

Knowledge Society as a Civilisation Challenge of the 21st Century – New MS Case

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Geographical location: Central Europe



COMENIUS UNIVERSITY

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- founded on **June 27th, 1919** and follows the university tradition of the *Academia Istropolitana* which was established in Bratislava by Matthias Corvinus, the Hungarian King, in **1465**
- the largest and the oldest University in the Slovak Republic with full accreditation
- consists of 13 faculties, including Faculty of Law

Institute of International Relations and Comparative Law

Jean Monnet Chair

- established in 1992 for training and education of diplomatic service employees, for education in International Relations and European Union issues
- provides four-semester postgraduate study programme, not depending on the previous specialization

SPECIFICITIES OF EDUCATION IN THE NEW MEMBER STATES

- 1. Absence of agreement between political entities concerning the priorities of the reform of education
- 2. Missing common strategy in response to economic crisis phenomena (raised unemployment by 5,4 million to 21,8 million between March and August 2009)

SPECIFICITIES OF EDUCATION IN THE NEW MEMBER STATES (2)

- 3. Unequal work conditions of teachers at all levels of education between old and new MS
- 4. Problems of minority schools (language law, use of minority language)
- 5. Outdated technical equipment and infrastructure
- 6. Lack of project skills

SPECIFICITIES OF EDUCATION IN NEW MEMBER STATES (3)

- 7. Communications barriers with foreign partners
- 8. Lack of networking with an international educational and research teams
- 9. Conservatism towards integrating education, research and innovation
- 10. Certain signs of discrimination of private schools

SPECIFICITIES OF EDUCATION IN NEW MEMBER STATES (4)

- 11. Lack of know-how and good practices in management of the European Research Area in new MS and low participation of new MS in the 7 Framework Programme
- 12. Insufficient work with exceptionally talented and creative students
- 13. Lack of quality of Universities

SPECIFICITIES OF EDUCATION IN NEW MEMBER STATES (5)

- Small number of the Universities are among first 50 (20 – Charles University, 27 – Masaryk University)
- Comenius University – 508 place

Procedures to problem solving

- Preparing an analysis of the existing situation
- Assessment and impact studies of education policy mechanism
- Proposal of changes and a new concept development
- Deepening the process of standardization and europeisation of education at all levels
- More effective coordination of the education process by the EU in the Member States (according to Article 6 of TEU, the Lisbon Treaty)

MEASURES to improve situation

- 1.1 Open dialogue within the political parties
- 1.2 Open dialogue between parents, pupils, students and teachers
- 2.1 Development and implementation of Strategy copying the real situation on the labour market
- 2.2 Stimulation of unemployed jobseekers to participate in vocational training programmes funded from the ESF
- 2.4 Support the 3rd Age Universities and Lifelong Education
- 2.5 Emphasis on access to quality education for the widest groups of the population

MEASURES to improve situation

- 3.1 Increased public funding to investment in education including EU funds until 2013
- 4.1 Support and applying the principle of multilingualism supported by the EU, besides one's mother tongue. Enabling students to choose, besides their mother tongue, to study a minority language where there are favourable material and staffing conditions.
- 5.1 More investment to support ICT
- 5.2 Improving infrastructure and equipment of schools at all levels of education.
- 5.3. Introduction of new technologies – notebooks replacing copybooks and textbooks (Slovak Facebook group)

MEASURES to improve situation

- 6.1 Comprehensive training programmes (ToT, study programmes for the topics, practical training, Training of teachers and school management in the acquisition of project skills, funded and co-financed from structural funds earmarked for education.
- 7.1. Foreign language training for teachers and school management funded and co-financed from EU funds
- 8.1 Mobility of teachers and students aimed at obtaining experience in the area of education, study and school management co-financed from EU funds.

MEASURES to improve situation

- 8.2 Possibility of attracting foreign experts as teachers, school managers, and creation of conditions for a wider participation of foreign lecturers, professors and managers at all types of schools
- 8.3 Support the multilateral EU projects
- 9.1 Awareness Raising on Knowledge Triangle for Sustainable Society (education, research, innovation)
- 10.1 Supporting private schools and putting them on equal footing at all levels of education, by means of legislative amendments and by establishing criteria for the use of structural funds and eligibility for drawing down on EU funds.

MEASURES to improve situation

- 11.1. Access of new MS to be budget holder (consultation from the side of the old MS)
- 11.2 Common strategy of skilled partners to help new MS with equal participation in a programmes
- 11.3 Emphasis on knowledge society as a civilization challenge of the 21st century
- 12. 1 Support the Centres of Creativity and Excellence, Technological Incubators, Jean Monet Action
- 12.2 Support for exceptionally talented and creative students

MEASURES to improve situation

- 13.1. Standardisation and Europeisation of High School Education
- 13.2 Self-Evaluation of Universities
- 13.3 Target on Post-Graduate Doctoral Study
- 13.4 New Study Programme and Curricula
- 13.4 Synergy of Study Programmes
- 13.5 Universities – Research friendly entities

INSTITUTIONALISATION AND POLICY PAPERS

- White Paper on Education
- Action Plan of the EU for Education Reform
- Ethics Code for the European Teachers
- European Accreditation Commission
- Strengthening of the Role of the European University Association

INSTITUTIONALISATION AND POLICY PAPERS

- Strengthening the competency of EU in the field of Education?

(Art. 6 „The Union shall have competence to carry out actions to support, coordinate or supplement the actions of the Member States“).

- Lisbon Strategy must be opened and flexible document

Thank you
for your attention!