Research Priorities at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra
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Content

- Research Priorities at CPU Nitra ........................................ 4
- Projects ............................................................................ 6
- Publications ....................................................................... 8
- Artistic activities ............................................................... 9
- Publishing activities .......................................................... 10
- Services of the University Library to support research activities at the University ........................................... 12
- Scientific, technical and artistic events to promote the research results and creative activities .......................... 15
- Student research, professional and artistic activities .......... 16
- Cooperation with national scientific, artistic and other institutions ................................................................. 17
- International cooperation .................................................. 17
- Faculty of Natural Sciences ............................................... 18
- Faculty of Arts .................................................................... 26
- Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care ..................... 32
- Faculty of Education .......................................................... 38
- Faculty of Central European Studies ................................. 44
- University online .............................................................. 50

The University as an integral part of the European Research Area
Research undertaken at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra covers a wide range of natural, educational, philosophical, social and health sciences in basic and applied research, as well as in the area of innovation of teaching methods and forms and content of study programs. The results of the scientific activities not only affect the funding of the University from the state budget, but also play a crucial role in the accreditation of study programs, assessment of competence to carry out the procedures for the nomination of associate professors and professors, as well as the certification and inclusion of the University into the university-type educational institutions. The most important outputs of scientific research and creative activities of the University staff and students are valued annually with the Rector’s Award for project activities and publications.
Projects

The research and creative activities at the University are implemented mainly through research projects and other projects focusing on the creative activities with the aim to promote the professional development of the University staff and researchers; they are also a significant source of income to sponsor the individual research activities, equip the University laboratories and lecture halls and provide the researchers with the chance to publish their research outputs.

The University projects are funded both by the institutional resources within the University Grant Agency (UGA) for the employees under 35 years of age and doctoral students, resources from national grant agencies (VEGA, KEGA and APVV), non-departmental resources (projects funded by the Ministry of Culture, the Government Office and institutions in the Nitra Region) and European resources (7th RP, Comenius, Erasmus - Mundus, International Visegrad Fund etc.). Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra has been particularly successful in implementing the projects from the Structural Funds of the European Union with the aim to build its basic infrastructure for science, research and quality education. Similarly, there are projects aiming to improve the quality of education and innovation processes. An IT system named “Research projects at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra” was introduced to keep track of the research projects carried out/hosted at the University.

→ www.projekty.ukf.sk

Success in the implementation of projects from the EU structural funds

The University annually supports the creative activities of students (cultural and sports activities) with targeted funding for the applicants presenting their research projects. The following bodies are eligible to receive this support:

- University departments and institutes, academic ensembles working at the University, University sports clubs, civic associations and organizations working at the University in the field of sports and culture;
- Informal student groups and bodies (at least three students)

Research Priorities at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra
Publications

Publications are one of the major outputs of scientific research and creative activities. The most important and influential scientific papers are published in peer-reviewed journals, i.e. scientific journals indexed in international databases.

The first University journal indexed in the global Elsevier - Scopus database is the European multilingual scientific journal XLinguae, which deals with linguistics and applied linguistics and it covers the philological sciences in modern European languages. The library information database provides an efficient retrieval and classification of publications written by the University staff and doctoral students.

→ http://kus.ukf.sk

Artistic activities

Artistic activities of CPU staff and students are classed under ‘other creative activities’ and they contribute to the perception of the University as a center of artistic life in the Nitra Region. Exhibitions, artistic presentations, festivals and concerts are one of the ways to present and promote creative activities.

The University staff and students are also involved in international research projects, taking advantage of Slovakia’s geographical location in Europe, and focusing on the cooperation in education and research with other EU and non-EU countries such as Ukraine and Russia.

The artistic activities are carried out at three Faculties - Faculty of Education, Faculty of Arts and Faculty of Central European Studies.

The University as a center of artistic activities in the Nitra Region
Publishing activities

These include the monographs, books, textbooks, study materials, scientific journals, proceedings etc. written by the University staff and students. In addition, various printed materials promoting the educational, research, artistic and other activities at the University and the individual Faculties fall within the category.

In a close cooperation with the University Library, the publishing activities are managed by the respective editorial boards, and/or editorial committees at the individual Faculties, operating within the meaning of Directive no. 1/2007 laying down the principles of publishing activities at CPU Nitra.

The publishing activities are carried out in harmony with the publishing plans, which are put together at the beginning of each calendar year.

The following periodicals are issued at the individual CPU Faculties:

- Gemological Newsletter (Gemologický správodajca) - electronic journal (FNS)
- Geographical Information (Geografické informácie) (FNS)
- Geo Information - electronic journal (FNS)
- Geographical Studies (Geografické štúdie) (FNS)
- Horizons in Mathematics, Physics and Informatics (Obzory matematiky, fyziky a informatiky) - journal for the theory and practical issues in mathematics, physics and computer science at primary and secondary schools (FNS)
- Music Sheet (Partitúra) (FCES)
- Studia Historica Nitriensia (FA)
- Rossica Nitriensia (FA)
- Studi Italo-Slovacchi (FA)
- Civitas (FA)
- Constantin’s Letters (Konštantínové listy) (FA)
- Topics in Linguistics (FA)
- ARS Antena (FA)
- Contexts of Culture and Tourism (Kon- testy kultúry a turizmu) (FA)

The following self-published magazines promote the University, present its life and describe the work of the individual academic institutions:

- Naš čas
- Občas Nečas
- Information sheets for staff and students (in electronic form).

A number promotional and informational materials (newsletters, brochures, calendars, puzzles, bookmarks, posters, prints) have been printed under the auspices of the Recto’s Office.

We communicate and promote the research results and other creative activities
Services of the University Library to support research activities at the University

In harmony with the CPU’s long-term strategy for the years 2011-2017, one of the priorities of the University Library (UL) is to support the research activities by providing access to non-periodical and periodical literature and important electronic information resources. The UL has a total of 253,621 items.

The core library collection can be found in the new University Library building, which ranked second in the prestigious contest BEFFA 2012 in the category of non-residential buildings.

Constantine the Philosopher University is one of the active members in the nationwide project National Information System for the Support of Research and Development in Slovakia - Access to Electronic Information Resources (NISPEZ).

The comprehensive research and scientific activities at the University are supported by additional services such as the interlibrary loan service (ILL), international interlibrary loan service (IILL), bibliographic information and research services and educational services for the University staff and students.

Internet sales of books and publications issued by the University
Scientific, technical and artistic events to promote the research results and creative activities

Scientific, artistic and professional events are organized to support the presentation, promotion and transfer of knowledge, research results and creative activities. In order to popularize science and technology, the University regularly engages in the annual nationwide "Week of Science and Technology in Slovakia". The aim of this activity is to improve the perception of science and technology in the society, popularize and present it to encourage the youth to study it, spread knowledge about science and technology and promote it because of its importance for the economic and social progress and solution of global problems and challenges.

Events such as the Science Fair, full of challenges for the primary and secondary school students, or "Focus on Science" – regular lectures of eminent scientists for the general public held on a monthly basis in the Karol Spišák’s Old Theater in Nitra, are very popular in the public eye (FNS). The Univerzum Gallery (FE) regularly hosts exhibitions of artistic activities of both the local CPU students and teachers and cooperating local and foreign artists. The regular on-campus activities also include the Interdisciplinary Dialogs (FA) with invited lectures given by experts from Slovakia and abroad. These events are key for promoting our University and its reputation not only in Slovakia but also abroad, and they also address our prospective applicants and future students.
Student research, professional and artistic activities

A systematic guidance of students to research is extremely important. The Faculties hold an annual student competition for the students in Bachelor’s and Master’s study programs to allow them to present their scientific, technical and artistic activities (ŠVOÚC). The submitted work is evaluated and assessed by the opponents and the defense is held in front of an expert panel. In addition to the above competitions, the students present their activities in visual art exhibitions and musical events (solo, chamber and choral performances).

The doctoral students have the opportunity to participate in the scientific conferences organized at the individual Faculties. Additionally, the students can apply to receive financial support through the University Grant Agency projects.

The Faculty of Natural Sciences uses the established system of scientific assistants to engage students with excellent academic ŠVOÚC results in the systematic scientific work at the Departments and support them by special scholarships. The objective this program is to motivate the students to scientific work and prepare the future applicants for doctoral study programs.

The University closely cooperates with leading scientific and educational institutions, art institutions, state and local government institutions in the Nitra Region, especially with the institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, the University Hospital, Animal Production Research Center, Plant Production Research Center, Slovak University of Agriculture and other Slovak universities.

The University maintains contractual cooperation with the Nitra Episcopate and the Priest Seminar, focusing on education and culture. The extraordinary level of cooperation with the Slovak University of Agriculture (SUA) is manifested above all in joint events. In the area of artistic and creative activities, the University actively cooperates with the Andrey Bagar Theater in Nitra, the Nitra Museum, the Nitra Gallery and the Nitra Community Foundation.

International cooperation

International cooperation with foreign universities and organizations is strengthened by international bilateral and multilateral agreements and international educational and scientific projects.

The University closely cooperates with leading scientific and educational institutions, art institutions, state and local government institutions in the Nitra Region, especially with the institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, the University Hospital, Animal Production Research Center, Plant Production Research Center, Slovak University of Agriculture and other Slovak universities.

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The top priority in the area of international cooperation is to ensure the admission of foreign students to CPU at the Bachelor’s, Master’s and Doctoral level, but also to promote the mobilities within the various scholarship programs.
Faculty of Natural Sciences

The Faculty’s priority to harmonize the scientific research and educational activities clearly follows from the comprehensive accreditation process and the strategic plan of the Faculty. To implement educational programs in those areas where it conducts research and development activities with internationally comparable results. The project funds are not only used to sponsor the actual projects, but also to build laboratories and classrooms. They are also used in financing the research publication outputs, which has a positive effect on the professional growth of researchers and the reputation of the Faculty at home and abroad. The Faculty staff are involved in international and national research projects, national and international cultural and educational projects, projects supported by the EU structural funds and university development projects.

Traditionally, pedagogical research plays an important role in focusing on the use of the experience and knowledge accumulated by Faculty staff in the specific didactic approaches for the individual subjects with the application of new forms and methods of education and promotion of education in science.
Key research areas

The Faculty currently supports several areas of research activities:

- **in biology - application of molecular-biological methods in the analysis of genetic markers of some valuable genetic characteristics of livestock; analysis of changes in the physiological parameters and genotoxicity induced by soil contaminants, research of genetic conditioning of osteoporosis, histological and molecular-biological research of bone tissue in select mammals; analysis of historical DNA from Medieval burial sites, monitoring of small underground mammals, study of the morphometric structure of parenchymatous organs of Insectivora and Rodentia; ecological characteristics of biotic grouping of insects and phytophagous mites;**

- **in ecology and environmental science - integrated landscape research of the elements, components and structures of landscape with focus on the processes and changes in the landscape, development of the theory and methods of environmental ecology and sustainable development, geographic information systems, work with talented youth;**

- **in geography and regional development - research of space-time changes in natural geosystems; transformational changes in the individual sectors of the economy, areal human resources; research of regions at different hierarchical levels, environmental geography and sustainable development, geographic information systems, work with talented youth;**

- **in physics - research of thermophysical and mechanical properties of non-metallic materials, development of experimental methods for measuring the physical parameters of solids and modeling the transport of heat in materials, use of mass spectrometry for the analysis of emergence of isotope molecules, study of cognitive methods in physics in the didactic model with focus on student creativity, computer-aided experiments in physics, graphics and mathematical methods, development of student creativity and care for talented students; development of fully automated measurement systems for thermophysical properties;**

- **in chemistry - experimental and theoretical study of complex bioactive compounds of transition elements, analysis of environmental components (soil, air, water), elimination of anti-nutritional components of the environment by remediation techniques and application of modern teaching technology in education;**

- **in computer science/informatics - development of information technology with emphasis on the use of IT in the teaching process, development of software applications to support e-learning, application of numerical methods and computers in natural sciences;**

- **in mathematics - graph theory, measure and integration theory, theory of differential equations etc.; theory of teaching mathematics with emphasis on the development of mathematical methods, forms educational content and innovation in teaching mathematics at primary and secondary schools;**

- **in management and information technology - assessment of financial market instruments, mainly derivative financial instruments, economic viability and efficiency in business practice, management of financial risks, quality assessment of Slovak business environment at the local level; economic analysis of production costs in select companies;**

- **in gemology - finding new sources of natural jewelry materials and quality assessment of the materials available in Slovakia, analysis of synthetic materialed used in jewelry, petroarchaeological analysis of stone artefacts, geophysical measurements of archaeological objects.**
Faculty laboratories

The Faculty’s development plans are focused on building new classrooms and laboratories equipped with modern instrumentation, allowing the solution of challenging research tasks and ensuring the competitiveness of the Faculty in the European Research Area. Currently there are 25 laboratories at the Faculty:

- Molecular biology laboratory
- Analytical laboratory of plant biology
- Microbiological laboratory
- Cytology laboratory
- Laboratory of systematic botany
- Greenhouse and climatbox
- Multi-purpose laboratory for embryotechnologies
- Physiology laboratory
- Zoology laboratory
- Osteo-antropological laboratory
- Gemological laboratory
- Thermophysical laboratory
- Laboratory of advanced physics experiments
- Laboratory of natural sciences and computer modeling
- Laboratory of computer-controlled experiments
- Laboratory of geographic information systems
- Mobile computer laboratory
- Biochemistry laboratory 1
- Biochemistry laboratory 2
- Laboratory of physical chemistry and chemistry education
- Laboratory of inorganic and analytical chemistry
- Laboratory of organic chemistry
- Integrated environmental laboratory
- Environmental laboratory
- Computer laboratory using LabView software

The aim of the Faculty is to maintain the development trends of scientific activities, focus research on select areas and attain international recognition.

In collaboration with the Slovak University of Agriculture and Institute of Plant Genetics and Biology at the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Nitra, the Agrobiotech university research center is being built for the genetic research of economically important organisms and biotechnology. The research center is financially supported by the EU Structural Funds within the operational program Research and Development. At FNS, five research laboratories equipped with the latest cutting-edge technology at the respective biology departments and the Department of Chemistry are under construction.

We improve material and technical equipment for research activities
Centers of excellence and projects supported by the European Union

Centers of excellence are top-of-the-line research hubs at the international level. The Faculty of Natural Sciences, Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, is a member of two centers of excellence, established jointly with the Animal Production Research Center in Nitra within the following two projects: Laboratory of breeding, computational genetics and research of animal genetic resources, and Center of excellence for research on animal genetic resources. Interim results: the completion of the infrastructure is currently underway in the Laboratory of breeding, genetics and computational research of animal genetic resources at Animal Production Research Center and CPU in Nitra, which is located in the premises of biological departments. New instrumentation to analyze the genetic variability of organisms and the study of gene activity was procured within the project. The modern equipment allows the application of new technologies and research of biomolecular processes at a higher quality level.
Research Priorities at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra

Faculty of Arts

The scientific and research activities at the Faculty go hand in hand with its educational goals. The teachers and researchers participate in numerous research projects hosted at the Faculty, other universities and the research projects in cooperation with the Slovak Academy of Sciences. The presentation of research results and new publishing outputs are a practical output of scientific and research activities and participation of the Departments in local and international projects.

The Department of History regularly publishes the proceedings Studia Historica Nitriensia, the Institute for the Research of the Cultural Heritage of Constantine and Methodius presents itself by publishing Constantine’s Letters, the Department of Politics and European Studies publishes the journal CIVITAS and the Department of Management of Culture and Tourism successfully continues in publishing the Contexts of culture and tourism journal. The language departments publish a number of journals, presenting the results of scientific, pedagogical and creative activities. XLinguae has recently received great acclaim since it is the only Faculty (and University) journal registered in the worldwide database SCOPUS. The Department of English and American Studies publishes two journals: ARS Aeterna and Topics in Linguistics, the Department of Romance Studies publishes the journal Studi Italo slovacchi and the Department of Russian Studies publishes Slavica Nitriensia. An exceptionally successful tradition in the field of literary science and art science is represented by the proceedings On the interpretation of artistic text and other collections and monographs published by the Institute of Literary and Artistic Communication.
Key research areas

Within the framework of scientific research and creative activities at the Faculty, the following priorities can be highlighted:

- research on the relationships between the cognitive functions of speech, research on substandard levels of language; use of computer technology in linguistic research and translation; translation as intercultural communication;
- historical and cultural aspects in language teaching; integration of social and cultural aspects into language teaching; humanistic trends in English language teaching;
- basic research of artistic communication, methodology of interpretation of literary, musical, artistic, theatrical, cinematographic art and pop culture; traditions and interpretation of intertextual links in the artistic texts from ancient times to the present day; analysis of the historical and aesthetic dynamism in the individual literary periods; semiotic and linguistic analysis of literary texts; intercultural contexts of contemporary literature;
- overlaps between the visual arts and literature, translated literature and its reception;
- archaeological and interdisciplinary research of South West Slovakia, prehistoric and historic research of landscape, environmental history; history of the Slavs in the early Middle Ages; historical research of the individual periods in the history of Slovakia and its regions; status of ethnic minorities and nationalism;
- research of the cultural traditions of the Lowland Slovaks and transformation of cultural traditions in the Slovak regions; socio-cultural development of rural communities; ethnic and cultural differentiation and tolerance; social pathology; sociology of the family;
- history of ethical thinking and the philosophy of culture, socio-political philosophy, contemporary philosophy (utilitarianism, phenomenology, analytic philosophy, ecophilosophy), spiritual tradition in the European and non-European cultures; the media culture and its phenomena, philosophy of the media, communication in the mass media with focus on stereotypes and gender.
Scientific, artistic and social events

The scientific and professional events are closely linked to the research activities of the individual Departments, the study programs hosted by the Departments and the professional profile of the employees. This area is represented by the artistic presentations of the art-oriented Departments - Department of Literary and Artistic Communication, Department of Ethnology and Ethnomusicology (folk festivals) and Department of Cultural Studies (exhibitions, concerts and other cultural events). The sheer number of these activities (up to 150 events on an annual basis) improves the visibility of Faculty of Arts in the eyes of professional and general public.

We are building a tradition of interdisciplinary dialogs with leading Slovak scientists

Building on the academic tradition, the regular monthly events such as the Interdisciplinary Dialogs with prominent Slovak scientists are becoming noteworthy. These are accompanied by other regular but less frequent events such as the Philosophy and Methodology Seminar at ÚLUK, the Ethnological Days, History Days, Tourism Days, Hispanic Culture Days, French Culture Days etc.
Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care

The Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care in Nitra puts emphasis on the core educational and research activities to improve the performance of the educational process and project activities with focus on research. Research activities are one of the three priorities of the Faculty, which is not only in line with the priorities in the Long-Term Strategy of the University, but also a logical outcome of the basic operations at any university. The research activities provide space for professional work, qualities and interests of the teachers and research staff, room for professional growth and improvement of teaching and training activities for the students of all levels, especially the doctoral students, by preparing them for the implementation of their own research activities. It also creates opportunities for professional confrontation on the national and international level in presenting and publishing their research results and establishing institutional contacts.

Using the above methodology to define the conceptual and ideological framework, the research results of the Faculty teachers and researchers can be assessed as standard compared to other faculties with the socio-scientific, social and health orientation in Slovakia. This is evidenced by the fact that FSSHC maintained its position in the group of medical faculties in the ARRA evaluation and it is currently the best non-medical faculty in the group. The Faculty management attributes the above to the systemic measures to support scientific research at the Faculty and promotion of integrated interdisciplinary research teams and topics. The strengths and opportunities of the Faculty detailed in the ARRA report indicate the potential the Faculty can utilize not only to maintain its current standards, but also to achieve higher levels of academic excellence, making it an internationally recognized institution.
Key research areas

The following areas take priority within the framework of scientific research and creative activities at the Faculty:

- specific issues of research and education of the Roma communities;
- diagnostics of a psychologically integrated man;
- psychometrics of the diagnostic tools of anxiety and coping in social care;
- development of the Slovak version of MMPI-2 (Minnesota Multidimensional Personality Questionnaire).

We support integrated interdisciplinary research
The current strengths of the Faculty in scientific research and creative activities include the solid human and professional potential for quality research, material and technical conditions for quality research, high quality doctoral programs and preparation of graduates for scientific activities, establishment of research teams - integration of research teams and research topics, successful tradition and results of student research projects in ŠVOC, system criteria for evaluation of research activities of staff, high standards in publications and monographs and positive trending in the amount of studies published in international journals.

In the future, these strengths bring the opportunities to build high quality and activities with leading foreign research institutions and researchers, create attractive study programs with interesting research issues and improve the position of the Faculty in the competitive environment with other faculties.
The scientific, research and creative activities of the teachers, research staff and doctoral students revolve around a number of key areas. On the one hand, it is the project activities focusing on the diversified topical basic or applied research and development. On the other hand, it is the publications by the Faculty teachers and doctoral students, which is the result of project activities undertaken on the institutional, national and international level. The Faculty of Education at CPU Nitra is actively involved in artistic and creative activities.

Several events organized by the various departments at the Faculty such as Week of Science and Technology and the Nitra University Days come to the attention of the general public. In order to meet the objectives in research, development, innovation and development of cultural life, Faculty of Education at CPU Nitra collaborates with several local and foreign universities, colleges, departmental institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, art institutions and the state administration and local governments.

High quality scientific research is essential for the professional development of Faculty teachers and researchers. The broad variety of Departments and the resulting study programs carried out at the Faculty of Education also affect the differentiation of research activities. Although the employees focus their scientific capacity on research in various areas of social and cultural life, some common denominators linking the various Departments of the Faculty can be observed. The research reflects the specific mission of the Faculty and focuses mainly on current issues of educational theory and practice.
Key research areas

The following areas take priority within the framework of scientific research and creative activities at the Faculty of Education:

- art, research on musical acoustics, historiography, pedagogy and organology, research in the field of musical culture and education in a media-driven society;
- research in the field of intangible cultural heritage in Slovakia;
- innovative approaches and e-learning in music education and foreign language teaching;
- inclusive and integrated teaching of foreign languages, acquisition and learn-
ing of foreign languages in toddlers and pre-school children;
- linguistic intervention program, applied linguistics and promotion of intercultural studies, current trends in translatorial and intercultural communication;
- educational and quality of life of seniors in residential conditions;
- inclusive integrative pedagogy;
- educational and social aspects of educa-
tion and educational diagnostics;
- dimensions of pre-school and primary education in the European context;
- psychological procedures for the develop-
ment of character and personality integrity of pupils;
- psychological approaches to the alterna-
tion of curricula to increase mathematical literacy;
- quality of education and training and im-
plementation of educational results into the Psychology teacher study program;
- health and quality of life;
- research and development of inter-univer-
sity communication and communication between the departments and teaching practice;
- competences of future teachers in the im-
plementation of sex education in schools, social and professional competences of future teachers;
Scientific, professional and artistic events

- creation of educational models for interest-bound recreational physical education and healthy lifestyles at schools, sports and recreational activities in context of the current lifestyle, prevention of obesity and functional disorders of the musculoskeletal system and the possibilities for their elimination in children and youth, forecasting in sports;
- development and installation of new real remote experiments in a remote CPU laboratory;
- research of the conditions for the improvement of quality of teaching in natural sciences and technical subjects by developing the creative thinking of pupils/students and application of creative activities in teaching;
- research on the physical properties of advanced materials with random structure with view to the processing technology and required specifications;
- research and development of PLC control systems with focus on new educational and industrial applications in cooperation with system manufacturers;
- research and development of new real remote experiments in a remote CPU laboratory;
- theory of art science and art teaching historical and aesthetic problems of visual arts in the region in the national context, creation of textbooks for primary schools;
- innovative methods in teaching the history of art at the university of the third age;
- presentation of artistic work of students and teachers for the culturally-aware audiences at home and abroad and creation of artistic and theoretical publications - catalogs, reflecting on the presented work on a professional basis;
- digital and electronic media in teacher preparation, interdisciplinary aspect of art education and mass media communication;
- presentation of artistic work of students and teachers for the culturally-aware audiences at home and abroad and creation of artistic and theoretical publications - catalogs, reflecting on the presented work on a professional basis.

Our high-quality scientific research focuses on current issues in educational practice and theory.

The individual Departments of the Faculty annually organize several events such as ŠVOUČ and other cultural (exhibitions, concerts, symposiums, festivals etc.), sports (competitions), professional and technical (exhibitions, competitions) and research (conferences, training seminars, symposia) events.
Research Priorities at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra

Faculty of Central European Studies

The quality of education and other activities (development of international cooperation, staffing and technical infrastructure, as well as the overall placement in the context of other colleges and universities) significantly affects the scientific research at the Faculty. The priorities in science and research and the link between teaching and research are also accentuated in the European standards and directives, which form the foundations of a knowledge-based society, ensure the competitiveness of universities, faculties and their graduates in the labor market and improve the quality of living standards.

Owing to the above, one of the strategic objectives of the Faculty management is the universal support of research activities through optimization of conditions (awareness of current calls for projects), appreciation of research staff for scientific research and artistic activities (financial rewards for successful participants in international projects, authors of monographs, studies in current journals, employees for significant representation of the Faculty at the international and national level and support in the organization of international conferences), as well as streamlining the education process. The most important research fields are connected with the participation in research projects and publication activities; the topical focus depends on the specifics of individual Faculty Departments. Despite some topical and linguistic diversity (Slovak, Hungarian, Czech and Polish), as documented by the monographs, studies, articles, contributions at national and international conferences and other publications and publication outputs or exhibitions, the common denominator is the documentation, preservation and presentation of cultural values of the Central European Cultural Area both at the level of regional and national cultures and at the level of transnational communities. This research orientation not only reflects the contribution of Central Europe to the world cultural heritage, it can also arouse interest in the geographic area “between the East and West” and aid the development of tourism and economic prosperity as the basic prerequisites for the development of society.

The Faculty of Central European Studies at CPU Nitra focuses on optimizing the conditions for the development of research activities by divulging the information on current calls for projects and rewarding the researchers for their work and artistic activities (financial rewards for the successful participants in international projects, authorship of monographs, studies in current journals, significant representation of the Faculty at the international and national level and support in the organization of international conferences).
Key research areas

In accordance with the Faculty name, the research activities are focused on solving the tasks that contribute to the knowledge of the overall image and specifics of Central Europe from a synchronic and diachronic perspective. Based on the above strategy, the following research areas can be considered a priority:

- phenomenon of Central Europe in literary and cultural discourse;
- intercultural and interliterary communities, national and ethnic literatures and cultures, cultural communication and mutual cooperation in Central Europe;
- specifics of Central European literatures;
- contextual linguistics, linguistic geography and geographic research of the varieties of the Hungarian minority in Slovakia and its national language;
- intercultural aspect in professional and literary translation, translation strategies and translation of Hungarian literary works;
- benefits and specificities of Hungarian literature in the (Central) European context;
- Central European popular culture and its genres;
- didactic concepts and the specifics of teaching academic, artistic and educational subjects in the context of national (Central) European professional education;
- cultural and historical potential and opportunities for the development of local tourism in Central Europe;
- importance of the media culture in strengthening the regional identity.
Scientific cooperation

The increased efficiency, improvement of quality and innovation of the educational process and scientific research performed by the teachers and researchers at the Faculty of Central European Studies is also realized through the co-operation with major local and foreign educational, artistic and scientific research institutions, state authorities and local governments. The furthering of this cooperation has contributed to a better assessment of the Faculty at the university and national level in the assessment period, but also to a more vigorous orientation of teaching and research staff on the priority areas. The strengths of the Faculty in scientific research and creative activities include the national importance and uniqueness of the study programs, existence of the prerequisites for interdisciplinary study programs, experience in preparing the professionals for ethnically mixed environments, sustainable competitiveness in research activities (projects and publication outputs), improvement of material conditions at the departments, development of international mobility for students and staff, contacts with foreign institutions and internationally recognized scientific experts, organization of cultural events for the students and teachers, participation in major national and international scientific and professional events and organization of scientific-educational excursions for the students. These strengths provide developmental opportunities for building transnational research networks, support of scientific and research activities financed by the grants from the Slovak Republic and the EU, promotion of EU mobility schemes for students and teachers, scientific cooperation with international institutions, use of personal contacts of educators in Slovakia and abroad and publishing activities at home and abroad.

Scientific, professional and artistic events

The organization of scientific, technical and artistic events plays an important role in improving the visibility of the Faculty and its research activities not only on the regional, but also national level. The shared experience and its subsequent implementation in education and research allows a closer approximation to European norms and standards.

International exchange of experience brings us closer to European research norms and standards.
Názov projektu: Hodnotenie kvality výskumu na UKF v Nitre

"Moderné vzdelávanie pre vedomostnú spoločnosť /
Projekt je spolufinancovaný zo zdrojov EU"