



Report on the Activities of Science and Research

Faculty of Economics Technical University of Liberec

for 2018

1 Research, Development and other Creative Activities

Characteristics of Creative Activities

In 2018, one applied research project within the ÉTA program funded by the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic and two basic research projects 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’ research activities were supported by 9 Student Grant Competition projects. Further, two OP Interreg projects focused on Czech-Polish border, in particular on tourism and economic aspects of business, were being solved.

Combination of Creative Activity and Educational Activity

Within the Student Business Club (SBC), *The Best Start-up Competition at TUL* was launched. Out of initial 21 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 of the Technical University of Liberec graduates.

In 2018, the annual Student Scientific and Professional Activities Competition was organized together with other TUL faculties.

Scientific Conferences

In September 2018, the Department of Informatics organized the traditional international conference Liberec Economic Forum attended by about 30 academics.

Institutional Research Support

The Faculty of Economics of the Technical University of Liberec supported the scientific activities and mutual cooperation of academic staff within the projects of Faculty research 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 so-called excellent research teams. In 2018, following board assessment of applications, three other projects were further supported: *“Relationship of University Students to Business”*, *“Smartdata for Prevention and Identification of Failures in the System”* and *“New Approaches to Reporting Intangible Assets in the Czech Republic”*.

Cooperation with Application Sphere on Creation and Transfer of Innovations

In 2018, the Faculty of Economics of the Technical University of Liberec was a significant force of the emerging regional innovation ecosystem. In this respect, the Faculty cooperated not only with major innovative companies (Škoda Auto, Jablotron, Lasvit), but also with the activities of the Student Business Club, which are focused on innovative way of thinking and working in the environment of start-ups and spin-off companies. Institutions such as CzechInvest, the Chamber of Commerce, etc., but also the Liberec Region were the Faculty's partners in this effort, especially in the form of closer cooperation between the Faculty and the newly established business incubator Lipo.ink. The Faculty of Economics of the Technical University of Liberec was perceived as an important player of innovation space in 2018, as evidenced by the participation of a Faculty representative and his presentation of SBC activities at the RIS3 conference.

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

In 2018, a contract was concluded with the Ministry of Industry and Trade to prepare the *“Study of the Impact of the Trade Agreement between the EU and Japan on the Czech Economy”*. An agreement on the *“Analysis of the Market of Business Interruption Insurance”* was concluded with the Foundation for Education in Insurance. In 2018, a contract was also concluded with Škoda Auto a.s. on the provision of services (*Study of Line Supply*) for the Internal Logistics Department.

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 2018, 148 students from the Economics and Management study program (2nd year) and the System Engineering study program (3rd year) attended compulsory training.

In 2018, 3 contract research projects were implemented for contracting authorities from practice, out of which 2 projects were transferred from 2017.

The Student Business Club Initiative attracted 21 teams to the 2018 *Best Start-up Competition at TUL*. 12 finalist teams presented their start-up projects with very interesting and innovative ideas.

In 2018, 3 competition categories were announced - *Student Innovation Project, Start-up Locally and Time Unique* and *Technology Start-up / Spin-off*.

Award in Category I: student innovative project *Textile Upcycling*. Award in Category II: *Production and Sale of Dekatoh*. The winning project in Category III. was *Rescue Parachute for Multicopters*. The product with a patent application will help to develop the company (it can be considered as a supported start-up).

2 Internationalization

Strategies for the Development of International Relations and International Environment

In 2018, the Faculty continued the process of internationalization as part of the strategic direction of development in all its possible forms. As part of the Erasmus + project, it ranked among the TUL faculties with the highest number of students sent abroad for study mobility and work placements, the number of incoming students as well as the number of outgoing and incoming academic staff. On the basis of these exchanges, other forms of cooperation with partner universities were also developed, such as the international project of partner universities from five countries, named Sharpen, focused on H.R. in small and medium-sized enterprises.

Another proof of the continuation of the faculty's internationalization is the slowly increasing number of foreign self-paying students as well as short-term study stays of several students from Brazil and Taiwan. The participation of foreign lecturers / mentors at the Business Workout 2018 is also worth mentioning.

Bilateral cooperation with the University of Huddersfield Business School from Great Britain is a traditional and important part of the Faculty's international activities. It is realized in the form of sending Czech students for part of their bachelor's or master's studies to the UK (but there are also other joint activities, e.g. participation of HBS representatives in the Sharpen project, joint publishing activities of some employees of both faculties, etc.).

For many years, the faculty has been regularly sending its doctoral students to study at the University of St. Gallen for several months. The year of 2018 was no exception.

The visit of the Faculty representative at Conestoga College in Canada helped to complete the details of future cooperation, which will start after signing contracts in 2019.

In 2018, cooperation with universities from Germany, Great Britain, Taiwan and China was being negotiated – often with the help of the International Department of the University.

3 Quality Assurance and Evaluation of Activities

In 2018, 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 under the project “*Deepening Strategic Cooperation of the University in the Field of Quality Management of Technical Education*” and with support of the OP VVV project.

Internal and External Evaluation of the Quality of Education

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.

As part of the preparation of accreditation of new study programs, program guarantors together with heads of specialized Departments evaluated the content of existing study fields and prepared proposals for innovations of study plans and course contents for newly prepared study program accreditation.

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 the Faculty of Economics of the Technical University of Liberec partners 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 Faculty of Economics of the Technical University of Liberec organized two projects focused on the development and analysis of tourism services in Czech-Polish Border Region. Both projects were supported by the Interreg fund.

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. Jozefína 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 Development of the Faculty of Economics, TUL

Institutional Development Plan

In 2018, the Faculty of Economics of the Technical University of Liberec was involved in the solution of 10 projects of the TUL Institutional Development Plan. The Faculty also participated in a university-wide project supporting the SVOČ (Student Scientific and Professional Activities) competition, coordinated by the Faculty of Economics.

6 Departments' Annual Report

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Department Profile

The Department of Foreign Languages provides teaching of a professional foreign language at four 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.

The Department focuses on improving the quality of foreign language teaching through its 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:

- *“Cultural and Economic View of Interventions in Nature with a High Impact on Ecosystems - on the example of a brown coal mine in the German-Polish border region”* (TUL - TU Dresden / IHI)
- *“International Management in Practice”* (TUL - TU Dresden IHI)
- *“Regional Business as an Example of Good Practice”* (TUL - UE Jelenia Góra)

The implementation of the three-year international project *“ProFit”* continued. 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 (WHZ). Under this project, a three-day workshop was held in Liberec from 29.11. – 1.12. 2018.

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 - Charles University, Prague, Masaryk University, Brno) or use of electronic media in foreign language teaching (Online Educa Berlin, 2018).

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Department Profile

The 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 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 2018, a prestigious scientific activity was the implementation of the GACR project (GA16-08786S) *“The Impact of Lobbying Transparency on Democratization and its Consequences”*. In 2018, the solution of TACR project (TL01000303) *“Utilization of Big Data for Evaluation of Socio-economic Position of Inhabitants in Types of Territories Defined by Regional Development Strategy 2021+”* started.

In the framework of contractual research, *“Study of the Impact of the Trade Agreement between the EU and Japan on the Czech Economy”* was being solved.

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 2018, the conclusions of research activities were published in two scientific monographs, in two articles in non-zero IF journals, in three articles in journals indexed in the Scopus database, and in two specialized articles. In 2018, the Department Members actively participated in international conferences in the Czech Republic and abroad. Three papers were published in WoS and Scopus proceedings. In 2018, eight projects within the Student Scientific and Professional Activities including participation in the organization, and one 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 2018, the Department prepared several project proposals; Members of the Department participated in partial activities of university-wide projects obtained from the OPVVV program (Roliz, Effective TT Process at TUL) and cooperated on a TACR project (the investigator was the Institute for Nanomaterials, Advanced Technologies and Innovations).

The first period of the two-year project entitled "*New Approaches on Reporting Intangible Assets in the Czech Republic*" supported by internal competition of excellent research at the Faculty of Economics of the Technical University of Liberec was realized at the Department.

Members of the Department also participated in the implementation of an international project with partners from Poland (Department of Finansów i Rachunkowości w Jeleniej Górze - University of Economics in Wrocław), which was submitted at the beginning of the year and subsequently approved. The project "*Economic Aspects of Business in the Czech-Polish Border Region*" is supported for the period 2018 - 2019 from the Interreg program (Czech Republic-Poland 2014 - 2020).

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.

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).

During 2018, Members of the Department were involved in the SGS EF TUL Commission and sat in the evaluation committee of the student competition SVOČ. The Members of the Department also drafted review reports for contributions to scientific conferences and reviewed scientific articles in scientific journals.

The Department has been cooperating with Finansów i Rachunkowości, based in Jelenia Góra, for a long time. Members of the Department took part in Erasmus + Teaching Mobility study stays at this university, as well as in Portugal (Instituto Politecnico) and International Week in Finland (Karelia University of Applied Sciences). A Member of the Department also completed a study stay in Brighton Language College in the UK supported by Erasmus + Training.

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.

Research Activity

The results of projects and research activities of Members of the Department were published in the form of 13 papers, of which 1 was published in the journal with IF (Q1), 2 articles in peer-reviewed journals, and 2 papers were presented at a foreign conference (included in Scopus). Further, The Members of the Department participated in the publication of 1 monograph.

In 2018, 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.

Contact with Public

The Members of the Department are represented in a number of professional societies. In 2018, specifically foreign companies Comenius Academic Club and International Gesellschaft für Ingenieur Pädagogik (doc. Skrbek), domestic companies such as the Czech Society for System Integration. 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 2018". In 2018, doc. Antlová and dr. Semerádová participated in activities of 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, the Department organized the traditional international conference *Liberec Informatics 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 International Environment”*. Members of the Department were involved in the solution of two ESF OP VVV projects: *“Effective process of technology transfer at TUL”* (CZ.02.2.69 / 0.0 / 0.0 / 16_014 / 0000631), project ROLIZ: *“TUL Human Resources Development for Increasing Relevance, Quality and Access to Education in Industry 4.0”* (CZ 02.2.69 / 0.0 / 0.0 / 16_015 / 0002329) and SMEs *“Human Resource Attraction, Retention and Performance Enhancement Network”* (2016-1-CZ01-KA203-023916), as well as the project of cross-border cooperation within the Euroregion Nisa : *“Analysis of Tourism Services in the Czech-Polish Border Area”* (CZ.11.4.120 / 0.0 / 0.0 / 16_012 / 0000946) and the contractual project of cross-border cooperation within Nisa Euroregion.

In 2018, a contract was also concluded with Škoda Auto a.s. on the provision of services (*Study of Line Supply*) for the Internal Logistics Department.

One SGS project was implemented on the topic of Internal HR Marketing.

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 F. X. Šalda Theatre in Liberec or the Association of Glass and Jewellery Manufacturers.

Doc. Ing. Jozefina Simova, Ph.D. is the chairwoman of the Regional Club of the Czech Marketing Society and a Member of the main committee of the Czech Marketing Society. The Members of the Department were Members of expert teams and expert working groups working within the framework of the Employment Pact of the Liberec Region, 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.

Research Activity

In 2018, 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. One of the

projects is in the sustainability regime, which is carried out in cooperation with AMSP ČR (Association of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises and Crafts CZ).

- ERASMUS +, Strategic Partnerships - KA 2 (investigator doc. Ing. Kateřina Maršíková, Ph.D.) - for the period 2016 to 2019 under the name SHARPEN (HRM4SMEs) - 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.

- TACR Omega (investigator prof. Ing. Ivan Jáč, CSc.) - for the period 2016 to 2017 under the name Family Enterprise - Solution of Social and Economic Disparities of Municipalities, reg. no. TD03000035. Year 2018 - 1st year of sustainability of project outputs.

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 Department 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:

- Program to support cross-border cooperation between the Czech Republic and the Free State of Saxony 2014-2020: project POKROK.digital with the title “*Practically Oriented Development of Competencies in Production Technologies in Regions*” through kooperace.digital, coordinated by the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering TUL, reg. no. 100281976.

- 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

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

Linking Theory to Practice

In order to link theoretical knowledge to practice, the Department offered guest lectures in 2018 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., Praktik Systems, etc. in 2018.

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. As part of the SHARPEN project and in cooperation with the AMSP ČR, the Department Members organized a Round Table in Liberec on 15 February 2018 on the

topic of Human Resources Management in SMEs. Furthermore, the Department was involved, for example, in the organization of the Round Table of Family Companies in Liberec (26 October 2018) as part of the Project of the Year 2018 - Family Business. Another joint event with AMSP ČR was a seminar on Protection of Industrial Rights for Entrepreneurs of the Liberec Region, which took place in Liberec on 17 April 2018.

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

The project *"Creating an e-learning course for the subject Statistical Analysis of the Data from Questionnaire Surveys"* from the Institutional Plan for 2018 was implemented at the Department. In cooperation the Foundation for Education in Insurance, the project *"Analysis of the market of Business Interruption insurance"* was realized.

Two Members of the Department participated in the application of the GACR project *"Comprehensive Evaluation of Municipal Management in the Czech Republic"* which was unfortunately not obtained.

In 2018 the Department was involved in all five excellent scientific teams of the Faculty, which was reflected in the participation in the TACR project, which is implemented by the Department. Vladimíra Hovorková Valentová is a Member of the GACR project submitted by the Department and together with Kateřina Gurinová she also participated in the ROLIZ project. In publishing, the Members of the Department participated in three results with non-zero IF and three articles included in the WoS / Scopus database. Four other results were published at professional conferences.

Contact with Public

In 2018, the Department continued its cooperation with foreign universities. An Erasmus + grant was received: Erasmus - KA107 extending cooperation with Cairo University to fund 7 mobilities (6 in-coming, 1 out-going).

Preparations for 4 projects funded from Erasmus + were finalized: Erasmus - KA107 (Egypt, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan). Cooperation with prof. Sigitas Vaitkevičius from Kaunas University of Technology in Lithuania, with whom Members of the department have been working since 2010.

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 also develops activities aimed at accreditation of the faculty for testing the professional competence of insurance agents.

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.

7 Conclusion

In the area of research, two basic research grants supported by GACR were solved at the Faculty. The first project dealt with the implications of lobbying transparency on democratization and its consequences. The second project addressed the effects of cluster existence on business performance. The applied research projects were represented mainly by the TACR program. The project “*Utilization of Big Data for Evaluation of Socio-economic Position of Inhabitants in the Types of Territories Defined by the Regional Development Strategy 2021+*” was launched and the sustainability of a project focused on family business was running. Family business has also been researched within the GUESSS project, which is coordinated by St. Gallen University. In terms of international cooperation, the SHARPEN project dealing with the issue of human resources in small and medium-sized enterprises can be considered the most important. The project is solved within a network of 5 universities from Great Britain, Germany, Lithuania, Finland and TUL. The results of the above-mentioned projects can be considered as crucial for obtaining accreditation of the above-mentioned new study programs.

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 established the Student Business Club (SBC) initiative, which aims to support students who are considering doing business. This initiative continued in 2018, when the next year's competition for the best start-up at TUL was launched. A novelty was the division of the competition into three categories: Student Innovation Project, Start-up locally and time unique and Technology Start-up / Spin-off. 23 student teams participated in the competition, of which 7 advanced to the final. The Student Business Club also organized a weekly Summer School of Business, which met with great interest from both TUL students and graduates.

In the area of the third role of the faculty, cooperation with the Liberec Region, especially the newly established business incubator Lipo.ink, can be described as the most important. The Faculty is considered to be an important subject of the regional innovation ecosystem. In this respect, it also cooperates with other innovative companies such as Škoda Auto, Jablotron and Lasvit.