectors’ Conference, the European Network Information System, the European Association of International Education, the Central European Initiative University Network, and Agence universitaire de la Francophonie. In terms of expanding contacts and cooperation with Asia, CU is also a member of the ASEAN European Academic University Network. CU representatives and experts present the interests of the university in the internal structures of these organizations in working groups.

EURASHE (the European Association of Institutions in Higher Education), in partnership with the Centre of Educational Management at CU’s FM and the Faculty of Manufacturing Technologies at the Technical University of Košice, organized an important international seminar entitled “Higher Education as the Driving Force of Regional Development” which was held under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic in the prestigious space of the CU Science Park. The main themes were the exchange of research results and education in European countries.

BILATERAL RELATIONS

Despite its focus on multilateral groupings, CU is systematically building a network of firm relationships all over the world through bilateral contracts. The rich portfolio of foreign universities which CU has formed cooperation with in this way is growing every year.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND LECTURES

In 2016, international conferences and lectures featuring important European and international personalities were often connected with Slovakia’s presidency of the Council of the European Union, which was a significant event for Slovak society.

On 2 and 3 June 2016, CU hosted a pre-presidency conference in the Rector’s Hall. The conference, which has a more than twenty-year tradition, takes place when a member institute of the Trans-European Political Science Association in the country that will assume the presidency of the Council of the European Union organizes a conference where experts present their recommendations for the government of the EU member state about to assume the presidency.

On the occasion of Slovakia’s presidency of the Council of the European Union, the Diplomatic, Economic, and Academic Days event, which was held under the auspices of Princess Léa of
Belgium, took place. The event was organized by CU in association with the Cercle International Diplomatique et Consulaire and the UNICA network, which is a leading institutional network of universities in Europe. The conference aimed to deepen the internationalization of the university and support the joint activities of Slovak and Belgian universities and business sectors.

On 10 November 2016, the Innovative and Entrepreneurial Universities conference was held in the CU Science Park in partnership with the United States Embassy. Guests from the University of Massachusetts and other conference participants shared their experiences and examples of good practice in international academic and business cooperation.

Stephen Shennan, one of the most well-known and influential archaeologists of the present day, accepted the invitation of the Department of Archaeology at the FARS and made the keynote speech at the 3rd Central European Theoretical Archaeology Group Meeting (CEA TAG 2016), which took place at the faculty and in Slovakia for the first time.

CU hosted nearly 360 top-level scientists from all over the world at the sixth International Conference on Plasma Medicine (ICPM-6). The main conference organizers were Associate Professor Zdenko Machala and Associate Professor Karol Hensel from the FMPH. The other conference organizers were the International Society for Plasma Medicine and the Society for Plasma Research and Applications. ICPM-6 was one of the largest and most significant international scientific events held in Slovakia during the year.

In partnership with the Slovak Spectator and the Tatra banka Foundation, the sixth lecture by a Pulitzer Prize winner took place at CU. Pulitzer Prize winner Deborah Nelson, who is an Associate Professor of Investigative Journalism at the University of Maryland, spoke on the topic of “How Can We Write about a World which is Totally Changing?”

A lecture by the 14th Dalai Lama and holder of an honorary doctorate from CU, Tenzin Gyatso, took place in the Moyzes Hall. The lecture was entitled “Moral aspects of education and science in favour of humanism.” The Dalai Lama visited the university exactly ten years after his last visit.

In April, the Croatian Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Miro Kováč, visited CU. He gave a lecture on the theme of “Croatia as an Intersection between Central and Southeast Europe”.

A special visitor to the university was the Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, who spoke in CU’s Auditorium on the theme of “Empowering Youth, Promoting Diversity: A New Foundation for Resilience and Peace”.

The Italian Minister of the Economy and Finance, Pier Carlo Padoan, gave a lecture entitled “A Common European Strategy for Stability, Economic Growth, and Employment” in the Rector’s Hall. Professor Padoan presented a vision that would ensure development and the economic stability of the EU.

CU awarded an honorary doctorate (Doctor honoris causa) to Professor Jurij Wladimiroff, who is a world expert on gynaecology and obstetrics. Professor Wladimiroff, who teaches at the University of Cambridge and who established the foundations of modern intrauterine cardiology, became the 128th person to receive an honorary doctorate from CU.

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The prestige of our university abroad was confirmed by publicized and unpublicized visits by significant European and world figures, representatives of renowned universities, and people working in diplomacy and politics.

Representatives of the Ministry of Higher Education in the Republic of Cuba — State Secretary Dr Oberto Santín Cáceres and the director of the Section for Universities and International Relations, Dr C. Mario M. Ares Sánchez.

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Belgium to Slovakia (resident in Vienna) Willem Van de Voorde and the Flemish Representative and Counsellor of the Belgian Embassy with competence for education and science, David Maenaut.

The head of the Taiwanese Representative Office in Bratislava, Larry R. L. Tseng; the director of the Economic Section, Andrea S. L. Lin; the director of the Political Section Ping Lu Liao; and the director of the Taiwanese Ministry of Science and Technology and adviser to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Prague, Dr Ding-ming Wang.

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People’s Republic of China to Slovakia, Lin Lin.

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Italy to Slovakia, Roberto Martini.

The Permanent Delegate of the Slovak Republic to UNESCO, Klára Novotná.

The new Ambassador of Japan to Slovakia, Jun Shimmi.

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Romania to Slovakia, Steluţa Arhire.

Professor Dušan Nikolić, Rector of the University of Novi Sad.

V.III. THE UNIVERSITY AND SOCIETY

The society and the university with the epithet national are intertwined. The university not only educates, but shapes the next generations in a complex manner. Our future depends on success in fulfilling its key mission.
A CU Statement in Support of Teachers and Employees in the Education Sector The CU executive issued a statement on 3 February 2016 expressing support for teachers and employees in the education sector in their fight for achieving a better social status and higher wages.

In 2016 CU was once again a partner in the Valentine’s Drop of Blood campaign, which was being run by the Slovak Red Cross for the 21st year. The Slovak President Andrej Kiska started the campaign himself with a blood donation in the Presidential Palace.

FARS employees travelled more than 1250 kilometres by bicycle in May 2016 as part of a national campaign. The aim of the campaign, which was announced for the third time by the National Cycle Coordinator and the Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic, is to support alternative forms of transport.

The 2016 Swiss Re UniHry (UniGames) was the 8th edition of the largest sporting event for students, graduates, and young sporting enthusiasts. It took place on Sunday 15 May at the FSPORT complex.
year’s event was young power as a reflection on existing social and international challenges. Slovak President Andrej Kiska was a special guest at this year’s event.

During December 2016, this charitable project took place for the second year. Students and university employees were able to help people who find themselves in challenging life situations: children from children’s homes, pensioners in social services homes, families living in social accommodation facilities, the homeless, people at crisis centres, and patients in hospitals. Thanks to the project, more than 170 people were able to enjoy a better Christmas.

SIGNIFICANT ANNIVERSARIES

On 5 February 2016, the Faculty of Management of CU celebrated 25 years since its establishment.

This event was celebrated by the Faculty of Roman Catholic Theology of Cyril and Methodius with a special church service in St Martin’s Cathedral.

On 20 October 2016, the Faculty of Law of CU celebrated 95 years since it began its activities with a special meeting of the faculty’s Scientific Council.

On 24 October 2016, an academic conference was held in honour of the 95th anniversary of the FARS. The slogan for the event was “We’ve enjoyed thinking for 95 years.”

On 7 November 2016, the Third Internal Clinic of CU’s FMED and the University Hospital Bratislava, along with the Pharmacy and Biochemistry Laboratory based at the clinic, celebrated the 60th anniversary since having been founded at the fourth ceremonial meeting of the Association of Slovak Doctors.

On 7 December 2016, the Faculty of Education of CU celebrated this significant anniversary in the CU Auditorium with a ceremonial assembly featuring representatives of faculties of education from Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

IX. SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES

With thirteen faculties and more than twenty other pedagogical, research, and other centres and facilities as well as 4,403 employees, 24,184 students, and 4,420 students of life-long education, CU has maintained its position as the most prominent educational institution in Slovakia. This means there are certain specific factors and a high level of demand on infrastructure.
Information and communications technology services at CU are covered by 43 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.

The CU Archive is a specialized centre with more than 50 years of history. The archive collects, registers, preserves, and makes available archived 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.
recognition of the work that university teaching staff do, and support exceptionally talented students.

In 2016 CU provided accommodation in its own facilities to more than one third of its students and 2,293,804 main meals were served in the student canteens. Student halls of residence increase the comfort and safety of students.

The university has a support 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 has its coordinators at every faculty. In 2016 there were 242 students with various special needs studying at CU.

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.

Media services and communication with the public are carried out by the 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, the university’s YouTube channel, and at Instagram www.instagram.com/Comenius.University.

The large number of students at the university guarantees a rich student experience. Each faculty has various student organizations catering to particular interests, such as AIESEC and the European Law Students’ Association. The university’s own folk ensemble, Gymnik, which is based at the FSPORT Education and Sport; the Comenius Choir; and the Collegium Musicum Comeniana chamber music ensemble from the FEDU perform at the university’s ceremonial events. Faculties also have sports clubs which represent the university at academic sports tournaments. In 2016 the university’s rowing team were once again first in the University Regatta Bratislava and kept its hold on the regatta trophy, which was designed by academic sculptor Milan Lukáč.

The Information Centre provides advice and support concerning studies. In addition, it offers a range of university merchandise for purchase. Over 2016, the staff of answered over 2750 questions.
The participants of the 52nd annual Studia Academica Slovaca summer school of Slovak language and culture.

The CU Science Park in Bratislava.
13 Faculties
Comenius University