



COMENIUS
UNIVERSITY
BRATISLAVA

ADVENTURE IN THINKING

Comenius University Bratislava

2021/2022

IN NUMBERS — GRAPHS — PICTURES



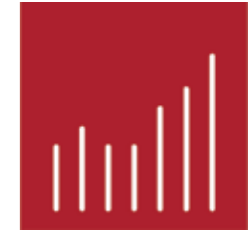
CONTENTS



Management and
Organization
4



Beginnings, the Present
and Future Direction
8



Performance
in Rankings
14



Education
15



Science
and Research
22



International
Relations
27



Comenius University and
Social Responsibility
30



Infrastructure
36



Human
Resources
38



MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATION

The University Management



Prof. JUDr. Marek Števíček, PhD.
Rector



Assoc. Prof. JUDr. Jana Duračínská, PhD.
Vice-Rector for Property Management
and Investments



Assoc. Prof. RNDr. Michal Greguš, PhD.
Vice-Rector for Information Technologies



RNDr. Zuzana Kovačičová, PhD.
Vice-Rector for Education



Prof. RNDr. Jozef Masarik, DrSc.
Vice-Rector for Science,
Doctoral Studies and Projects



Assoc. Prof. PhDr. Radomír Masaryk, PhD.
Vice-Rector for External Relations



Prof. MUDr. Viera Štvrtinová, PhD.
Vice-Rector for Quality Assurance



Assoc. Prof. Mgr. Jozef Tancer, PhD.
Vice-Rector for International Relations



Ing. Ingrid Kútina Želonková, PhD.
Bursar

MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATION

Faculties

THE NAMES AND ABBREVIATIONS OF COMENIUS UNIVERSITY'S FACULTIES

CU Comenius University in Bratislava – FMED Faculty of Medicine – FLAW Faculty of Law – FARS Faculty of Arts – FNS Faculty of Natural Sciences
 FEDU Faculty of Education – FPHARM Faculty of Pharmacy – FSPORT Faculty of Physical Education and Sport – JFMED Jessenius Faculty of Medicine in Martin
 FMPH Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics – FRCTH Faculty of Roman Catholic Theology of Cyril and Methodius – FELTH Evangelical Lutheran
 Theological Faculty – FM Faculty of Management – FSES Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences



**Prof. PharmDr. Ján Klímas,
PhD., MPH**
Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy

Number of students 1 058

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 91

Number of study programmes 19



Prof. Mgr. Marián Vanderka, PhD.
Dean of the Faculty of Physical
Education and Sport

Number of students 1 166

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 26

Number of study programmes 34



Prof. JUDr. Marek Števíček, PhD.
Rector of Comenius University

Number of students 22 890

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 2 994

Number of study programmes 969



Prof. MUDr. Juraj Šteňo, DrSc.
Dean of the Faculty of Medicine

Number of students 3 573

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 1 055

Number of study programmes 84



Prof. MUDr. Andrea Čalkovská, DrSc.
Dean of the Jessenius Faculty
of Medicine in Martin

Number of students 1 961

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 640

Number of study programmes 78



Prof. RNDr. Daniel Ševčovič, DrSc.
Dean of the Faculty of Mathematics,
Physics and Informatics

Number of students 1 363

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 145

Number of study programmes 156



**Assoc. Prof. JUDr. Eduard
Burda, PhD.**
Dean of the Faculty of Law

Number of students 2 513

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 95

Number of study programmes 82



Prof. RNDr. Peter Fedor, PhD.
Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences

Number of students 2 257

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 171

Number of study programmes 132



ThDr. Ing. Vladimír Thurzo, PhD.
(to 28 February 2022)
**Assoc. Prof. Ph.Dr. Ing. Jozef
Jančovič, PhD.**
(from 1 March 2022)
Dean of the Faculty of Roman-Catholic
Theology of Cyril and Methodius

Number of students 126

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 5

Number of study programmes 3



Mgr. Milan Jurík, PhD.
Dean of the Evangelical Lutheran
Theological Faculty

Number of students 57

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 8

Number of study programmes 12



Prof. Mgr. Marián Zouhar, PhD.
Dean of the Faculty of Arts

Number of students 2 956

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 223

Number of study programmes 184



**Assoc. Prof. RNDr. Edita
Partová, CSc.**
Dean of the Faculty of Education

Number of students 2 362

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 56

Number of study programmes 128



Prof. RNDr. Michal Greguš, PhD.
Dean of the Faculty of Management

Number of students 2 456

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 357

Number of study programmes 33



**Assoc. Prof. PhDr. JUDr. Lucia
Mokrá, PhD.**
Dean of the Faculty of Social and
Economic Sciences

Number of students 1 042

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 122

Number of study programmes 24



BEGINNINGS, THE PRESENT AND FUTURE DIRECTION

Comenius University Bratislava was established on 27 June 1919. It was the first university in Slovakia to offer higher education in the Slovak language. It has educated generations of politicians, notable figures of history, scientists, teachers and other scholars who have achieved success in many areas and contributed to the progress Slovakia. It grew into a modern European university capable of responding to current challenges while maintaining its academic traditions.

FIVE NOTABLE HISTORICAL FIGURES

Kristian Hynek

He came up with the idea of establishing Comenius University in Bratislava, was one of its co-founders and then became its first rector. On 31 July 1919, the President of Czechoslovakia, Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, appointed him Professor of pathology and internal diseases at the Medical Faculty of Comenius University in Bratislava. He was elected rector at the first meeting of the professors of the Faculty of Medicine, which took place on 8 August 1919 and held the position in the academic years 1919/1920 – 1920/1921 and in 1929/1930. In his research he focused on issues related to haematology, particularly coagulation and red blood cell sedimentation.

Josef Vydra

Professor Josef Vydra designed the robes of academic dignitaries of Comenius University, taking inspiration in those of Charles University in Prague. In 1920, Prof. Antonín Špilka proposed to approve the production of the new robes. They were first used at Comenius University Bratislava on 5 December 1923 when Prof. MUDr. Stanislav Kostlivý was sworn in to the office of the university's rector. The Slovak word for robe, talár, comes from the Latin talaris which means "reaching

to the ankles" and has come to denote the flowing, ceremonial garments of official, academic or church dignitaries. Robes imparted gravity and showed that the wearer was of an elevated status, and gave the occasions during which they were worn a ceremonial nature and importance.

Grazioso Enea Lanfranconi

Born in Italy to a bourgeois family from Varese, he completed his studies at the Polytechnic University in Milan. In 1867 his parents moved to Bratislava (then called Pressburg), where he settled permanently. One of his interests was the regulation of the flow of the Danube and he was a proponent of interconnecting the Danube with the Rhine, Oder and the Elbe. He published several theoretical papers to support his theories. The Faculty of Physical Education and Sport was built on a part of the vast park that used to surround the villa of Grazioso Enea Lanfranconi, which stood in today's Botanical Garden of Comenius University. The name of the Lanfranconi dormitory comes from a corrupted version of the name of this Italian engineer and inventor.

Eugen Suchoň

The fanfare which accompanies the

entrance of the academic procession into the Auditorium during graduation ceremonies was first played when JUDr. Edvard Beneš received his honorary doctorate. The date was 21 April 1937. Composer Eugen Suchoň created the music for this occasion to honour president Beneš and then donated the rights to Comenius University on 8 May 1937. At its meeting on 17 March 1938, the Academic Senate declared the composition the Academic Fanfare of Comenius University.

Juraj Hronec, Jozef Kaucký and Dionýz Ilkovič

The teaching of mathematics and physics at Comenius University started in 1940, at the Faculty of Natural Sciences. The first professors in mathematics were full-time Professors of the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava Juraj Hronec and Jozef Kaucký, and in physics, Professor Dionýz Ilkovič. In the mid-1970s, the idea of establishing a faculty dedicated to mathematics and physics began to gain traction. The campus in Mlynská dolina was deemed ideal for the new project. The Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of Comenius University was established on 1 September 1980 by splitting off from the Faculty of Natural Sciences.



First Rector of CU, Kristián Hynek,
source: Comenius University Bratislava



Designs of the first robes by Josef Vydra,
source: Comenius University Bratislava



Lanfranconi's Villa which stood in today's
Botanical Garden of CU,
source: Comenius University Bratislava



Edvard Beneš is awarded his honorary doctorate,
source: CU Archive, photo collection

THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/2022

In the past academic year we had more experience with the COVID-19 disease and could therefore offer in-person classes while complying with the relevant regulations. During the winter semester, faculties taught both online and on-site. Some seminars were held on-site and some were offered online, depending on capacity. We were able to maintain the dormitories operational throughout the academic year, adopting measures depending on the pandemic situation. In the summer semester, we mostly switched to in-person teaching.

The university continued to protest against the amendment to the Higher Education Act. It rejected some of the ideas put forward by the ministry of education because of their conflict with the principles of academic self-governance. On 16 November 2021, Comenius University, the Slovak University of Technology, the Slovak Council of Higher Education Institutions and the Student Council for Higher Education jointly organised the "Responsible Protest for Free Universities", attracting thousands of participants. Several authorities and organisations joined the action of universities. The economic situation of universities became worse after the state reduced its subsidies to them, their revenues dropped due to the pandemic and energy prices rose sharply. The government approved the amended proposal act in March 2022. At the beginning of 2022, CU adopted its Gender Equality Plan. Its goal is to fight against gender discrimination. The plan introduces changes that will lead to the creation of an open, supportive and non-discriminatory environment for all employees and students of Comenius University and its parts.

Our students and employees were also affected by the war in Ukraine. The university rejected the aggression and extended a helping hand to students from Ukraine, and others who felt the impact of the crisis. The affected students were eligible for a waiver of accommodation fees at the University's dormitories as well as extraordinary scholarships, and accommodation capacity was freed up for their family members. The University also offered support in the form of food, assistance in administrative procedures, collections of material help and various other voluntary activities.

Spring, however, was the harbinger of good news. On 19 April the university re-opened the legendary and most ancient university club in Slovakia, UniK, at the Mlyny Campus. The club had undergone a total renovation. The Information Center at Štúrova 9, near the main building of Comenius University, is another newly opened facility. However, the controversial amendment to the Higher Education Act complicated the election of the rector-candidate. While waiting for the final wording of the law to be approved, the Academic Senate of CU decided to set the date of the election to 18 May.

In the election, the incumbent rector, Marek Števček, managed to defend his post.



Comenius University continued to protest the amendment of the Higher Education Act.



Information center becomes the first point of contact those interested in studying at CU.



Marek Števček and Daniel Olejár went head-to-head in the election of the next rector-candidate.



The war in Ukraine affected our students and staff.



FUTURE DIRECTION

In its hundred years of existence, Comenius University has established itself as the most prominent and largest university in Slovakia. It entered its second century with a clear goal - to maintain its good reputation, continue to enhance its prestige in Europe and worldwide, and to continue improving the quality of education and scientific activities. The strategy of development of Comenius University reflects the changes happening to universities and societies in Slovakia and around the world. The goal is to reinforce its position of the most important domestic university and science centre in Slovakia and to become a sought-after partner in the international area of education and research. Comenius University wants its voice to play an important role in the country's growth. Consequently, its long-term development is based on the following ten goals.

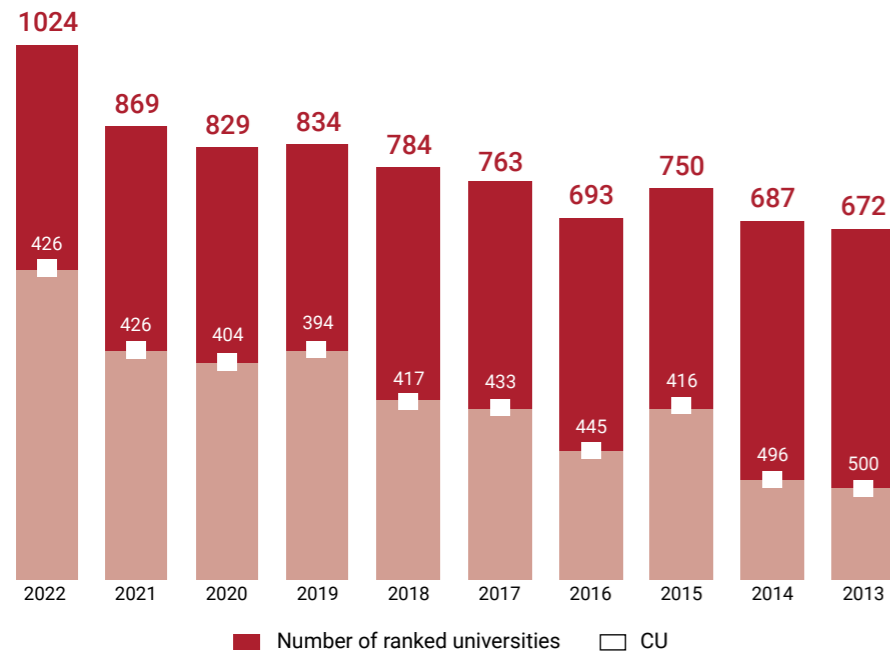
1. **Comenius University is a prestigious university**
The university provides quality education and motivates its staff and students towards it. It offers a wide range of study programmes linked to scientific activities and continuously innovates their content. It evaluates and improves the quality of tuition by means of internal and external quality assurance as well as student feedback.
2. **Comenius University is a student-oriented university**
Students participate in the management of the university. The voice of students and alumni is a valuable input for development and modernization. The university continuously improves the quality of accommodation and the extracurricular and sports activities available to students. It addresses their specific needs individually.
3. **Comenius University is a university of international impact**
It forms and maintains partnerships with foreign universities, especially as a member of the ENLIGHT alliance. The university strives to be an attractive teaching venue for foreign professors and wants to continue attracting international students. It also supports the mobility of domestic students and staff.
4. **Comenius University is a place of free and creative research**
Its researchers prioritise original, rigorous, impactful and quality research. Researchers are free to choose research goals while observing areas of priority. The university builds top research centres and protects the intellectual property of its staff.
5. **Comenius University is a place of excellence in science and research**
It focuses on publishing in the most renowned magazines. It connects its research with top international teams and creates new teams. It follows future trends in research and supports patenting and innovation.
6. **Comenius University is a coordinator of knowledge transfer into practice**
In addition to higher education, it provides knowledge to the general public through events, media and publications. It coordinates activities with other universities, employers, businesses and public institutions.
7. **Comenius University is a well-run university**
Comenius University is governed autonomously through academic self-governance. Its bodies communicate with each other in order to advance the institution. It works on improving its administration and makes it more electronic.
8. **Comenius University is a caring employer**
It has a system of remuneration based on merit, is family-friendly and develops a university kindergarten project. The university supports the career and skill growth of its employees. At the same time, it develops a university-wide identity.
9. **Comenius University is a responsible asset manager**
It responsibly manages its premises and undertakes investment projects.
10. **Comenius University is a space for social responsibility**
It communicates key topics and opinion on societal and regional issues. It actively disseminates the results of the latest science. It provides high-quality assistance to bodies of the state and other organizations.



PERFORMANCE IN RANKINGS

In the previous year, Comenius University was included in all significant international rankings. Comenius University uses this type of feedback to improve its own activities.

PLACEMENT OF COMENIUS UNIVERSITY AND THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RANKED UNIVERSITIES IN THE RUR RANKING



ACADEMIC RANKING OF WORLD UNIVERSITIES 2022 - The "Shanghai" ranking

CU was placed **701st - 800th** out of more than 2,500 evaluated universities. In the 2022 Global Ranking of Academic Subjects CU was ranked 301st-400th in physics and 401st-500th in clinical medicine.

RUR – Round University Ranking

In the 2022 Round University Ranking CU placed **426th** out of 1,150 evaluated universities from 80 countries.

THE IMPACT RANKINGS

CU was ranked **601st-800th** out of 1,406 universities from 106 countries in an innovative university ranking project of THE (Times Higher Education).

The ranking focuses on the social responsibility of universities and reflects their contribution to the 17 sustainable development goals of the UN.

THE WUR (TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS)

CU is ranked in the **1001st-1200th** band out of more than 1,500 evaluated universities from 93 countries of the world.

LEIDEN RANKING

CU was ranked **647th** out of 1,225 world universities in an overall assessment of all subjects. When ranked by subject, the University achieved the following positions: Biomedical and medical sciences - 547th place, Physical sciences and engineering - 556th place, Earth and environmental sciences - 580th place, Social sciences and humanities - 801st place, and Mathematics and computer science - 931st place.

QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

In the latest edition, the CU was ranked **651st-700th** out of more than 1,400 of the world's best institutions from almost 100 countries. It improved its rating from the previous edition and became the best rated Slovak university.

CWUR (CENTER FOR WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS)

CU ranks **630th** in the CWUR ranking, placing it among the top 3% schools in the world. It is the highest-rated Slovak university in this largest world ranking.

PERFORMANCE RANKING OF RESEARCH PAPERS FOR WORLD UNIVERSITIES (NTU RANKINGS)

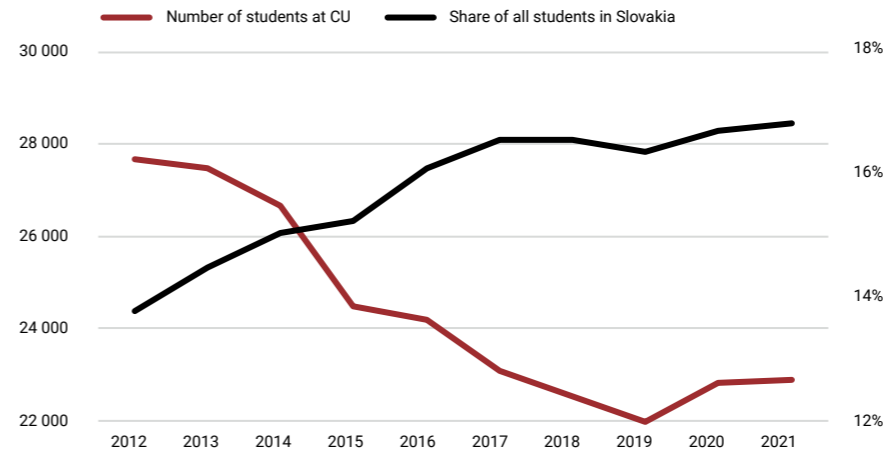
CU was ranked **701st-750th** out of the top 1,200 universities, from a wider list of more than 4,000 ESI (Essential Science Indicators) scientific institutions. In natural sciences CU was ranked in the 451st-500th place band and tied for 275th place in physics.



EDUCATION

Comenius University Bratislava is the oldest, largest and most prominent university in Slovakia. It bases its education on its own research activity, having the ambition to be a leading centre of European learning and a university with an international focus. It teaches its graduates to demonstrate the highest degree of personal and professional qualities as well as humanity and caring. The goal of the university is to enhance the scientific and cultural prospects of the society and its economic prosperity. The university also supported the community aspect of student life by distributing more than 25,000 euros to student associations.

LONG-TERM TREND OF THE SHARE OF CU STUDENTS



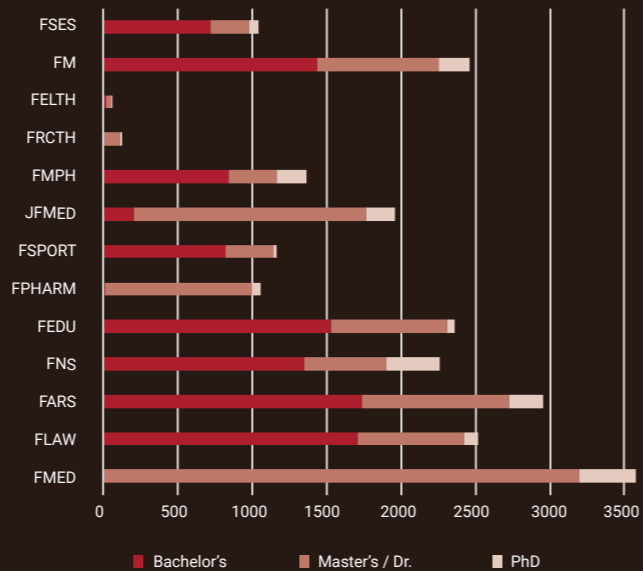
In the 2021/2022 academic year, Comenius University offered a total of 969 study programmes at the levels of Bachelor, Master, Doctor and PhD, in which it was entitled to grant the corresponding academic degrees. There were 34 new study programmes compared to the previous year. Comenius University admitted 10,285 students of whom 7,430 were enrolled in the first year of study.

STUDENTS

In 2021, the university's thirteen faculties provided tuition to a total of **22,890** students at all study levels (Bachelor, Master, Doctor and PhD). Despite the declining demographic trend, Comenius University has maintained a high share of students in Slovakia. In 2021, almost 17% of all university students studied at Comenius University, compared to 12% in 2008.



NUMBER OF STUDENTS AT EACH FACULTY AS OF 31 OCTOBER 2021



Faculty	Bachelor's	Master's / Dr.	PhD	Total
FMED	0	3 194	379	3 573
FLAW	1 708	713	92	2 513
FARS	1 733	992	231	2 956
FNS	1 347	553	357	2 257
FEDU	1 527	785	50	2 362
FPHARM	14	983	61	1 058
FSPORT	818	321	27	1 166
JFMED	205	1 560	196	1 961
FMPH	843	323	197	1 363
FRCTH	0	113	13	126
FELTH	17	34	6	57
FM	1 436	819	201	2 456
FSES	718	258	66	1 042
Total	10 366	10 648	1 876	22 890

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS, INCLUDING FEMALE STUDENTS, INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND PHD STUDENTS AT THE FACULTIES OF COMENIUS UNIVERSITY IN 2021

More than a fifth of all **international** university students in Slovakia study at Comenius University. The increased interest of international students in studying at the 1st and 3rd level of study is especially encouraging. The number of international students who came from more than 70 countries increased by 134 to a total of 2,994 students, representing 13.1% of the total number of students at the university. The majority of international students study at the faculties of medicine in Bratislava and in Martin and at the Faculty of Management.

Faculty	Total Number of Students	Female Students	International Students	PhD students
FMED	3 573	2 265	1 055	379
FARS	2 513	1 458	95	92
FEDU	2 956	2 172	223	231
FLAW	2 257	1 579	171	357
FM	2 362	2 171	56	50
FNS	1 058	852	91	61
JFMED	1 166	318	26	27
FMPH	1 961	1 313	640	196
FSPORT	1 363	538	145	197
FPHARM	126	1	5	13
FSES	57	28	8	6
FRCTH	2 456	1 389	357	201
FELTH	1 042	722	122	66
TOTAL	22 890	14 806	2 994	1 876

A significant scientific potential lies in young researchers - PhD students. Most of PhD students in Slovakia, more than one quarter, study at Comenius University. There were **1,876** PhD students studying at Comenius University in 2021, constituting 28.6% of all PhD students in Slovakia.



STUDENTS' SUCCESS

Lifbee Academy – Medical technology projects

Michal Paulovič is first-year student of medical biology at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and member of the Comfy team which, on 11 February 2022, won first place in the category of medical technology projects at the Lifbee Academy. The winning project was a respirator design that is 100% biodegradable. It is made of biopolymers, can be worn a long time, and is suitable for use in professional settings.

Research Challenge 2022

On 16 February 2022, the third edition of the CFA Research Challenge took place. In the first round, the teams wrote a report analysing Asseco, including its financials, valuation, risks and an investment recommendation. In the second round they presented the results and defended

their analysis in English before a jury composed of experts from the financial sector. The university was represented by these students from the Faculty of Arts: Jakub Čížnár, Vivien Klučka, Lenka Košútová, Adriana Leginusová and Peter Ondrušek. The team did very well in the competition and won first place with ease.

Student personality of Slovakia

On 8 April 2022, the laureates of the 17th annual edition of the Student Personality of Slovakia competition received their awards at the Pálffy Palace. The event is organized under the auspices of the President of the Slovak Republic Zuzana Čaputová and under the professional guarantee of the Slovak Rectors' Conference and the Slovak Academy of Sciences. This year, a jury of experts chose the most successful students and young researchers from 102 nominations in 13 categories. Michaela Matušková from the Faculty of Pharmacy became the student personality of Slovakia for

the academic year 2021/2022 in the "Pharmacy" category. Samuel Baláž from the Faculty of Physical Education and Sport became the best student in the "Sports" category.

Youth Embassy

On 17 June 2022, the 12th annual edition of the Youth Embassy project took place in Bratislava. The competition was open to secondary school and university students who presented and implemented their projects. University students were expected to tackle the topic of "Improving the economic situation in the economy and healthcare with emphasis on tourism in Slovakia". Dominik Kadlubiak from the Medical Faculty won first place and was presented the Palm-tree award. His project was named "Diseases of civilization and reduced performance of active people due to polluted air". It presented a special respirator designed for athletes who train in cities. The respirator captures harmful particles in the air.



The winner of the "Pharmacy" category, Michaela Matušková, and Samuel Baláž, the winner of the "Sports" category, in the Student Personality of Slovakia awards.

The winning project of a bio-degradable respirator.

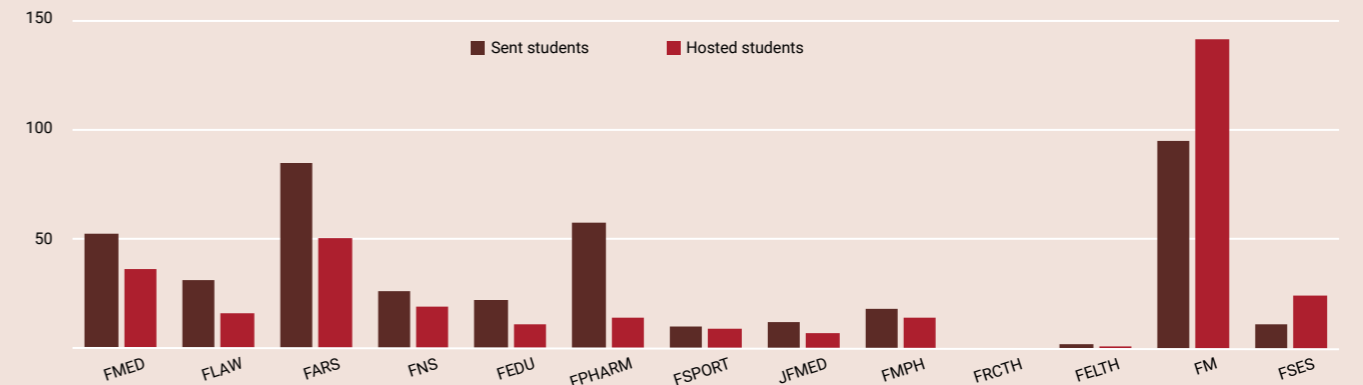


A respirator for athletes won the Youth Embassy.

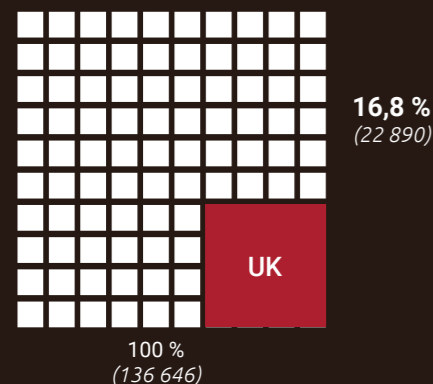


ACADEMIC MOBILITY OF STUDENTS IN 2021

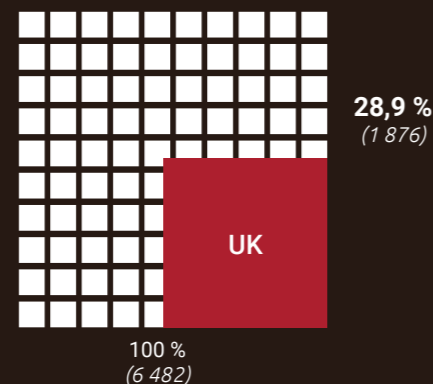
In the context of multilateral international relations, Comenius University has been participating in Central European programmes, such as CEEPUS and Aktion Österreich - Slowakei, as well as in European Union programmes. The dominant form of cooperation in quantitative terms is the European Erasmus+ programme.



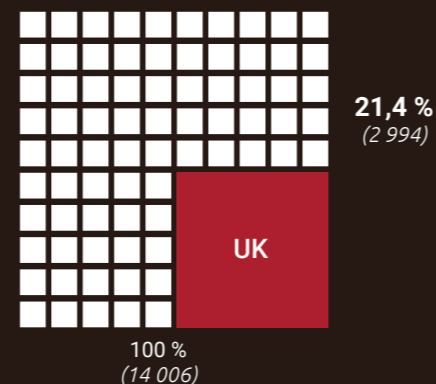
COMENIUS UNIVERSITY'S SHARE OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN SLOVAKIA



CU'S SHARE OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PHD STUDENTS IN SLOVAKIA



CU'S SHARE OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN SLOVAKIA



GRADUATES

The number of university graduates at all levels of study from Comenius University faculties in the 2020/2021 academic year was 5,399. The academic title of Doctor of Medicine was awarded to 627 graduates, 2,216 students graduated with a Master's degree, 2,253 students graduated with a Bachelor's degree and the academic title of Philosophiae doctor was awarded to 303 graduates.

Lifelong learning

The Centre for Continuing Education at Comenius University provides non-university education to various public groups. It provides language training to international students, preparing them for tuition conducted in Slovak; it also provides career and language education, as well as educational programmes for seniors and expatriate Slovaks. The programme portfolio responds to the current needs of the public, as well as the needs of the labour market. In 2021, Slovak language courses and specialised subjects taught in Slovak were attended by 295 students from 48 countries.



Workshop for students of Children's Comenius University. Photo: Peter Chvostek

SUMMER SCHOOLS

Due to the renovation of its usual venue, the Arena Theatre, this year's 20th anniversary of the *Children's Comenius University* was held at the Radošinské naivné divadlo theatre. In the summer, during July and August, children could attend lectures of researchers from Comenius University and the Slovak Academy of Sciences. They could also participate in a number of workshops, excursions, trips, or visits to cultural events. After attending at least six lectures, participants would receive a diploma at the graduation ceremony which took place in CU's Auditorium.

The Centre for Continuing Education of Comenius University organised the 32nd edition of the *Summer University of Slovak Language and Culture for expatriate Slovaks*. It took place online, between 11 and 22

July 2022. This year's motto was inspired by Ludovít Štúr: "He who lives through the mind, has the whole world living within him and he lives in the whole world". The goal of the summer university is to start learning or improve communication and language skills in Slovak and to get acquainted with the diversity of Slovakia's culture.

The Faculty of Management organised a summer school in 2022 entitled *Game theory as a marketing tool*. Participants who completed the course obtained comprehensive knowledge of various areas of game theory and their application to marketing. The summer school was held between 27 July and 5 August 2022, and participating students could obtain three credits. The program was shared with other Erasmus+ universities. The course was free of charge and attracted twenty participants.

Those enrolled in the *Studia Academica Slovaca Summer School of Slovak language and culture* which took place this year could choose to study online or on-site. The online course was held from 1 to 13 August 2022, and the in-person format started one day earlier. The oldest summer university was organized by the Faculty of Arts for the 58th time. It included various language seminars, conversations and lectures.

Between 1 and 4 August the *Bratislava Summer University for Seniors* took place for the 12th time. Lectures were held in the Hall of Mirrors of the Primate's Palace in Bratislava. Registered participants could attend lectures on internet safety or on public spaces in Bratislava - Brownfields. Oľga Belešová moderated the discussion on self-realization and volunteering of seniors, and another lecture was dedicated to J. K. Mertz, a guitar virtuoso and composer.

THE NUMBER OF UNIQUE STUDY PROGRAMMES (ACCREDITED AND ACTIVE) AT COMENIUS UNIVERSITY IN SLOVAKIA

According to the individual level of study	
Bachelors	191
Masters	157
Doctor	250
Joint Bachelors and Masters programmes	7
Professional degrees	6
Total	611



SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

Comenius University is one of Slovakia's most prominent research institutions in terms of the number of its researchers, its ability to obtain research grants, and the results achieved.

PROJECTS AND GRANTS

Comenius University received a total of €11.84 million in state subsidies for its projects in 2021. Most of the funds came from the Slovak Research and Development Agency (SRDA) which provided a total of €6.7 million for 261 research and applied projects undertaken at Comenius University's thirteen faculties and selected parts in 2021. Compared to last year, this is an increase in the number of projects, but a reduction of the total amount of grants.

Most research projects at Comenius University were supported by the Scientific Grant Agency (VEGA) of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport of the Slovak Republic and the Slovak Academy of Sciences, which provided funding for 353 research projects at Comenius University in 2021. The figures for 2021 show that there was both an increase in the volume of grants received and a higher number of supported projects.



Tau Herculids meteor shower,
Source: Róbert Barsa-Mt Graham Observatory

NUMBER OF SRDA PROJECTS

Faculty	Number
FNS	79
FMED	43
FMPH	33
FARS	27
JFMED	17
FPHARM	11
FLAW	15
FSES	12
Science Park	10
FM	5
FEDU	4
FSPORT	3
FELTH	1
FRCTH	1
Total	261

THE NUMBER AND SIZE OF SRDA GRANTS FROM 2012 TO 2021 (IN THOUSANDS OF EUROS)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number	106	135	123	161	176	213	231	244	244	261
Current Expenses	3 109	3 849	4 095	4 107	4 945	6 138	6 314	7 012	6 834	6 661
Capital Expenses	70	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	549	30
Total	3 179	3 849	4 095	4 107	4 945	6 138	6 314	7 012	7 383	6 691

THE NUMBER AND SIZE OF VEGA GRANTS FROM 2012 TO 2021 (IN THOUSANDS OF EUROS)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number	295	371	357	329	340	349	343	344	325	353
Current Expenses	1 765	2 031	2 289	2 302	2 342	2 683	2 768	3 092	3 371	3 532
Capital Expenses	422	229	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2 187	2 260	2 289	2 302	2 342	2 683	2 768	3 092	3 371	3 532

HABILITATIONS AND INAUGURATIONS

In 2021 seventy-four lecturers became Associate Professors at Comenius University. The Scientific Board discussed twenty-six and approved twenty-five nominations submitted by the scientific boards of faculties for awarding the title of Professor. In addition to the appointment of Professors, the Scientific Board also approved three nominations of CU's faculties for the degree of "Doctor of Science" and one nomination for awarding the degree of Guest Professor.

TOP-CLASS RESEARCH

The highest concentration of top research teams in Slovakia - 26 out of 54 - can be found at Comenius University. The important thing for students to know is that the research teams working at Comenius University, who are excellent in an international context, also teach here.

The creative activity of young researchers, teachers and internal PhD candidates under 30 is also supported through Comenius University's own grant scheme, *CU Grants*. In 2021, Comenius University provided grants worth € 228,510 to 235 projects.

A new project in 2021 involves the hosting of thirteen postdoctoral fellows from world universities, whose work will be financed by CU for a year. The stays can be prolonged. Successful candidates include young researchers under 35 from Belgium, Iran, France, India, Poland, Tunisia, the Czech Republic, but also from Slovakia.

Comenius University has other scientific establishments which help generate top quality research and provide a connection to practical applications, such as the Science Park, BioMed in Martin and the Centre for Nuclear and Accelerator Technologies (CENTA).



For many years, professor Roman Pašteka has been researching methods of detecting subsurface cavities.

SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES AND RESULTS

TECHNOLOGY

Scientists have observed an exceptional meteor shower

An international team of scientists, one of whom was Juraj Tóth from the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics of the UK, observed the Tau Herculids meteor shower originating from a comet that disintegrated 27 years ago. Observations were made from ground stations equipped with the mobile all-sky system, AMOS, including spectral cameras, and also from an aircraft that flew over the location. Data analysis will provide insight into the composition and dynamic processes of meteors.

New measurement method allows us to discover hidden chambers in pyramids

The search for hitherto undiscovered burial chambers inside pyramids is an attractive topic in the scientific community. Slovak scientists led by geophysicist Roman Pašteka from Comenius University Bratislava have been

working on ways to detect subsurface cavities for many years. The geophysical methods they developed are successfully used in archaeology and in other fields. Now, they tested state-of-the-art gravimetry to detect hidden spaces. New computer simulations show that with very precise and repeated measurements and given an estimated size of an unknown cavity, it can now be detected from the surface of the pyramid.

Autonomous vehicles are becoming a reality, but the legislation is not keeping up

Cars equipped with technologies that steer, accelerate and brake instead of the driver can now be encountered on public roads but the legislation governing their use is still incomplete. Who will be held responsible in the event of a fatal accident if the car was driven by the system instead of a human driver? Does the 'driver' of an autonomous vehicle need to hold a driver's license? How to regulate access to the data generated by autonomous vehicles? Lawyers are studying the current legislation from the point of view of

administrative rules, criminal law, cyber security and personal data protection.

MEDICINE

Slovak emergency lung ventilator in Kenya

The Q-vent mini respiratory support device developed by Slovak scientists is currently helping in Kenya. The device arrived there as part of a humanitarian mission supported by SlovakAid - Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation. The Q-vent mini was developed at the beginning of the Coronavirus crisis in 2020 by the twin brothers Daniel and Samuel Furka from the Department of Physical and Theoretical Chemistry of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, together with doctor Patrik Palacka from the National Cancer Institute. The device was entirely printed on a 3D printer. The total cost was around €250 while a conventional ventilator costs one hundred times more. The device attracted interest from the U.S., the Czech Republic, India, Brazil and Australia.

PUBLICATION ACTIVITY AT COMENIUS UNIVERSITY IN 2021

Category/ Faculty	AAA, AAB, ABA, ABB	ACA, ACB, BAA, BAB, BCB, BCI, EAI, CAA, CAB, EAJ	FAI	ADC, BDC	ADD, BDD	CDC, CDD	ADM, ADN, AEM, AEN	BDM, BDN, CBA, CBB	Other	Total
FMED	8	25	11	221	10	0	220	3	1 311	1 809
FLAW	48	11	26	1	1	0	19	0	773	879
FARS	37	58	56	20	9	0	77	2	1 055	1 314
FNS	19	39	3	425	25	0	156	1	839	1 507
FEDU	19	46	23	1	1	0	16	0	450	556
FPHARM	0	9	1	74	1	0	23	0	210	318
FSPORT	3	4	4	25	1	0	27	0	135	199
JFMED	4	18	7	145	5	0	117	6	534	836
FMPH	6	17	12	280	5	0	42	0	376	738
FRCTH	3	4	2	1	0	0	2	0	76	88
FELTH	2	2	4	0	0	0	1	0	77	86
FM	12	12	7	39	1	0	29	0	385	485
FSES	8	9	3	21	4	0	32	0	94	171
Total	169	254	159	1253	63	0	761	12	6315	8 986



Dr. Jozef Andraško studies the gaps in legislation on autonomous vehicles.



Q-vent mini respiratory support device, source: www.tatrasky.com



We can trace the evolution of the leopard gecko ancestor back over 50 million years, photo: Daniel Jablonski



A visualisation of Bratislava covered by the Lake Pannon, source: Michal Šujan

ARCHEOLOGY AND ANIMAL DISCOVERIES

A researcher has uncovered the origin of one of the world's most popular lizards

The research, in which Daniel Jablonski from the Faculty of Natural Sciences participated, discovered the origin of the leopard gecko, one of the most popular pet lizards in the world. The data show that the evolution of the gecko ancestor can be traced back 50 million years when it split from other genera. New data also reveal that there may be more species than previously thought. The three evolutionary lineages which have now been discovered to live in the area between southern Afghanistan and northern India had not previously been described by scientists. The area around the Indus River and between the Hindu Kush Mountains and the Himalayas in Pakistan probably played a crucial role in the evolution of these very popular pet lizards.

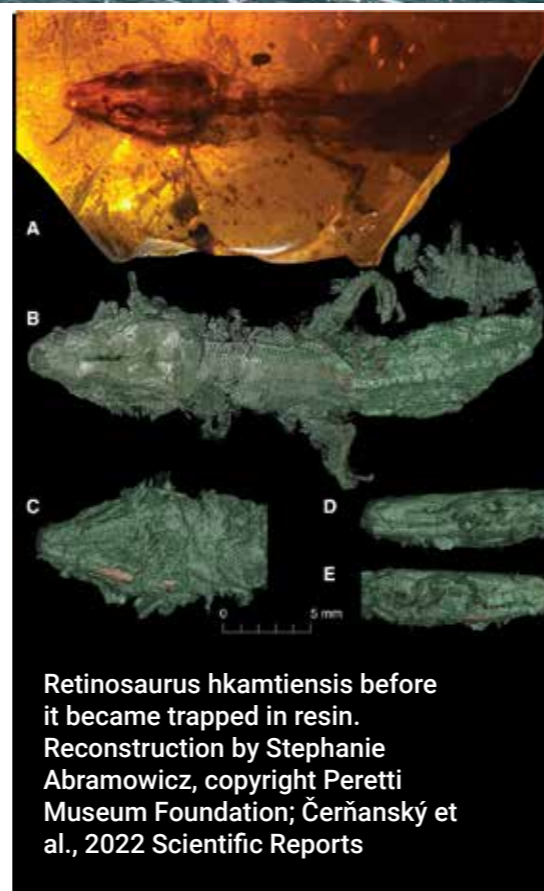
Scientists discover a perfectly preserved lizard from the Mesozoic

The body of the reptile, which lived on Earth 110 million years ago, was preserved in tree resin, including its skin and scales. The lizard, perfectly preserved in amber from Myanmar, was studied by Andrej Čerňanský from the Faculty of Natural

Sciences. The juvenile specimen consists of a head and the anterior portion of the trunk, including the pectoral girdle and forelimbs. The length of the skull is only about one centimeter. The specimen has a uniquely preserved, three-dimensional skeleton. Unlike other specimens found in Myanmar amber, this one has amazingly intact skin. Even the remains of the eye and eyelid are preserved. Surprisingly, scientists found the trachea and partial bronchi inside the specimen.

Ten million years ago, Mlynská dolina was underwater

An international team of scientists, led by Michal Šujan from the Faculty of Natural Sciences, discovered that in the Tertiary Period, Mlynská dolina in Bratislava was covered by a huge lake. It was inhabited by bivalve molluscs, Ostracods and other animals typical for the brackish waters of sea coasts, with an inflow of fresh water from streams. The inland sea which the scientists named Lake Pannon had brackish water similar to the present-day Caspian Sea. It stretched from Vienna to Belgrade and to Transylvania in Romania. In places, it reached depths of one kilometre. Lake Pannon was later filled by sediments brought mostly by the Danube and receded south towards Serbia, where it finally disappeared 4 million years ago.



Retinosaurus hkamtensis before it became trapped in resin. Reconstruction by Stephanie Abramowicz, copyright Peretti Museum Foundation; Čerňanský et al., 2022 Scientific Reports



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Comenius University maintains both bilateral and multilateral international contacts. The contacts lead to student and teacher exchanges. Erasmus+ activities are the predominant form of cooperation.



Comenius University team at the annual meeting of ENLIGHT alliance in Galway.

ENLIGHT

In the academic year 2021/2022 Comenius University continued to cooperate with eight universities in the ENLIGHT alliance. Even though the cooperation was hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic in the winter semester, several events still took place.

ENLIGHT Teaching and Learning Conference

On 18 and 19 November 2021, the Teaching and Learning Conference was held at Ghent University. Comenius University was represented by a delegation of nine employees. During the conference, Professor MUDr. Jana Plevková, PhD., from the Jessenius Faculty of Medicine in Martin was nominated for the Teacher Award.

ENLIGHT SUSTAINABILITY ENGAGEMENT

On 3 December 2021, at the General Meeting of the nine Rectors of ENLIGHT Alliance universities endorsed a joint Sustainability Engagement. The key goal of the engagement is to expand sustainability education to all levels

of study and to all disciplines. They also pledged to work together on their strategies to combat climate change.

ENLIGHT RISE

The Enlight RISE project is funded by the European Horizon 2020 research program and was launched in 2021/2022. This project of the ENLIGHT alliance is aimed at developing and implementing a unified research and innovation practice at the nine partner universities of ENLIGHT.

ENLIGHT University Alliance Office

In January 2022, a new office was created at the CU's Rectorate for the ENLIGHT alliance under the leadership of Vice-Rector for International Relations Jozef Tancer. The office has four employees and its task is to coordinate the involvement of Comenius University in the activities of the alliance.

Hybrid courses in Ghent and Göttingen

During the summer semester, several hybrid courses took place under the auspices of the alliance. Students would attend the greater part of each course online, but would then travel to the host

university for a week-long stay. One of the courses was Climate Neutral City, during which four students spent a week at the University of Ghent in April. Comenius University co-organized a course on multilingualism, language rights and identity. The in-person part was held during a week in May at the University of Göttingen.

ENLIGHT European Dialogue in Uppsala

Comenius University ENLIGHT staff and their external partners from ESET and the municipality of Bratislava participated in the ENLIGHT European Dialogue which took part in May in Uppsala, Sweden. The central topic was sustainable development of cities.

The ENLIGHT Alliance reached the midpoint of its first project period

In May, the leadership of the ENLIGHT alliance met at the partner University of the Basque Country in Bilbao, Spain, where they discussed a new grant application through which the alliance will request extension of project support for another four-year period (2023-2027). Later, in June, project teams from all

nine universities, including rectors, board members, heads of individual working groups and project managers, met in Galway, Ireland. They discussed the progress report on how the alliance meets its goals, which covers the first half of the project period and was submitted to the European Commission. They also discussed strategic areas for the second half.

Regional Academy of Comenius University

Since 2022, the ENLIGHT alliance also includes the Regional Academy of Comenius University which is a flexible platform for professional dialogue between the academic environment and the general public. The Office of the Public Defender of Rights is a partner of Comenius University in Regional Academy. In May, at the Faculty of Arts, the staff of Regional Academy presented the results of their research into violations of women's rights in health care during childbirth as part of the course on gender studies.

ENLIGHT Green Mobility

In June, a meeting of nine "Green Offices" took place at the University of Bordeaux, aiming to improve European cooperation and achieve climate-neutrality of mobility. At the meeting, proposals for concrete commitments were adopted by all members of the alliance. They should lead to a reduction of the carbon footprint produced by work trips and student mobility. Comenius University was represented in the meeting by the Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences Peter Hanajik.

ENLIGHT lecture: Equality and society

On 13 July 2022, the second ENLIGHT lecture took place, focusing on equality and society. One of the four speakers was Kristína Rankovová (FSES) with her contribution titled: "Are all 'global citizens' equal?: A critical analysis of the discourse of education in the field of civic involvement". The ENLIGHT online lectures were streamed live on YouTube and are accessible to the general public.

VISITS TO COMENIUS UNIVERSITY

On 13 October 2021, Comenius University was honoured to receive Kip S. Thorne, laureate of the Nobel prize in Physics and an internationally recognized expert in gravitational physics and astrophysics. At a ceremony in CU's Auditorium the Rector Marek Števíček presented him with the Grand Gold Medal of Comenius University for his critical contribution to the LIGO detector and the observation of gravitational waves. In his lecture, the physicist spoke about his profound relationship with the curved universe: from black holes and wormholes to time travel and gravitational wave.

On 18 November 2021, investigative journalist and three-time Pulitzer Prize winner Matt Apuzzo gave a speech at Comenius University. The U.S. journalist spoke about the threats faced by the free

media. In his lecture entitled Through Real Threats to Real News, he explains why it is risky for politicians to turn against journalists. Matt Apuzzo received the Memorial Medal of Comenius University.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

On 14 September 2022, the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics, in cooperation with the Slovak Society for Cognitive Science, organized the thirtieth annual edition of the *International conference on artificial neural networks*, which is also an annual event of the European Neural Network Society (ENNS). This year's round anniversary hosted more than 300 participants from all over the world.

On 11 November 2021, an international scientific conference of the Slovak Society for Catholic Theology took place at the

Faculty of Roman Catholic Theology of Cyril and Methodius under the title *Pax opus iustitiae*.

On 25 November 2021, Professor Kutsal Yesilkagit from Leiden University in the Netherlands, held an online lecture which was part of the *Cleveringa lecture cycle*, dealing with "Democratic backsliding and public administration: Politicians, civil servants and the ascendance of populist parties in government".

The 8th annual edition of the conference *Community Psychology in Slovakia* was organized online on 29 and 30 November 2021 at FSES by the Institute of Applied Psychology, with the support of the European Community Psychology Association and The Society for Community and Action Research: Division 27 of the American Psychological Association. The event represents a

platform for exchanging the latest knowledge in the field of community psychology.

The supranational round of the *Student Scientific Conference* for pharmacy students of universities from Slovakia and the Czech Republic was held at the Zentiva headquarters in Prague on 5 May 2022. At the conference, students presented 21 scientific projects in four sections. In the pharmaceutical chemistry section, first place was awarded to the project of Katarína Sujová, a student of the Faculty of Pharmacy of Comenius University.

On 12 May 2022, an *international conference of PhD researchers in philology* took place at the Faculty of Education as a video conference in MS Teams. The conference offered an opportunity to PhD researchers working in various

fields of philology to present the results of their research in, among other areas, the didactics of foreign languages and literatures, including Slovak as a foreign language.

On 12 May 2022, the Institute of Philological Studies of the Faculty of Education hosted the *8th international conference of PhD researchers*, at which 22 PhD students of philology from four Czech and four Slovak universities, as well as from the Slovak Academy of Sciences, presented their dissertations and partial results of their research, grouped into four sections.

On 28 June 2022, the Faculty of Natural Sciences presented the project *Research of mobile zero waste technology for regeneration of used sorbents from industry*.



Laureate of the Nobel Prize in Physics Kip Thorne at Comenius University.



Matt Apuzzo, three-time Pulitzer Prize winner, lecturing at Comenius University



COMENIUS UNIVERSITY AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



PROTEST AGAINST THE AMENDMENT OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT

The university continued to protest against the amendment to the Higher Education Act. It rejected some of the ideas put forward by the ministry because of their contradiction with the principles of academic self-governance. In October 2021, it voiced its disapproval with the trend of public finances, particularly as regards increasing prices of energy and fuel, the rate of inflation and the amount of public debt. The university expressed strong concerns that the proposed radical reduction of public funding would threaten the functioning of higher education institutions.

On 16 November, 2021, the 30th anniversary of the student demonstrations preceding the Velvet Revolution, Comenius University cooperated with the Slovak University of Technology, the Council of Higher Education Institutions and the Student Council for Higher Education to hold a "Responsible protest for free universities" which drew thousands into the streets. Universities repeatedly

warned that there was a threat of political nominees gaining direct power over them, which would also lead them to lose control over their property, and pointed out that the amendment solved few of the actual problems of higher education. Several authorities and organisations subsequently expressed support for the universities' concerns.

On 21 February 2022, by way of protest, Comenius University suspended tuition and granted the students a rector's leave. During the protest, lectures and discussions on the topic of academic freedom took place. On 22 March 2022, a protest gathering of several universities before the Slovak Parliament took place and the Declaration of the Council of Higher Education Institutions was delivered to the representatives of the parliament. Eventually, the amended law was approved by the Slovak government one day later. The university took notice of this fact and concluded that although the proposed amended law did contain a number of compromises, it still failed to address many of the problems that universities have to face.

WAR IN UKRAINE

On 24 February 2022, the Russian Federation violated the sovereignty of Ukraine. At that time, 454 Ukrainian students were studying at Comenius University, and 11 persons from Ukraine were employed by the University. The University immediately rejected the Russian aggression and reached out to students and staff from Ukraine, as well as others who were affected by the crisis.

The University waived accommodation fees at dormitories for students from Ukraine, offered them a one-off stipend of 200 euros, and reserved capacity for temporary accommodation of their family members. Those accommodated were provided meals and assistance in administrative matters relating to documents, schools, kindergartens and employment. Other forms of support, including psychological, spiritual and legal counselling and other volunteer activities were also organized.

Students and employees became involved and organized several collections of

clothing, food and other necessities for refugees. Students also helped with the accommodation, interpreting and medical treatment. Studia Academica Slovaca and the Centre for Continuing Education became involved, offering several Slovak language courses and online Slovak and Ukrainian language manuals.

Comenius University also offered the possibility of continuing study mobility to additional Ukrainian citizens.

MANAGING PEOPLE

In the 2021/2022 academic year, Comenius University launched the HRS4RUK project which aims to improve the management of its human resources. In 2021 the University signed the European Charter of Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers of the European Commission, which define standard working conditions of staff at research institutions. Through a questionnaire and an analysis of existing internal regulations, Comenius University identified areas which employees perceive as weaknesses, and will strive to improve

them. Specific measures are outlined in the newly adopted Strategy of the Management and Development of Human Resources. The main goal is to keep domestic talent at the University and to attract international researchers. Next year, CU aims to obtain the HR Excellence in Research Award from the European Commission. This "quality label" will be a confirmation that our university is an attractive employer in the European research area.

POPULARIZATION OF SCIENCE

European Researchers' Night
Experts from Comenius University contributed to the programme of the 15th edition of the popular science festival. It was held online, on 24 September 2021. Visitors could join discussions taking place in online studios with experts from the Faculty of Natural Sciences, the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics, the Faculty of Medicine, and the Faculty of Arts.

Falling Walls Lab Slovakia
On 30 September 2021, the 4th annual

Presentation of the University at the 2022 Pohoda Festival.

edition of Falling Walls Lab Slovakia took place. It offers young innovators the opportunity to present their new research, ideas, projects and business models. Matej Badin from the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics and SISSA Trieste, who presented an innovative method of simulating transformations of solid materials under pressure was awarded first prize. The 2nd place was awarded to Dr. Oliver Monfort from the Faculty of Natural Sciences.

Science and Technology Week

As part of the Science and Technology Week, the Jessenius Faculty of Medicine in Martin offered various lectures for primary and secondary school pupils, teachers, and the general public. In one of them, participants could learn why we feel well wherever we are, what can happen to us high up in the mountains, or in space.

TEDxUniverzitaKomenského

The third year of the TEDxUniverzitaKomenského event was symbolically named Recovery. Life at the university resumed after a pause caused by the pandemic. This year, the event



Gaudeamus fair in Brno.

Comenius University
Open Days

High school students
experienced a day in
the life of a university
student.

Clinical Skills Event

Amosfest

was held on 28 April 2022 in UniK Mlyny, the university club recently reopened after renovation. The event attracted 100 participants who listened to 5 speakers presenting ideas worth spreading. In addition, after the online pandemic revolution, TEDxLive introduced the possibility of participating online.

Pohoda 2022

This year, the Pohoda music festival took place between 7 and 9 July 2022. Comenius University was represented at the Pohoda festival through the ECOmenius project, which organizes and recruits volunteers who take care of proper waste sorting. In this way, teams of volunteers raise awareness about recycling among visitors of the festival. On Friday and Saturday, in our 'discussion tent' we talked about social issues from the perspective of the university with our colleagues from the university and with guests from friendly institutions.

WORK WITH THE YOUTH

In the 2021/2022 academic year,

Comenius University spent a total of 41 days (both online and on-site) at education fairs, promoting itself to those interested in university study. The total number of visitors reached 72,444. Due to the pandemic, however, some fairs were only held online or were cancelled.

Gaudeamus

Between 23 and 26 November 2021, Comenius University was present at the Gaudeamus fair in Brno, which attracted 22,565 visitors. Due to pandemic measures in Slovakia, the fairs in Bratislava and Nitra were changed to 'Gaudeamus lecture and presentation days' and lasted one day each. The fair in Bratislava was held on 15 October 2021 and the one in Nitra on 4 November 2021.

Virtual Open Day

Comenius University also participated in a virtual open day event for future applicants, which was organized by the National Career Centre. The event took place in five instalments, each time focusing on a different topic. The CU profile was visited the most during the first instalment of the event, on 13 and 14

October 2021. On the other dates, 24 to 25 November 2021; 15 and 16 December; 19 and 20 January 2022 and 23 and 24 February, the event generated on average 200 visits.

Studuj.to

The university participated in this online fair which took place on 3 November 2021.

Comenius University Open Days

In 2021 Comenius University held its open days event online for the second year in a row. On 3 November 2021 it presented the possibilities of study at its twelve faculties. The event was broadcast from the Auditorium on YouTube and Facebook. Individual faculties were presented by their representatives and the potential students could then ask questions via the sli.do platform. Each faculty also had a virtual room where students could talk to and get information from study advisors or students.

Open Days at Faculties

Some faculties organised their own open days online. On 5 November 2021, the

Faculty of Pharmacy had its open day in an MS Teams virtual room where its vice-deans were available for questions. This format was also repeated by FPHARM on 10 February 2022 and by FSES on 23 February 2022. The Faculty of Physical Education and Sport had its open day on 21 January 2022, one day before such event at the Faculty of Arts. Open days at the Evangelical Lutheran Theological Faculty were available throughout the month of February and those interested could schedule interviews with its representatives. In February, more Open Days were held at the Jessenius Faculty of Medicine in Martin (4 February), the Faculty of Law (11 February) and the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics (9 February), which held another Open Day on 8 June specifically for junior students at secondary schools. The Faculty of Roman Catholic Theology of Cyril and Methodius held its Open Day on 8 May.

A day in the life of a university student

This annual event for secondary school students who are not yet in their final year took place on two dates - 24 and 31

May 2022. In one day, secondary school students had the opportunity to attend university lectures and see what topics are tackled at a university. Lectures were held in the Auditorium and there were stalls in which faculty representatives and students were available for discussion.

Webinars for secondary school students

During the months of February and March 2022, at the time when applications are submitted to universities, we organised seven webinars on various topics, intended to give secondary school students information about starting a university study, about available fields of study, and to provide tips and advice on handling the first months at a university. Lecturers at the seminars came both from the university and from businesses. The webinars are available to students on the university's YouTube channel.

FROM STUDENTS TO STUDENTS

Students of pharmacy and medicine came together with a vision of developing interdisciplinary cooperation and interprofessional education, and

organised a competition for students in both medical fields. The 9th annual edition of the *Clinical Skills Event* was held on 11 March 2022. For the first time, the participants competed in mixed teams, each consisting of two medical students and two students of pharmacy. Up to 70 contestants took part in the competition, solving clinical case studies of real patients. The winners were fifth-year students Alžbeta Angstová and Alexandra Nemčíková from the Faculty of Pharmacy and sixth-year students Lucia Tibenská and Daniela Šutovská from the Faculty of Medicine.

The opening of the academic year 2021/2022 was celebrated by the Amosfest festival. Its musical line-up included the Tolstoys, Dennyiah and Malalata, and the programme also contained various discussions. The University Rector Marek Števček addressed the audience, explaining why and how Comenius University changed its visual identity. Stand-up comedians entertained the crowd with their performances.

SPORT

Successful athletes

On 30 September 2021, the Rector Marek Števíček met with the athletes who successfully represented Comenius University at the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo. Samuel Baláž, bronze medalist in K4 sprint kayak, and Veronika Vadovičová, gold medalist in para-shooting, are both from the Faculty of Physical Education and Sport. Juraj Mokry from the Jessenius Faculty of Medicine in Martin is a volleyball referee, and Luboš Rupčík from the Faculty of Physical Education and Sport is a referee in competitive gymnastics.

World InterUniversities Championships

A sports team consisting of students from nine faculties represented Comenius University at the 6th *World InterUniversity Championships* in Rome on 10-14 November 2021. In final ranking it won the first place against a competition of 41 universities from 13 countries. This is the third such victory in a row at the world championships. Comenius University students won 5 out of the 12 categories.

Winter Universiade after the pandemic

The Slovak Winter Universiade, organised by our university, is yet another significant sports event. It took place after a forced hiatus of two years, between 7 and 11

February 2022, while some competitions were organised outside of this main event. The Universiade began with cross-country skiing in Skalka near Kremnica and closed with downhill skiing in Šachtičky in Banská Bystrica. In total, there were thirteen disciplines - cross-country skiing, biathlon, downhill skiing, badminton, table tennis, headis, weightlifting, karate, futsal, crossfit, ice-hockey, floorball and dance sports. Comenius University ranked first with 820.18 points and took home the most medals. Athletes representing Comenius University won 15 gold, 17 silver and 11 bronze medals. The Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica came in second, and the University of Economics in Bratislava took third place.

Slovak Academic Basketball Championships

After the victories at the international WIUC tournament in Rome and at the Slovak University Finals, the basketball team of Comenius University won their third title. The Slovak Academic Basketball Championships took place on 2 June 2022 at the Department of Physical Education and Sport of the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics. In the finals, the university team of basketball players, most of whom are from the Faculty of Physical Education and Sport, beat the University of Žilina 78 to 72.

WE INSPIRE

Comenius University Bratislava is present on social networks. In the previous academic year, we exceeded 10,000 followers on Instagram and are still number two on Slovak LinkedIn. Since February, we have been actively promoting activities for people affected by the war, which were organised by the university, its faculties or student associations. In March, we ran a month-long challenge, “#odhodlaj sa” (“get going”), to encourage students to exercise outdoors, self-educate or start new or long-postponed activities.

We continued to publish the “I am CU” and “Science is in the family” columns. We also brought regular news about events at the university in which students could participate. In May, and in cooperation with the Enlight Office we used our social network accounts to spread information about opportunities to study abroad and to participate in mobility projects in the form of summer schools or courses. We did not neglect the various World Days, including the Pi Day, the World Environment Day, Earth Day or International Day of Forests and we developed quizzes and fun fact listicles for our students to test their knowledge. We produced tips on how to study effectively and how to manage stress before exams. We produced short videos about the

most interesting research undertaken at each faculty, aimed at those interested in applying to our University.

AWARDS OF SCIENTISTS

Every year Comenius University researchers receive various domestic and international awards.

ESET Science Award

For the third year, ESET Foundation has given awards to outstanding personalities of Slovak science for their scientific, research and teaching work. The gala night took place on 16 October 2021 and was broadcast live on RTVS. An international jury chaired by the Physics Nobel Prize laureate Kip S. Thorne, decided to award the Prize of the Public to associate professor Katarína Mikušová from the Faculty of Natural Sciences.

Highly Cited Researcher 2021

For the second time, Michal Fečkan, professor of mathematics from the Department of Mathematical Analysis and Numerical Mathematics at the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics, was among the world's most cited scientists. He received the prestigious Highly Cited Researcher award for 2021 in the field of mathematics because his papers attracted more than 3000 citations. The professor specializes in

nonlinear functional analysis, dynamic systems, and their applications. He wrote several scientific monographs which were published by the most prestigious international publishing houses. He is also the recipient of the Slovak Scientist of the Year award for 2017.

Decorations by the Slovak President

On 8 May 2022, the President of the Slovak Republic Zuzana Čaputová awarded state awards to 25 notable personalities of social life. The recipients also include experts from Comenius University Bratislava. Professor Milan Lapin, head of the Department of Meteorology and Climatology at the Department of Astronomy, Earth Physics and Meteorology of the FMPI was awarded the Order of Ľudovít Štúr, Second Class for extraordinary contributions to the progress of science in Slovakia. Professor Michal Mego, Head of the Second Clinic of Oncology of the Faculty of Medicine and the National Institute of Oncology, was awarded the Order of Ľudovít Štúr, Second Class, for extraordinary contributions to the progress of science in the Slovak Republic, particularly in the field of oncology.

Scientist of the Year

Outstanding scientists were honoured by awards at the Slovak Scientist of the Year event. The 25th anniversary took place

on 14 June 2022 in the Moyzes Hall of the Faculty of Arts. The title Scientist of the Year 2021 was awarded to Professor Pavol Prokop from the Faculty of Natural Sciences for clarifying how reproductive strategies and evolutionary aspects of behavioural strategies are involved in avoiding pathogen contamination. He has published more than 170 research papers available in the Web of Science and Nature Index databases. In 2020 and 2021 his publication activity reached a rating of 941 SCI.

Slovak Woman of the Year in Science and Research

On 23 June, the Slovak Woman of the Year 2022 awards were presented. The event took place in the Reduta Palace in Bratislava. Associate professor Tatiana Betáková from the Faculty of Natural Sciences won the award in the Science and Research category. Her research focuses on the influenza virus and the immune response and pathogenicity of viruses. She works at the Department of Microbiology and Virology of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and is also a researcher at the Biomedical Center of the Academy of Sciences.



Luboš Rupčík, Juraj Mokry, Marek Števíček, Veronika Vadovičová, Samuel Baláž



Cross-country skiing in Skalka near Kremnica at the Slovak Winter Universiade.

Dance sports at the Slovak Winter Universiade.



Professor Michal Fečkan with the Nobel Prize laureate Kip Thorne.



Comenius University decided to join other institutions around the world and illuminate its doors in green on 2 November 2021 to raise awareness about the topics of the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow (COP26).



INFRASTRUCTURE

Comenius University is intimately linked to the city of Bratislava. It is the soul and lungs of the city. Parts and facilities of the university can be found in all corners of the city. Comenius University does not only consist of its faculties; it also has hospitals, pharmacies, the Botanical Garden, a garden of medicinal plants, a herbarium, dozens of dormitory buildings, libraries, the Comenius University Press and the Comenius University Archive. Although Comenius University is not a campus-type university, this has its advantages. When you are getting to know the individual parts of the university, you will travel around the whole city and get to explore it. One of the faculties – the Jessenius Faculty of Medicine – is located in Martin. Several more university facilities are located in Modra, at the Richňava lake, in Nitra and in other cities of Slovakia.

DORMITORIES

Comenius University has the largest portfolio of accommodation facilities for students in Slovakia. In addition to Mlyny and Družba, Comenius University also owns the Lafranconi dormitories, dormitories in Martin, a home for theologians and two priest seminaries. At the end of 2021, these dormitories were serving 7,584 accommodated students of the university. In the canteens, 665,566 main meals were served.



The dormitories and their surroundings are gradually being renovated.



The Richňava educational and training facility in the Štiavnické vrchy mountains underwent a complete renovation.



The Centre for Active Aging was established at the Faculty of Physical Education and Sport of Comenius University. Its grand opening took place on 19 October 2021.



At the Mlyny campus, the university reopened the legendary and oldest university club in Slovakia, UniK.

ACADEMIC LIBRARY

In 2021, the services of the library were used by 11,028 registered users. Comenius University students accounted for the largest number of them - 10,016. During the year, 292,164 documents were borrowed. The library offers access to 557,352 publications, including books, theses, journals and articles.

COMENIUS UNIVERSITY PRESS

In 2021, Comenius University Press substantially increased its production. It published 295 publications, the largest proportion of which were study materials, accounting for 53%. Electronic publications make up more than one third of all publications. Publications are sold through brick-and-mortar stores and an e-shop.

CENTRE FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

The centre operates the information systems and maintains the information and communication infrastructure. The centre is also technically responsible for the electronic student information system, electronic mail, the online presence of the university, the IT Support Centre and other things.

BOTANICAL GARDEN

The Botanical Garden's mission includes the preservation and enlargement of the collections of living plants as well as the experimental acclimatization of various plant species. The plant displays are accessible to primary and secondary schools as well as the general public through exhibitions and seminars.

ARCHIVE

This is a professional facility which receives, records, protects and makes accessible archived documents that are related to Comenius University or education in Slovakia in general. Its collections include diplomas, photographs, general documentation, audio-visual documents and museum artefacts, including gowns, medals, insignia and teaching aids.

PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING SERVICE

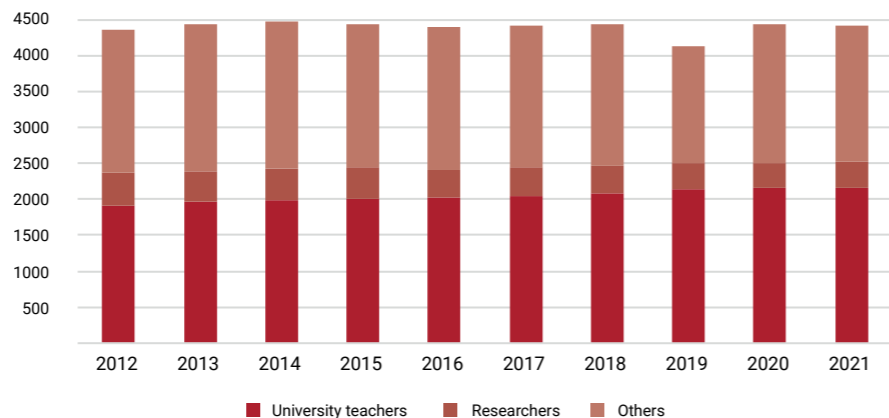
The service remained vital in yet another year affected by the pandemic and continued to assist students and staff who experienced stress and anxiety due to the situation. While in the past there were, on average, about 100 new clients per year, this number rose to 280 in 2021. In addition to them, the service is used by its regular clients. Its staff was expanded to include two new part-time workers. Counselling is also provided online.



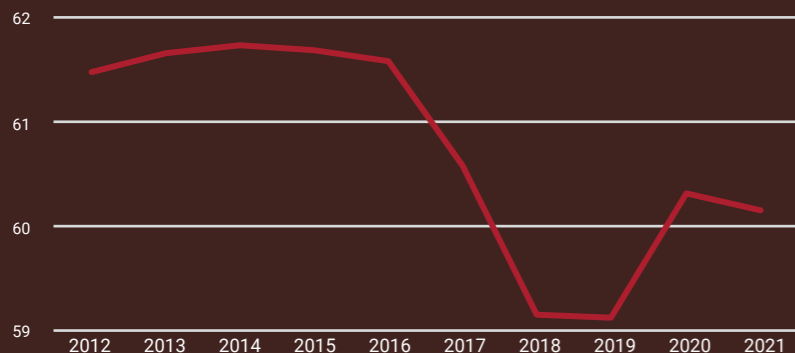
HUMAN RESOURCES

In 2021, Comenius University had a total of 4,426 employees. Out of this number, 2,163 were university teachers and 363 were researchers. Comenius University is one of the largest employers in Slovakia. The university focuses on the development of its human resources, especially those most qualified.

THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES OF COMENIUS UNIVERSITY BETWEEN 2012 AND 2021 IN FULL-TIME EQUIVALENTS



THE AVERAGE AGE OF PROFESSORS HAS BEEN STEADILY DECREASING



Professor Pavol Prokop from the Faculty of Natural Sciences became Scientist of the Year 2021. He received the award for clarifying how reproductive strategies and evolutionary aspects of behavioural strategies are involved in avoiding pathogen contamination.

**COMENIUS UNIVERSITY BRATISLAVA 2021/2022
IN NUMBERS - GRAPHS - PICTURES**

Address: Šafárikovo nám. 6, P. O. Box 440,
814 99 Bratislava, Slovakia
E-mail: infocentrum@uniba.sk
Phone: +421 2 9010 9986

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