

# Report on the Activities of Science and Research

## Faculty of Economics Technical University of Liberec

for 2016

### 1 Research, Development and other Creative Activities

#### Characteristics of Creative Activities

In 2016, one applied research project within the OMEGA program funded by the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic and one basic research project supported by the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic were solved at the Faculty of Economics of the Technical University of Liberec. International cooperation was represented by one Erasmus + / K2 project “*Strategic Partnership for Higher Education*”. Doctoral program students realized their research activities in 8 projects under the Students’ Grant Competition.

#### Combination of Creative Activity and Educational Activity

In 2015, the Faculty founded the Student Business Club (SBC), the aim of which is to establish cooperation with the business community and with students who are eager and ambitious to do business. *The Best Start-up Competition at TUL* was launched. Out of 26 teams, 7 teams participated in the final evaluation. A week-long Summer School of Business organized in September met with great interest from both TUL students and the Faculty of Economics TUL graduates.

The Student Scientific and Professional Activities Competition is held every year. In 2016, it was organized together with other TUL faculties.

Besides Student Scientific and Professional Activities, doctoral program students also participated in Student Grant Competition. In 2016, 8 projects were supported by over a total of 2 million CZK.

#### Scientific Conferences

In September 2016, the Faculty organized the traditional international conference Liberec Informatics Forum attended by about 50 academics; a third of the participants were from abroad (e.g. Slovenia, Switzerland, Denmark and Austria). The conference proceedings were sent to the Scopus and Thomson Reuters indexed databases.

In 2016, there was another important conference organized by the Faculty in cooperation with the Czech Society for Operational Research and the Czech Econometric Society - the 34th International Conference "*Mathematical Methods in Economics*". A total of 153 participants attended the conference, of which 32 were from abroad (e.g. Italy, Iran, Germany and Poland).

## **Institutional Research Support**

The Faculty of Economics of the Technical University of Liberec supported scientific activities and mutual cooperation of academic staff within the framework of the Faculty research focus aimed at creating a knowledge base for submitting future project applications to the Grant Agency and Technology Agency of the Czech Republic.

As far the Economics and Management program was concerned, the focus was on strategic business performance management, for the Economic Policy and Administration program on Good Governance for Functioning Governance. The System Engineering and Informatics program focused on agile information services as an important attribute of system approaches. These three-year research projects were completed in 2016 and the findings of their operation were used in the preparation of a new type of institutional research to be launched at the Faculty in 2017.

## **Participation of the Application Sphere in the Creation and Implementation of Study Programmes**

In addition to the traditionally used participation of practitioners in teaching relevant special subjects, the professional interconnection of the application sphere with the Faculty of Economics TUL study programs is the professional training of Faculty of Economics TUL students. The internship is included as compulsory in the curricula of all fields of study at the Faculty; it is possible to consider extending the scope of these internships within the framework of future new accreditation or re-accreditation of traditional study programs.

A positive element for the participation of the application sphere in the implementation of study programs still appears the increasing number of work stays abroad realized within the Erasmus program.

## **Cooperation with Application Sphere on Creation and Transfer of Innovations**

The Faculty participates in the innovation efforts not only within projects and contract research conducted for partner companies and institutions, but also in student competitions and initiatives such as the Preciosa Crystal Challenge and Student Business Club. These activities support the business environment at TUL and creative and innovative thinking of both students and academics.

## **Number of Contracts Concluded with the Application Sphere Subject to Use Research, Development and Innovation Results**

One contract was concluded with the Statutory City of Liberec (update of territorial analytical documents of the ORP Liberec), which is a follow-up to the results of the TACR TD010029 project "*Definition of Sub-regions for Differentiation and Solution of Social and Economic Disparities*".

In 2016, 4 contract research projects were implemented for contracting authorities from practice.

The Student Business Club initiative attracted 26 teams to the 2016 *Best Start-up Competition at TUL*. 7 finalist teams presented their start-up projects with very interesting and innovative ideas. The jury, composed of experts with practical experience in innovation, chose as winning a project by a student of the Faculty of Architecture and Arts, confirming that this Faculty of Economics' activity has a university-wide impact. The project was financially supported by both the faculty and Škoda Auto and is being further developed, so it can be seen as a start-up.

## 2 Internationalization

### Strategies for the Development of International Relations and International Environment

Internationalization remains one of the Faculty's priorities and is reflected in the Faculty's specific activities. The Faculty has a significant number of outgoing academic staff from the Faculty of Economics of the Technical University of Liberec and incoming academic staff from partner foreign universities. On this basis, other possibilities of cooperation with partner universities are being developed, e.g. joint degree programs such as joint degree or double degree, joint international projects and other activities. In 2016, for example, financial support was received for the project "*Sharpen*", which focuses on H.R. and small and medium-sized projects and involving representatives from partner universities from five countries. In November 2016, seven colleagues from abroad visited Liberec on the occasion of the project's opening meeting.

Bilateral cooperation with the University of Huddersfield Business School, UK, is a traditional part of the Faculty's international activities. For the mobility of PhD students at the University of Huddersfield, the bilateral Erasmus + contract was extended at the end of 2016.

As part of the SBC Business Workout initiative, a start-up Skype communication was realized between Business Workout participants, i.e. TUL students and graduates on the Czech side and students (including international ones) of Karelia University of Applied Sciences from Joensuu, Finland, the Faculty partner.

In the first months of 2016, two Brazilian students took part in the Faculty "*Unigou*" project. In the middle of the year, the first group of Indian students started they paid study.

The Faculty of Economics of the Technical University of Liberec has been involved in international educational programs, particularly within the ERASMUS program and the Ministry of Education's development programs.

In 2016, a total of 127 Faculty of Economics students travelled abroad, while 74 students from abroad came to the Faculty. 23 Faculty staff Members completed mobility abroad and 19 foreign workers came to the Faculty.

## 3 Quality Assurance and Evaluation of Activities

In 2016, the Faculty of Economics won the National Quality Award of the Czech Republic in the START EUROPE program in the public sector category. The prize was awarded by the Quality Council of the Czech Republic. In addition to the national award, the faculty also received the international EFQM award. The START EUROPE program is based on rigorous and objective

verification of the effectiveness and quality of all activities of the organization and their evaluation, especially in terms of meeting the requirements of interested parties and achieving economic success. It is based on the EFQM Excellence Model, which is used in the European Award for Quality in many European countries.



## Internal and External Evaluation of the Quality of Education, in particular by the National Accreditation Office for Universities

Electronic anonymous assessment is used for internal students' evaluation of the quality of education, which is carried out for each semester on the basis of a questionnaire survey within IS STAG. This questionnaire is then evaluated and the results are presented to the heads of Departments and individual teachers.

In addition, annual evaluations are carried out on the basis of observations by the heads of Departments and individual teachers. The result is proposals for innovation of study subjects and curricula, including staffing.

In 2016, the Faculty of Economics TUL underwent a standard process of re-accreditation of several fields of study.

## 4 National and International Excellence of the Faculty

The main achievement in the area of excellence can be considered to be the National Quality Award from the Quality Council of the Czech Republic and the international award EFQM - Committed to Excellence in 2016 (see chapter 11). As part of this competition, the Faculty of Economics TUL joined the START EUROPE program, which is established on consistent and objective verification of the effectiveness and quality of all activities of the organization and their evaluation, in particular from the perspective of meeting the requirements of interested parties. It is based on the EFQM Excellence Model used in the European Quality Award in many European countries. The project was followed by external validation by the National Centre of Excellence.

The Faculty of Economics TUL cooperates with a number of foreign universities. As part of an international project: “*SMEs - Human Resource Attraction, Retention and Performance Enhancement Network*”, funded by the European Structural Funds, the Faculty partners come from 4 countries (UK - Huddersfield, Germany - Zwickau, Lithuania - Klaipeda, Finland - Kajaani ).

In addition, the Faculty of Economics TUL participated in the Global University Entrepreneurial Spirit Students’ Survey. A total of 51 countries from around the world participated in this survey. The main organizer of the project is the University of St. Gallen.

The Faculty of Economics TUL is the bearer of a project focused on cooperation between universities for the sustainable development of the Czech-Polish border area. This project will enable students of both participating partner universities to increase their professional and intercultural competencies and to equip them better for the labour market conditions (project No. CZ.11.2.45 / 0.0 / 0.0 / 16\_012 / 0000437).

### Membership in International Associations, Organizations and Societies

doc. Ing. Klára Antlová, Ph.D. - Member of the Editorial Board of the Information and Communication Technologies magazine for the Advanced Enterprises (Portugal)

Ing. Vladimíra Hovorková Valentová - Member of ACC NISA Economic Section

prof. Ing. Jiří Kraft, CSc. - Member of the Editorial Board of Inžinerinė Ekonomika (Lithuania), Member of the Editorial Board of Kreativnaya Ekonomika (Russia)

prof. Ing. Ivan Jáč, CSc. – Member of ACC NISA – Euroregion Nisa Academic Coordination Centre

PaedDr. Helena Neumannová, Ph.D. - ACC NISA - Academic Coordination Centre of the Euroregion Neisse, Head of the Secretariat, Coordinator, Member of the Presidium

doc. Ing. Jan Skrbek - Member of IGIP - International Society for Engineering Pedagogy, Austria

prof. Ing. Miroslav Žižka, Ph.D. - Member of editorial board of Creative and Knowledge Society - International Scientific Journal (Slovakia)

Members of the Department of Economics are Members of RSAI - Regional Science Association International

## **Membership in Professional Associations, Organizations and Societies**

doc. Ing. Klára Antlová, Ph.D. - Secretary of CSSI - Czech Society for System Integration

prof. Ing. Ivan Jáč, Ph.D. - Member of the Czech Economic Society, Member of the Board of the District Chamber of Commerce in Liberec

prof. Ing. Jiri Kraft, CSc. - Member of the Czech Economic Society

doc. Ing. Šárka Laboutková, Ph.D. - Member of the Czech Economic Society, Member of the Czech Society for Political Sciences

PaedDr. Helena Neumannová, Ph.D. - Member of the International Association of Germanists and Teachers of German (SGUN)

Mgr. Jiří Rozkovec - Member of the Czech Society of Operational Research

doc. Ing. Petra Rydvalová, Ph.D. - Member of the Regional Contact Organization within VÚTS Liberec, a.s.

doc. Ing. Jozefina Simova, Ph.D. - Chairwoman of the Regional Club of ČMS Liberec - Czech Marketing Society, Member of the Main Committee of ČMS, Czech Marketing Society

doc. Ing. Jan Skrbek - Member of CSSI - Czech Society for System Integration

Ing. Jaroslava Srovátková - Member of ARR - Regional Development Agency

PaedDr. Irena Vlčková, Ph.D. - Member of the International Association of Germanists and Teachers of German (SGUN)

prof. Ing. Miroslav Žižka, Ph.D. - Member of the Accreditation Commission for Higher Professional Education

Faculty Members have been active in various regional initiatives, such as the Innovation Platform of the Liberec Region, the Employment Pact of the Liberec Region and initiatives to create a business incubator in the Liberec Region.

## **5 Departments' Annual Report**

### **DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

#### **Department Profile**

The Department of Foreign Languages provides teaching foreign languages for specific purposes at five faculties of the Technical University of Liberec. It offers Business English, German, Russian, Spanish and French courses.

## **Research and Creative Activity**

In addition to the educational activities, the Department focuses on improving the quality of foreign language teaching through our own or partner projects and cooperation with domestic and foreign organizations.

The creative activities of the Department Members focus on the development of students' language competencies in the context of the requirements of the "European Language Portfolio" and on the issues of applied linguistics and foreign language didactics. In this field, two Department Members have been long involved in their publications. Translation of specific texts is also the Department's significant activity.

In 2016, two projects were solved at the Department: *"Music and German Texts as an Opportunity for Communication and Students Exchange"* - the project was solved together with a trainee from the University of Vienna, supported by AKTION Czech Republic-Austria funds. The second project was solved in the framework of the Interreg program (OP CR-Saxony) - *"Cooperation of Universities for the Sustainable Development of the Czech-Polish Border Area"*. The partner university of the Faculty of Economics TUL is Uniwersytet Ekonomiczny we Wrocławiu, the main activity of the project are joint workshops for students focused on the issues of regional products.

## **DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS**

### **Department Profile**

Department of Economics is in its pedagogical and research activities focused on the fields of economic theory, economic and regional policies, European economic integration and the world and developing countries economy.

### **Research Activity**

The Department Members solved the project *"Regional Development of the Czech Republic in the Context of the Onset of the 4th Industrial Revolution"* in the frame of support of excellent research teams of the Faculty of Economics. In 2016, a prestigious scientific activity was the implementation of the GACR project (GA16-08786S) *"The Impact of Lobbying Transparency on Democratization and its Consequences"*. In the framework of contractual research, *"Study of the Impact of the Free Trade Agreement between the EU and Vietnam and the EU and Singapore on the Czech Economy"* was created. The project *"Implementation of Systemic Coordination of Partner Activities within the Employment Pact of the Liberec Region"* was also addressed.

Another form of scientific work was participation at international conferences with own contributions and professional publishing. In 2016, the conclusions of research activities were published in two scientific monographs, in two articles in non-zero IF journals, in five articles in journals indexed in the Scopus database, and in two specialized articles. In 2016, the Department Members actively participated in international conferences in the Czech Republic and abroad. Thirteen papers were published in WoS and Scopus proceedings. One standard GACR grant was submitted, which was not accepted for funding. In 2016, seven projects within the Student Scientific and Professional Activities and two projects of the Student Grant Competition were implemented at the Department.

### **Contact with Public**

The Department academic staff are Members of European Regional Science Association ERSA.

## **DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING**

### **Department Profile**

In its pedagogical and research activities, the focus of the Department has long been on two fundamental lines: accounting and taxes; finance and financial management of business entities.

### **Research Activity**

Research activities are an integral part of the Department's work. In 2016, a collective monograph was published by the team of the Department, thus completing the cooperation of the entire Department on the faculty's scientific and research plans. Within the internal student grant competition, Ing. Kafková realized the grant: "*Business Calculations in Relation to the Performance of Companies*".

In spring 2016, the Department submitted a project application to GACR, but this application was not successful. Members of the Department also participated in the preparation of two international projects with partners from Poland (Erasmus + and OP RDE), but neither project was accepted for funding.

The research results of individual Members of the Department were presented in the form of expert articles in reputable domestic and foreign journals and in international scientific conferences proceedings, whose outputs were evaluated according to the requirements of RIV.

### **Contact with Public and International Cooperation**

Within lectures of professional subjects, 3 lectures by experts from practice were realized during the course Public Finance (thematically focused on Public Administration and Transparency of Public Finances). In December 2016 a lecture "Modern Controlling Methods - Current Trends" was presented for the 2nd year of the follow-up study of Business Administration in the subject Business Planning and Controlling. Students of the follow-up field of Business Financial Systems took part in a professional excursion in the company VGD - Audit, s.r.o.

One employee of the Department has been cooperating with the Chamber of Auditors of the Czech Republic for a long time and is an examiner of Accounting II. - part Financial Institutions - Commercial Insurance Companies (the tests are run twice a year). The Department also established cooperation with ACCA (the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants).

The possibility of recognizing some subjects taught at the Faculty for the purpose of qualification as a professional accountant in a transnational environment with ACCA certification was discussed. In October 2016, a Member of the Department attended the ACCA Train the Academics workshop (ACCA Financial Reporting Exam)". This training was realized in cooperation with PWC Academy.

The Members of the Department also took part in the SGS EF TUL Commission in 2016 and sat in the evaluation committee of the student competition SVOČ. The Members of the Department also processed review reports for contributions at scientific conferences and reviewed scientific articles in scientific journals.

The Department has been cooperating with the Finansów i Rachunkowości Department at the University of Economics in Wrocław, based in Jelenia Góra. Two Members of the Department participated in a study stay at the Cultural Institute Galway, Ireland as part of the Erasmus +



Training Program. A Member of the Department attended a study program at Brighton Language College, Brighton, UK.

## **DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATICS**

### **Department Profile**

The Department of Informatics has been focused for a long time on focuses on agile approaches to support information processes in organizations, especially in relation to new possibilities of information and communication technologies (ICT) and system analysis.

### **Research activity**

Employees of the Department applied for the GACR project “*Modern Ontological Tool for Information Sharing for Effective Management of Unpredictable situations*”. The Department staff and PhD students published 17 research papers. The system of continuous records of scientific and research activities, created by a department employee, was fully deployed and used throughout the university during 2016.

In November 2016, the Department organized the Eleventh International Scientific Conference Liberec Informatics Forum in cooperation with the North Bohemian Section of CSSI.

In 2016, doc. Klára Antlová actively participated in the work of the Committee of Social Sciences and Humanities of GACR and served as the Vice-Chairwoman of the Evaluation Panel P403 Business Sciences, Management, Administration, Finance and Financial Econometrics. She was also the guarantor of the international project GUESSS (“*Global University Entrepreneurial Spirit Students’ - Survey*”). This project deals with students' interest in entrepreneurship after graduation and is organized by the University St. Gallen.

Doc. Antlová and a dr. Semerádová cooperated in solving the TACR project “*Family Business - Solving Social and Economic Disparities of Municipalities*” (TD03000035).

### **Contact with Public**

The Members of the Department are represented in a number of professional societies. In 2016, specifically in foreign companies Comenius Academic Club and International Gesellschaft für Ingenieur Pädagogik (doc. Skrbek), in domestic companies such as the Czech Society for System Integration, the Union of Czech Mathematicians and Physicists and the Czechoslovak Association of TeX Users. Two Department teachers are Members of a total of three scientific boards and four doctoral boards. One teacher is a Member of the Grant Committee of the Faculty of Informatics and Statistics of the University of Economics in Prague.

Ing. Petr Weinlich, Ph.D. participated in the investigation of the project “*We are Opening the Door to the World of Science - Multimedia*”, which was financed by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, the grant program “Support of Gifted Pupils in Primary and Secondary Schools in 2016” (MEYS - 29 229 / 2015-4).

In January, the Department of Informatics organized the traditional seminar "Informatics Practice 2016".

In 2016, doc. Antlová and dr. Semerádová participated in activities of the Student Scientific Professional Activities and the Student Business Club with the aim of supporting the

entrepreneurial activities of TUL students, including the organization of the “*Best start-up at TUL*” competition.

## **DEPARTMENT OF MARKETING AND TRADE**

### **Department Profile**

In its pedagogical and research activities, the Department focuses on marketing strategy, marketing research, marketing and corporate communication including advertising, consumer behaviour, customer value, psychology of business conduct and international trade and law.

### **Research Activity**

The Department Members participated in realization of the Faculty research focus and participated in solving TACR projects Omega “*Family Business*”, solution of social and economic disparities of municipalities, OP VVV “*Effective process of technology transfer at TUL*”, Erasmus +, KA2 SHARPEN – “*SMEs Human Resource Attraction, Retention and Performance Enhancement Network*“. Three SGS projects were carried out at the Department, one focused on foreign direct investment and its impact on regional labour markets in the Czech Republic, the other on the Facebook social network and its impact on the loyalty of branded clothing customers and the third one on human resources marketing.

### **Contact with Public**

Members of the Department cooperate with representatives of companies in the field of professional practice, topics of final theses and experts’ lectures for students. An example is Contract Research - Consultation and Methodological Leadership in the “*Škoda Auto Logistics Strategy*” project, lecture and excursion in Lasvit, cooperation with Abix Europe s.r.o. and Kitl s.r.o. At the same time, maintaining active contacts with faculty graduates allows students to be involved in practical projects.

Members of the Department are Members of expert groups and expert teams, such as the Employment Pact of the Liberec Region, the Council of the Association of Tourism of the Liberec Region, the Preparatory Group of the Regional Business Incubator, the Commission for Culture and Tourism of Liberec and the editorial board of the journal Current Europe published by FMV VŠE Prague.

## **DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT**

### **Department Profile**

The Department focuses on three areas: business environment; business process management and relationships between organizations; strategic business management.

### **Research Activity**

In 2016, within the study program Economics and Management, the following important projects were obtained and started at the Department. Research publications are listed in the EFIS TUL information system.

- TACR Omega (investigator prof. Ing. Ivan Jáč, CSc.) - for the period 2016 to 2017 under the name “*Family Business - Social Solutions and Economic Disparities of Municipalities*”.

- ERASMUS +, Strategic Partnerships - KA 2 (investigator Ing. Kateřina Maršíková, Ph.D.) for the period 2016 to 2019 under the title SHARPEN (HRM4SME) – “*SMEs Human Resource Attraction, Retention and Performance Enhancement Network*”.

- Czech Society for Quality (investigator Ing. Eva Šlaichová, Ph.D. and Ing. Magdalena Zbránková, Ph.D.) - for the period 2015 - 2016 under the name “*National Quality Award Project of the Czech Republic*” in the START EUROPE / COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE program.

- Norwegian Grants, Call CZ07 - Scholarship Program and Bilateral Scholarship Program (investigator Ing. Eva Šlaichová, Ph.D.) - for the period January - July 2016 under the name “*Spare Parts Logistics in the International Business*”.

In the area of business processes, strategic management and business environment, the following contract researches were carried out:

- MML: Documentation for the Economic Pillar of the ÚAP for SO ORP Liberec

- Škoda Auto, a.s.: Methodological Guidance and Support in the Elaboration of the Strategic Plan of Škoda Auto Logistics

- Education Centre of the Liberec Region, contributory organization: Creation of an analysis of the current situation in the field of cross-border career guidance and research of existing teaching resources

In the area of research, cooperation with the University of St. Gallen continued as part of the international survey of the relationship of students to business under the name GUESSS, with VÚTS a.s. on the organization of the Ninth Symposium Human Resources Development in Science and Research 2016. The Department participated in the Preciosa Crystal Challenge. It is involved in Student Business Club activities and the organization of the “Best start-up at TUL” competition.

### **Linking Theory with Practice**

In order to **connect theoretical knowledge with practice**, the Department also offered **invited lectures** in the courses taught, such as innovation management, business logistics, introduction to management, etc. In 2016, KPE hosted the following experts: Ing. Eva Křováková (ÚPV, Industrial Law), Ing. Pavol Budaj, PhD., And Ing. Miroslav Špánik, PhD. (Catholic University in Ružomberok), Doreen Liebig (FESTOOL s.r.o.), Ing. Antonín Krejčí (Magna Exteriors, (Bohemia) s.r.o.), Ing. Anna Beranová (PLC-A-Project manager, Logistics Management - Foreign Projects, Skoda Auto a.s.), Michaela Švingerová, Věra Brabcová, Michal Masár (Faurecia), Aleš Chmelař (Chief Economic Analyst from the European Affairs Section of LBK Office), Veronika Dobiášová (Eures for Liberec Region), Kevin McGrath (University of London), Bc. Martin Černoušek, Škoda Auto a.s., Ing. Pavel Cvejn (Magna Exteriors, (Bohemia) s.r.o.).

Teachers participated in teaching and final examinations in the framework of the 1st Jizera Mountains School of Masters - Meisterschule for selected employees of HAAS + SOHN Rukov Ltd., CiS Systems s.r.o. and Novus Česko s.r.o.

The Department continued in cooperation with companies such as Preciosa a.s., Detesk, s.r.o., Lasvit a.s., VÚTS, a.s., Bilsing Automation Czech, s.r.o., ŠKODA Auto a.s. etc. This enables the elaboration of high-quality final theses, professional students competitions and thus also high-quality preparation for their entry into practice.

In the area of business environment, the Department continues to cooperate with selected Departments of the Regional Authority of the Liberec Region, the ARR - Regional Development Agency s.r.o., Korid LK. s.r.o., District and Regional Chamber of Commerce in Liberec, Municipality of Liberec and others.

## **DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS**

### **Department Profile**

In the area of teaching and research, the Department is involved in a wide range of statistical sciences, including statistical, econometric, economic-mathematical and operational research methods applicable in all areas of economic life. The second line of specialization of the Department Members is insurance and social policy.

### **Research Activity**

In 2016, Ing. Markéta Bartůňková's proposal of a SGS project for 2017 was prepared. One project was entered into an internal competition supporting the development of educational activities for 2017 within the Institutional Plan 2017.

In 2016, the Department implemented the IP TUL project *"Improving and Expanding the E-learning Courses of Statistics"*, which followed up on previous activities within the project *"Innovation of the Interdisciplinary Study Program"*.

### **Contact with Public**

In 2016, the Department continued its cooperation with foreign universities.

Karina Benetti applied KA1 for cooperation with Cairo University in Egypt. At the same time, a lecture by prof. Dalie Khalil was held.

Cooperation with prof. Sigitas Vaitkevičius of Kaunas University of Technology in Lithuania, with whom Members of the Department have been cooperating since 2010, continued. Vaitkevičius opened the MME 2016 conference as a key note speaker.

The Department also develops cooperation with practice, such as Kooperativa Insurance Company and Partners Financial Services.

## **Conclusion**

In the area of research and creative activities, the increasing means of institutional support enabled the continuation of the three-year research orientations, which are linked to individual study programs. The aim of this concept was to clearly specify the fields of research activities of the Faculty of Economic TUL Departments towards the development of educational fields at the faculty. Further, to deepen the knowledge base to increase the success of the submission of project proposals, both in the basic area and applied research.

In 2016, research solutions were completed and evaluated. It can be stated that the research focuses contributed to the creation of teams solving specific scientific problems and probably also contributed to increasing the success of the GACR and TACR project applications.

The concept of research focus has been revised towards the support of excellent research teams, with the existing ones as well as with experts from other workplaces. A new competition to support research teams was announced in early 2017.

An important event in the Faculty's activities was the organization of the 34th International Conference Mathematical Methods in Economics 2016, hosted by TUL from 7 to 9 September 2016 in the premises of the new G building at TUL. The conference was organized in cooperation with Czech and Slovak companies for operational research and the Czech Econometric Society. Due to the size of the conference and the number of participants, the Faculty of Economics organized the conference in collaboration with the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and FS TUL.

In the long term, the Faculty of Economics TUL strives to link educational activities with the requirements of practice and to support voluntary creative activities of students. In 2015, the Faculty of Economics TUL established the Student Business Club (SBC) initiative, which aims to support students who are considering doing business. This initiative continued in 2016, when another year of the competition for the best start-up at TUL was announced. It was attended by 26 student teams, of which 7 advanced to the final round of the evaluation. The winning business project of the Faculty of Arts and Architecture student can be considered a supported start-up TUL. The Student Business Club also organized a weekly Summer School of Business, which met with great interest from both TUL students and the Faculty of Economics TUL graduates.