



## CONGRESS ON EDUCATION

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„We support people“ is the motto of the excellent educational institution of the Volksbank (Ludová banka) in Austria – the Volksbanken Akademie, which decided, for the first time in its 27 year history, to organize its eighth congress on education in Bratislava jointly with the Ludová banka. This is the academy's most important event underlining the importance of knowledge capital for banks and companies in general. The congress usually completes the national phase of preparation and creation of the educational programme of the Volksbanken Akademie for the next year. It is a space for the presentation of new trends and conceptions in education, which are being applied there.

Foreign banks or concerns, supervision of education and management formed the central themes of the event held on 15th October 2002 in the Congress Centre on Župné námestie. The fact that the Ludová banka of Bratislava is the most successful of the foreign people's banks of the concern Österreichische Volksbanken undoubtedly contributed to the selection of the location for the congress. The day before this important expert event was reserved for a meeting of personnel managers and managers responsible for human resources with the appropriate title „GET TOGETHER“. The participants could also enjoy an informal accompanying programme under the title „fish evening“, with the motto „To draw energy and free potential“. It was essentially a workshop with an entertaining form reflecting a preceding video about the most important fish market, in which participants had the possibility to see how basically hard and routine work such as selling fish can be done interestingly and with pleasure. The organizers of this untraditional evening were inspired by a remarkable book about motivation, which recently became an American bestseller with the simple name „Fish“. The refreshment was also given the name „evening meal“. The actual Congress on Education was held on Tuesday 15th October in the former building of the Slovak National Council. It is already a traditional autumn event. The participants included all those who actively contribute to education in the sector or to shaping it. It is also in the centre of attention of the commercial directors and functionaries of the concern. Personalities such as the general director of the concern, the commercial director Dr. Klaus Thalhammer, the director and chairman of the board of Ludová banka a.s. Ing. Jozef Kollár PhD. undoubtedly contributed to the attractiveness of the event with their contributions. There were also personalities from the academic world: university professor Dr. Gerhard E. Ortner from the Distance University at Hagen and Professor Ing. Ján Rudy PhD. from Comenius University in Bratislava.

Apart from the exchange of experiences, the Congress on Education already has a tradition of presenting the latest trends and findings in education, which will be applied in the programme and conception of education at the Volksbanken Akademie in the next year. The programme of the Akademie opens



*From the right: Erich Hackl, director and member of the Board of Directors of the Österreichische Volksbanken AG, Dr. Reiner Borns, Dr. Clemens Steindl, director of the Volksbankenakademie Vienna, Ing. Jozef Kollár PhD. director and chairman of the Board of Directors of Ludová banka a.s., Präs. Dr. Dkfm. Werner Eidherr Volksbank Kufstein Gmb H. Prof. KR. Dr. Hans Hofinger legal representative of the Austrian trade union organization.*



*The participants in the congress with Mag. Alexander Bayr member of the Board of Directors of Ludová banka a.s. in front.*

perspectives in the area of education and further professional growth for more than 8500 employees of the Austrian Volksbank group, to which the Ludová banka also belongs. The group has more than 600 trading places. The Ludová banka has a tradition of sending people to the courses and seminars of the Austrian VB Akademie.

The honoured guests of the congress also included the director of the Institute of Banking Education of the National Bank of Slovakia Ing. Dušan Garay CSc. who stated that the systematic attention devoted to education by the highest representatives of the Volksbank concern is a good example of the high culture of management of the Volksbank, which is fully aware of the importance of the permanent professional growth of bank staff, which is also a long-term feature of the approach of the top management of the Ludová banka a.s. of Bratislava.

He also appreciated the professional level of the Human Resources Units of the Ludová banka in its cooperation with the Institute of Banking Education of the NBS.