



## ***NBS INSTITUTE OF BANKING EDUCATION WORKING TOGETHER WITH THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL CENTRE FOR TRAINING OF BANK PERSONNEL***

### ***INTRODUCING DISTANCE LEARNING IN THE UKRAINIAN BANKING SECTOR***

*A significant component of the activities in the field of international co-operation is the direct partnership relations of the NBS Institute of Banking Education with banking education institutions of member countries of the European Bank Training Network (EBTN).*

*Following previous working contacts in the framework of the EBTN the NBS Institute of Banking Education concluded on 12th December, 2001 a protocol*

In connection with the protocol on co-operation the Ukrainian party addressed the Institute with a request for professional advisory assistance and undertaking the preparation and introduction of distance learning projects in the Ukrainian banking sector.

The conditions for co-operation between both the partners in this important project are governed by a separate agreement signed on 13th September 2002. The importance of the project for the preparation and realisation of distance learning in the Ukrainian banking sector is confirmed also by the fact that the US Agency for International Development (USAID) decided to financially support it by means of the US Academy for Educational Development (AED). Funding from USAID was therefore preceded by full selection tender proceedings, in which the NBS Institute of Banking Education (NBS IBE) won, fulfilling all the professional, methodological and financial criteria set by the US Academy for Educational Development. The support of USAID in introducing distance learning for banking sector employees in the Ukraine with the active managerial and co-ordinating participation of the NBS Institute of Banking Education opened up an important

*on co-operation with the Ukrainian National Centre for Training of Bank Personnel with the participation of Ukrainian Embassy representatives in Bratislava and the management of the National Bank of Slovakia.*

*In the protocol the Institute is considered by the Ukrainian party to be the exclusive partner for implementing educational programmes in the Ukrainian banking sector.*



*On 13th September 2002 the agreement on co-operation was signed between the Ukrainian National Centre for Training of Bank Personnel and the NBS Institute of Banking Education. In the photograph from left: Mgr. Ludmila Lipovská, head of the NBS IBE Educational Projects Department, Valentyn Ševaľov, head of the Trade and Economic Mission of the Ukrainian Embassy in Bratislava, Ing. Dušan Garay, CSc., director of the NBS IBE, Olexandr Geyets, director of the Ukrainian National Centre for Training of Bank Personnel, Olena Slobodyanik, Dmytro Ryabov, deputy director of the Ukrainian National Centre for Training of Bank Personnel.*

prospect for the Institute's involvement in this form of international co-operation.

The fact that the US government agency is supporting and funding the co-operation project between two countries of central and eastern Europe is rather exceptional and also represents an appreciation of the professionalism and standing of the NBS Institute of Banking Education

in the field of international co-operation. The first important component of the project was the holding of two specialised seminars aimed at theoretical and practical preparation for the overall management of distance learning, as well as for the preparation of Ukrainian lecturers, consultants and authors of distance learning text books (in the form of training of trainers).

The NBS Institute of Banking Education held the first seminar in Bratislava on 16th to 20th September, 2002, with this being focused in particular on providing an integrated complex of theoretical knowledge connected with the preparation and realisation of distance learning projects, including the provision of a supporting, examination and assessment system.

A USAID co-ordinator was also present during the

course of the seminar in Bratislava, which confirms the attention given by the American party to this project and the level of its realisation.

Preparation of the Ukrainian partners continued through a second specialised seminar on 30th September to 4th October, 2002 in Kiev and was focused mainly on practi-



*Opening of the distance learning pilot seminar "Training of Trainers" at the NBS IBE on 16th September 2002.*



*On 19th September 2002 a round table meeting was held of future authors, consultants and administrators and NBS IBE partner employees, authors, consultants, members of examination boards under the title: Realisation of Distance Learning in the Banking Sector in Slovakia from the Point of View of External Co-operators of the Institute of Banking Education.*



*Awarding graduation certificates of the seminar on 20th September, 2002 in R.V.S. Studené.*

cal preparation in designing distance learning projects, individual consultations with Ukrainian authors and consultants, the practical creation of the distance learning system and its components, as well as the software for distance education.

In accordance with the recommendations of the NBS Institute of Banking Education, the Ukrainian National Centre for Training of Bank Personnel decided to introduce "Bank Management" as the first distance education pilot programme. This will be a two-year four-semester distance learning programme for participants with university education and who are at present working at a lower or middle management level, as well as for specialists preparing for management positions.

An important practical result of the work in Kiev was the specification of the contents structure of the pilot programme and selection of the specific authors and consultants for individual professional subjects in the programme.

Similarly extraordinary attention was paid to the course of the seminar in Kiev from the side of USAID and AED representatives in the form of personal visits over the course of the seminar, as well as at opportunities for informal meetings with Slovak lecturers and Ukrainian participants.

The specialised seminars were given by selected lecturing employees of the NBS Institute of Banking Education, who since 1997 have been preparing and realising distance education as an important component of the Institute's programmes.

The role of the Institute's employees was to perform lecturing, methodological, consultancy and advisory activities in preparation for implementing the distance learning system in the Ukrainian banking sector and in designing a distance learning pilot programme, the starting date of which is preliminarily planned for January 2004.

On the basis of statements by the Ukrainian partners, as well as representatives of the US AED, the preparation of Ukrainian professionals in the form of the specialised seminars can be considered as having been an undoubted success. Until the planned opening of the distance learning pilot programme, however, a further stage of demanding professional work awaits our Ukrainian partners, where the NBS Institute of Banking Education, pursuant to the concluded agreement on co-operation, will continue to operate as a professional managing and co-ordinating body and adviser.

The international co-operation project in introducing distance learning forms in the Ukrainian banking sector has meant a great professional challenge for the team at the NBS Institute of Banking Education. This has been not merely an opportunity to expand the educational activities at the international level, but also accruing and providing further knowledge, which the Institute similarly acquired from foreign partners in the framework of the PHARE programme at the beginning of introducing distance learning. Naturally the Institute's current know-how in this fi-



eld has been expanded by actual knowledge and experience gained in realising distance learning forms over the course of the past five years.

Introducing distance learning means a significant systematic and qualitative shift for the Ukrainian banking sector in the further professional education system for bank employees. From the geographical aspect, as well as in terms of the number of banking subjects (185 banks as of 1st July, 2002) distance learning due to its advantages in the conditions of the Ukrainian banking sector certainly

has the best prospects in comparison to classical forms of study.

Thus, in conclusion it can be said that this activity of the Institute of Banking Education is becoming a significant component of the National Bank of Slovakia's activities in the international sphere.

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**Photo: I. Paška, R. Urban**