

Report on the Activities of Science and Research

Faculty of Economics Technical University of Liberec

for 2017

1 Research, Development and other Creative Activities

Characteristics of Creative Activities

In 2017, 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*”. For the needs of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the project *Study of the Impact of the Free Trade Agreement between the EU and Vietnam and the EU and Singapore on the Czech Economy*” was being solved.

Combination of Creative Activity and Educational Activity

Within 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 also organized every year.

Scientific Conferences

In September 2017, the Faculty organized the traditional international conference Liberec Economic Forum attended by about 80 academics, a third of which were from abroad (e.g. from Slovenia, Poland and Germany).

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 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. In 2017, a new type of institutional research was established - the support of the so-called excellent research team. Within this activity, a total of 3 three-year projects were funded. The topics were following:

Innovative Marketing as a Tool to Increase Business Competitiveness; Enterprise in the International Environment; and the Czech Republic in the Context of the Onset of the 4th Industrial Revolution.

Cooperation with Application Sphere on Creation and Transfer of Innovations

The Faculty of Economics of the Technical University of Liberec 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

In 2017, a contract was concluded with the Ministry of Industry and Trade to prepare the *“Study of the Impact of the Free Trade Agreement between the EU and Vietnam and the EU and Singapore on the Czech Economy”* (2603766, investigator Ing. Aleš Kocourek, Ph.D.). An agreement on the *“Analysis of the Market of Business Interruption Insurance”* (NFPVP5979 / 3410, investigator Ing. Öhm, Ph.D.) was concluded with the Foundation for Education and Entrepreneurship.

The Faculty of Economics of the Technical University of Liberec has a mandatory compulsory training of at least one month in all bachelor’s study fields. In 2017, 199 students from the Economics and Management study program (2nd year) and the System Engineering study program (3rd year) attended compulsory training.

In 2017, 5 contract research projects were implemented for contracting authorities from practice, out of which 2 projects were transferred from 2016.

The Student Business Club Initiative attracted 26 teams to the 2017 *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 BezBistro as the winning project. The project was also financially supported by the company Jablotron. We can definitely evaluate the project that finished second – Voucherino – as a start-up with similarly excellent parameters.

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 2017, the international project “*Sharpen*”, which focuses on H.R. and small and medium-sized projects and involving representatives from partner universities from five countries, was realized for the second time.

Another successful project implemented in 2017 was a project supported by the Norwegian Funds called “*EFsTART - New Beginning - Cooperation between TUL (EF) and NTNU (FE)*”. Within this framework, EF TUL started cooperation with NTNU, currently the largest university in Norway. Bilateral cooperation with the University of Huddersfield Business School, UK, is a traditional part of the Faculty's international activities.

The Faculty continuously sends its doctoral students for several months' study stays at the University of St. Gallen. These students are partially supported by the TUL Mobility Fund.

In the first months of 2017, three Brazilian students took part in a study placement at the Faculty of Economics of the Technical University of Liberec as part of the Unigou project. The first group of Indian students had already studied full-time at the Faculty.

Negotiations on possible cooperation with Canadian Conestoga College were also resumed. Further negotiations on cooperation with foreign universities – e.g. universities from Taiwan, Thailand and China were in progress.

3 Quality Assurance and Evaluation of Activities

In 2017, two Faculty Members (Dean and Doc. Laboutková) participated in the creation of an internal system for evaluating the quality of educational, creative and other related activities at TUL. The activities were carried out within the framework of the centralized development project “Strategic Cooperation of the University for the Management of the Quality of Technical Education According to the Needs of the Society and the Knowledge Economy” and with the support of the OP VVV project. As a result, the *Code of Ethics for TUL employees and students and the Rules of Quality Assurance of Educational, Creative and Related Activities* and *Internal Quality Assessment of Educational, Creative and Related Activities* were developed.

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. In addition, annual evaluations are carried out on the basis of observations by the heads of Departments and senior staff of the Faculty. For newly prepared accreditation of study programs, the Faculty management prepared a self-assessment report according to the methodological instruction of the National Accreditation Office for Higher Education.

4 National and International Excellence of the Faculty

The Faculty of Economics of the Technical University of Liberec 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, there are partners of the Faculty from 4 countries (UK - Huddersfield, Germany - Zwickau, Lithuania - Klaipeda, Finland - Kajaani).

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

The Faculty of Economics of the Technical University of Liberec organized a project focused on cooperation of universities for the Sustainable Development of the Czech-German Border Region, which enabled students to increase their professional and intercultural competences and better equip them for labour market conditions (project “*Interreg*” No. ERN-0584-CZ-22.11.2017). The project ended with an international workshop *Internationales Management in der Praxis*, which took place at the Vysoká farm.

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)

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. - coordinator of the Czech part of the Academic Coordination Centre in ERN (ACC), Member of the editorial board of the periodical ACC JOURNAL

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 of a professional foreign language at five faculties of the Technical University of Liberec.

Research and Creative Activity

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 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.

Four international one-year projects from the FMP program within the cross-border cooperation in the Euroregion Neisse were solved at the Department:

"Cooperation of Universities for Sustainable Development of the Euroregion" (TUL - UE Jelenia Góra)

"Economic Conference for Young Scientists" (TUL - TU Dresden / IHI)

"International Management in Practice" (TUL - TU Dresden IHI)

"Regional Business as an Example of Good Practice" (TUL - UE Jelenia Góra)

At the end of 2017, the implementation of the three-year international project “*ProFit*” started. This project is solved within the INTERREG program and focuses on the support of the German language in the company environment and on the development of intercultural competences. The partner institution is the Westsächsische Hochschule Zwickau.

In addition to the project activities, the Department Members attended two professional conferences in the Czech Republic and two foreign conferences. The topics mainly dealt with professional training at universities (e.g. Training at Universities in the Czech Republic (Palacký University, Olomouc and Charles University, Prague) or use of electronic media in foreign language teaching (Online Educa Berlin, HS Zittau / Görlitz).

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, the world economy and developing countries.

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 2017, 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 professional publishing. In 2017, the conclusions of research activities were published in two scientific monographs, in three articles in non-zero IF journals, in three articles in journals indexed in the Scopus database, and in two specialized articles. In 2017, the Department Members actively participated in international conferences in the Czech Republic and abroad. Sixteen papers were published in WoS and Scopus proceedings. One standard TACR grant was submitted, which was accepted for funding from 2018. In 2017, twelve 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 RSAI and the Czech Economic Society. Some Members of the Department are Members of faculty and university scientific councils in the Czech Republic and abroad, Members of doctoral study boards and editorial boards of scientific journals in the Czech Republic and abroad.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING

Department Profile

In its pedagogical and research activities, the focus of the Department has long been on public finance, taxes, accounting, corporate finance, corporate financial management and banking.

Research Activity

Research activities are an integral part of the Department's work. During 2017, the Department prepared several project proposals; Members of the Department participated in partial activities of university-wide projects obtained from the OPV VV program (Roliz, Effective TT Process at TUL), and cooperated on a TACR project (the investigator was the Institute for Nanomaterials, Advanced Technologies and Innovations).

In spring 2017, the Department submitted two projects of the internal competition "*Excellent Research*" and a project GACR application, but these applications were not successful. In the second round of the call for the "*Excellent Research*" project, the Department was eventually successful with an accounting project. Members of the Department also participated in the preparation of an international project with partners from Poland, which will be submitted at the beginning of 2018. In the framework of the internal student grant competition, Ing. Kafková realized the grant "*Accounting Systems as the Basis of Business Management*".

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 the framework of teaching specialized subjects, lectures by experts from practice were realized. During teaching the course Business Planning and Controlling for the 2nd year of the follow-up study of Company Economics it was a lecture by Ing. Daniel Holein from KPMG (Cost and Profit Management) and RNDr. Tomáš Nekvapil from the Controller Institute (Modern Controlling in Business Practice). David Ondračka, Director of Transparency International - ČR, o.p.s. (Public Projects and Procurement), delivered his lecture for the first year students of the follow-up study course Public Finance. In April 2017, a professional excursion was organized at Preciosa Lustry, a.s. in Kamenický Šenov, for students of the follow-up study course Company Financial Systems.

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) and the possibility of recognition of some subjects taught at The Faculty of Economics of the Technical University of Liberec for the purpose of qualification as a professional accountant in a transnational environment with ACCA certification was discussed. During 2017, the Members of the Department were involved in the SGS EF TUL Commission and took seats in the jury of the student competition SVOČ. The Members of the Department also wrote peer reviews for submissions to scientific conferences and reviewed professional 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 for a long time. Two Members of the Department traditionally participated in a study stay within the Erasmus + Teaching Mobility program at this university. With the support of the same program, another Member of the Department went on a study stay in Spain (Universitat Politecnica de Valencia, Alfou). Two Members of the Department participated in the Erasmus + Training Program study stay at Gozo, MT (BELS English Language Schools), one 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 the support of information processes in organizations, mainly in relation to new possibilities of information and communication technologies (ICT) and system analysis. The most important areas of interest are the use of innovative approaches and ontological models to support information security in emergency situations (e.g. natural disasters, terrorism, black out, traffic safety, etc.). The Department is the guarantor of the study program System Engineering and Informatics with a bachelor's and master's degree in Computer Science and a Ph.D. degree in Economic Informatics (guaranteed by doc. Skrbek). Doc. Ing. Klára Antlová is the guarantor of the bachelor's study program Information and Communication Management (so-called University Nisa), the first year of which is realized at TUL.

Research Activity

In 2017, two SGS projects - *“Utilization of Big Data and Data Mining Techniques for Prediction of Emergency Situations”* (Ing. Bc. Marián Lamr) and *“Possibilities of Using Social Influencers to Increase the Competitiveness of Small Businesses and Family Businesses”* (Jitka Ládrová) were being solved.

The results of projects and research activities of Members of the Department were published in the form of 22 papers, of which 1 were published in the journal with IF, 2 articles in peer-reviewed journals, 17 papers were presented at conferences abroad (included or with ambition to be included in WOS databases and / or Scopus). In addition, Members of the Department participated in publication of two monographs and in the SW solution of the TACR project *“Family Business - Solving Social and Economic Disparities of Municipalities”* (TD03000035).

In 2017, 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 - the project is organized by University St. Gallen.

Doc. Antlova, prof. Žižka 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 2017, specifically foreign companies Comenius Academic Club and International Gesellschaft für Ingenieur Pädagogik (doc. Skrbek), 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. In January, the Department of Informatics organized the traditional seminar "Informatics Practice 2017". In 2017, 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. Furthermore, they jointly organized the international conference Liberec Economic Forum.

DEPARTMENT OF MARKETING AND TRADE

Department Profile

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 implemented two Faculty projects: *Innovative Marketing as a Tool for Increasing the Competitiveness of Enterprises* and *Enterprise in an International Environment*. Members of the Department were involved in the solution of IPR projects "Communication with Potential High School Applicants" and "Discovering the Causes of Study Failures of EF TUL Students", TACR Omega Project, "Family Business - Social Solutions and Economic Disparities of Municipalities", OP VVV project "Effective process of technology transfer at TUL" and the Erasmus +, KA2, SHARPEN-SMEs project. Two SGS projects were implemented: "Personnel marketing and Employer Brand Management" and "Cross-border Labour Migration due to the Localization of International Companies".

Contact with Public

The Department develops cooperation with companies in the region, helps with the organization of professional practice, final theses, provides lectures of practitioners, and maintains contacts with Faculty graduates. An example is cooperation with the company Kitl, s.r.o. which participated in the assignment of the students semester work; within the subject Customer Value the students solved the attributes, creation and communication of the value that the selected products of the company bring to customers.

The Department also cooperated with the Union of Glass and Costume Jewellery Manufacturers. Members of the Department were Members of expert teams and expert working groups within the Employment Pact of the Liberec Region and the Commission for Culture and Tourism of Liberec, consultants of the Preparatory Group of the Regional Business Incubator and represented the Faculty in the Council of the Liberec Tourism Association.

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

Department Profile

The foundations of the Department were laid in 1992 when the Faculty of Economics of the Technical University of Liberec was founded. Since January 1, 2014, the name of the Department

has been expanded in accordance with its focus on three areas: business environment, business process management and relationships between organizations, strategic business management.

The staff of the Department are also involved in teaching in English to foreign students. In 2016, the Department joined the **program of Czech and Brazilian academic cooperation** (INCBAC). It was established to connect Brazil and the Czech Republic through high-quality academic student mobility. It strengthens research activities between the two countries. In 2017, there was cooperation with Brazilian students from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ). In addition to the exchange of teachers and students within ERASMU, a Member of the Department at went on a stay in Thailand, NIDA University Bangkok.

Research Activity

In 2017, the following research projects with external funding were implemented or newly acquired 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”*, reg. no. TD03000035.

- ERASMUS +, Strategic Partnerships - KA 2 (investigator Ing. Kateřina Maršíková, Ph.D.) - for the period 2016 to 2019 under *SHARPEN* (HRM4SME) – *“SMEs Human Resource Attraction, Retention and Performance Enhancement Network”*, reg. no. 2016-1-CZ01-KA203 –023916.

- GACR *“Empirical Study of the Impact of Cluster Existence on the Performance of Member Companies”* (investigator prof. Ing. Miroslav Žižka, Ph.D.) - for the period 2018 to 2020, reg. no. 18-01144S.

- Czech - Norwegian project (investigators: Ing. Jaroslav Demel, Ph.D., Ing. Pavla Švermová, Ph.D. and Ing. Eva Šírová, Ph.D.) *“New Beginning - Cooperation between TUL (FE) and NTNU (FE)”*, implemented from February to April 2017 within the Czech-Norwegian Research Program (CZ 09).

In the area of research, cooperation with the University St. Gallen continued as part of the international survey of the relationship of students to business under the name **GUESSS**. The survey for the Czech Republic was carried out in 2016, the results were published in 2017. The Department participated in the **Preciosa Crystal Challenge** competition in 2017 and was also involved in entrepreneurship education activities within the **Student Business Club** and organization of the competition *“Best start-up TUL”*, see sbc-tul.cz.

In addition to the research and educational activities mentioned above, Members of the Department are involved in innovative projects of operational programs, such as:

- Cooperation program to support cross-border cooperation between the Czech Republic and the Free State of Saxony 2014–2020: *Progress.digital. project entitled “Practically oriented competence development in production technology in regions through cooperation.digital.”* coordinated by the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering TUL, reg. no. 100281976, period 1.1. 2017 – 31.12. 2019.

- OP VVV, project “*Effective Technology Transfer Process at the Technical University of Liberec*”, reg. no. CZ.02.2.69 / 0.0 / 0.0 / 16_014 / 000063, university-wide project, period 2017 - 2021.

- OP VVV, project “*Human Resources Development TUL for Increasing Relevance, Quality and Access to Education in conditions of Industry 4.0*”, reg. no. CZ 02.2.69 / 0.0 / 0.0 / 16_015 / 0002329, university-wide project, period 2017 - 2022.

Linking Theory to Practice

In order to link theoretical knowledge to practice, the Department offered guest lectures in 2017 within the courses taught, such as innovation management, business logistics, introduction to management, personnel management, family business, etc.

In particular, in the area of business management and its processes, the Department continued its cooperation with companies such as Preciosa a.s., Detesk, s.r.o., Lasvit a.s., VUTS, a.s., Bilsing Automation Czech, s.r.o., ŠKODA Auto a.s., Crytur s.r.o., etc. in 2017.

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., the District and Regional Chamber of Commerce in Liberec, the Municipality of Liberec and since 2017 also with the Association of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises and Crafts of the Czech Republic.

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 2017, a contract research project was implemented at the Department in cooperation with the Foundation for Education in Insurance “*Analysis of the Market of Business Interruption Insurance*”.

Two Members of the Department participated in the application for the GACR project “*Comprehensive Evaluation of Municipal Management in the Czech Republic*” which was unfortunately not obtained. On the contrary, the application for the project “*Creation of an E-learning Course for the Subject Statistical Analysis of the Data from Questionnaire Surveys*” from the institutional plan for 2018 was approved.

In 2017, the Department was involved in three excellent scientific teams of the Faculty. In addition, cooperation with other Departments has been expanding, so further benefits in this area can be expected, including participation in the TACR project. The Department will also try to participate in the re-application for the above-mentioned GACR project.

Contact with Public

In 2017, the Department continued its cooperation with foreign universities. An Erasmus + grant was received: Erasmus - KA107 extending cooperation with Cairo University to fund 3 mobilities (2 in-coming, 1 out-going). Four Erasmus + funded projects were proposed: Erasmus - KA107 (Egypt, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan). Cooperation with prof. Sigita Vaitkevičius from Kaunas University of Technology in Lithuania, with whom Members of the Department have been working since 2010, continued.

The Department also develops cooperation with practice. Jan Öhm is the Faculty's tutor for dealing with Kooperativa Insurance Company. We mainly cooperate in the preparation of final theses and consult the content of subjects in the field of insurance. Karina Tatek Benetti cooperates with the company Partners.

The Department cooperates with institutions dealing with further education: DESCARTES, which offers training courses for teachers. Karina Tatek Benetti participates in the Liberec Region KAP project in platforms “*Natural Science and Technical Education*” and “*Promotion of Specialized Training*”. Jan Öhm participates in the “*Career Choice*” platform.

Conclusion

As regards educational activities, the year 2017 was influenced by the preparation of applications for accreditation of study programs in accordance with the new requirements of the National Accreditation Office for Higher Education, which resulted from the amendment to the Higher Education Act. The Faculty of Economics TUL management has been actively involved in the preparation of new university-wide rules for the evaluation of the quality of educational, creative and related activities that are a precondition for the submission of applications for accreditation of new degree programs. After these rules were created in the second half of 2017, the first two applications for accreditation of study programs were prepared. It was an application for accreditation of the bachelor's study program Business Economics with two Specializations in Production Management and Service Management. The study program should replace the existing study fields Business Economics and Economics and Service Management. The second application concerned a joint doctoral study program System Engineering and Informatics (including Systems Engineering and Informatics). The study program is realized in cooperation with the universities in Hradec Králové and Pardubice. As part of the application preparation process, self-assessment reports were prepared. At the end of 2017, both applications were sent to the TUL Internal Evaluation Council for approval. Applications were sent to the National Accreditation Office at the beginning of 2018.

In the area of research and creative activities, increasing resources of institutional support have made it possible to launch a new program to support excellent research teams at The Faculty of Economics of the Technical University of Liberec. 7 teams enrolled for the competition. On the basis of external examination process and board evaluation, 3 teams were supported, with the beginning of the projects implementation in 2017. The support was granted for 3 years. The aim of the program is to improve the quality of scientific research and publishing activities of academic staff, to support cooperation between departments and faculties, to increase success in the area of international projects, projects funded by the GACR and TACR and contract research. The main areas of the program are based on the approved strategic plan of the Faculty of Economics of the Technical University of Liberec for 2016-2020.

In the long term, the Faculty of Economics of the Technical University of Liberec strives to link educational activities with the requirements of practice and to support students' voluntary creative activities. In 2015, the Faculty of Economics of the Technical University of Liberec established the Student Business Club (SBC) initiative, which aims to support students who consider business. In 2017, this initiative continued when the next year of *The Best Start-up Competition at TUL* was launched. Out of 23 student teams, 7 teams advanced to the finals. The winning business project of the Faculty of Economics students, *BezBistro*, can be considered as 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 of the Technical University of Liberec graduates.