



THE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL ECONOMY

The Faculty of Economics of the University of Technology in Košice organised on 5th to 7th September 2002 in Herľany its 4th international conference on the topic of the national and regional economy. The conference was held in co-operation with the Slovak branch of the European Regional Science Association (ERSA). Notable in the course of the conference were celebrations of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Faculty of Economics of the UT and the 50th jubilee of the founding of the University of Technology (UT) in Košice.

The international conference was ceremonially opened by the dean of the Faculty of Economics of the UT in Košice, prof. RNDr Vincent Šoltés, CSc. who in his opening speech evaluated the ten year's work of the Faculty on the grounds of Košice University and praised the professional work of the whole pedagogical, research and expert collective. The rector of the UT in Košice prof. Ing. Juraj Sinay, DrSc. in his welcoming speech picked out in particular the contribution of the professional work of the Faculty of Economics of the UT in Košice, giving the dean of the faculty the award "Apple of Knowledge" Eminent representatives of the Slovak academic sphere, as well as from abroad, the civil service and local authorities of the SR received from the Dean and the Faculty the commemorative coin "Faculty of Economics UT in Košice – 10th anniversary".

Almost 100 guests attended the conference, where the topics covered included:

- The influence of globalisation on the world economy on macro-economic and regional development, the structure of the main sectors and branches of the technical and social infrastructure,
- The macro-economic and regional aspects of economic development, consolidation of their interests,
- The pre-accession process and economic criteria for entry into the EU, and their fulfilment,
- Support policy of the European Union in institution building and using support instruments in the pre-accession and post-accession periods,



Photo from the left: the rector of the UT in Košice, prof. Ing. Juraj Sinay, DrSc. and the dean of the Faculty of Economics of the UT in Košice, prof. RNDr. Vincent Šoltés, CSc.

- Economic development of regions and increasing their competitiveness,
- Structural changes in agriculture and overall development of rural areas as a factor in the process of regional changes,
- Institutions of regional development and cross-border co-operation, development programmes of local and regional employment,
- The role of regional authority bodies in stimulating regional development, preparing strategy documents, organising partnerships, co-financing programmes and EU projects. The structure, models of management and organisation in the civil service and local authorities,

- The position and role of universities in regional development.
- Supporting the development of science at the regional level.

Of particular benefit for conference participants were in particular the presentations of lecturers expressing various views of economic and, primarily, regional development. One stimulating presentation was for example that of the Secretary of State of the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development Ing. Peter Ťapák, who spoke on the current progress of the Slovak Republic in implementing regional policy. A valued guest was JUDr. Ing. Jozef Byrtus, General Consul of the Czech Republic in Košice, who presented an international view of regional policy with prospects for regional co-operation of the Visegrad 4 countries and the Ukraine. The issue of the impacts of the Slovak Republic's entry into the EU on regional policy and the policy of the SR was presented in detail in a lecture by Ing. Milan Buček, DrSc. of the Faculty of National Economy of the University of Economics in Bratislava, a leading specialist on regional development policy. For the Institute of the Slovak and World Economy SAV its director Bratislava Ing. Milan Šikula, DrSc. took the stage, the theme of his contribution to the discussion being the economic implications of globalisation and the SR's entry into the EU.

The chairman of the Košice regional authority RNDr. Rudolf Bauer presented a contribution on the topic of eco-



conomic and social development in the conditions of the Košice local authority region with a forecast through to the year 2020. The Director of the Institute of Regional and Municipal Development of the UT in Košice doc. RNDr. Oto Hudec, CSc. Spoke to the audience of the international conference on the aim and role of the institution in the regional milieu. Aspects of globalisation were dealt with primarily by foreign participants Prof. Andrew Harrison – Teesside University, Great Britain, Dr. Gorgio E Simonetto – University of Padova, Italy. Other lecturers, represen-

ting the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Spain and Germany gave presentations in expert fields.

Thanks to the jubilee of faculty as well as that of the university this year's international conference had a festive nature; besides the highly specialised professional contributions participants also entered stimulating discussion, a valuable accompanying programme and collegial atmosphere.

prof. RNDr. Vincent Šoltés, CSc.

Photo: Ján Hreňo