



Creative environment assessment form

**Applicant:**

Department of Philosophy, The Faculty of Philosophy and Arts, Trnava University

Unit of assessment:

Philosophy

Context, mission and scientific profiling:

The Department of Philosophy is one of the eight departments of Faculty of Philosophy and Arts. Philosophy has been a part of the Trnava University since its establishment. Its main mission is built on the deeper pedagogical and scientific activities. They are focused on the following areas: on the history and problems of continental philosophy (with special emphasis on phenomenology, philosophy of existence and hermeneutics) and systematic philosophical research with overlaps into areas of ethics, science and technology (AI, ethical issues of new technologies, explanatory abstractions in algorithms and computer models). The Department offers all three degrees (Bachelor, Master and Doctoral) and is also authorized to conduct habilitation and inauguration procedures.

Within Continental Philosophy, the Department of Philosophy focuses on three main areas: 1) phenomenological-anthropological research, in which members of the department focus on revisiting questions about the human being thematized through the phenomenological method and in light of the current changed social and technological environment; 2) research in the field of philosophy of existence, where topical questions are raised about the role of the individual, the crowd or the masses, as well as other so-called existentials that enter into the experience of contemporary humans; 3) hermeneutic research, where the department focuses on the field of cultural images, representations and semantic structures typical of the European civilizational space in particular.

Within systematic philosophical account a key research area is also connected to artificial intelligence and involved ethical issues, quantum mechanics and its possibilities and interpretations, motorization, questions of speed (dromology) or accelerated perception of reality. Philosophy can provide valuable reflection to these highly actual issues, drawing on both philosophical heritage and the argumentative skills typical of philosophical modes of reasoning.

The pillars of the Department's achievements are as follows: providing courses, seminars, lectures, as well as mobilities (ERASMUS+, CEEPUS) for students and teachers; building own library and organizing events to support pedagogical and research basis; active involvement in grant schemas supporting research of the department members (APVV, VEGA, Visegrad Fund etc.).

The goals are fulfilled by the members of the department mainly by publishing their studies in national and international journals, individual or collective monographs, participation in international conferences, mobility projects of both teachers and students. These areas are also the subjects of dissemination via cultural and social activities for wider public, in which the department participates or which it co-organizes with other institutions at home and abroad.

Strategy:

In the years 2025 – 2029 the Department of Philosophy will further develop its planned research, publication and educational tasks in the field of continental philosophy. The department also wants to make these three main areas of their strategy visible by disseminating and popularising philosophical issues in public sphere.

1) The research strategy is based in the tasks in grant projects: the ending project APVV-20-0137 “Philosophical Anthropology in the Context of Contemporary Crises of Symbolic Structures”, the beginning project VEGA No. 1/0661/25 “Existential Critique of the Masses on the Background of the Existential Analysis of Man and Society”, the ongoing project of the International Visegrad Fund entitled “Philosophy and Culture of Intimacy in Central Europe”. In cooperation with Institute of Philosophy Slovak Academy of Sciences we submitted an APVV project (under evaluation) and are currently applying for additional grants related to the use of generative phenomenology in the interpretation of classical texts, myths, cultural images, and related modes of thought as they have become established in Western civilization (in the schema VEGA).

Members of the department will also focus on issues of cultural literacy development through studies focused on the history of ideas, old and new myths as well as cultural representations. In addition, the department members will also continue to work on AI-related issues and its ethical challenges, which are a new wave for understanding social change at both the global and more narrowly conceived national levels.

2) The publication strategy will remain to be focused on publications in indexed scientific journals with a prevailing number of English outputs (within the journals *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, *Filozofia*, *Filosofický časopis*, *UBB Philosophia*, *Pro-Fil*, *Human Affairs*, *Metaphilosophy*, *Studies in Philosophy and Education* or *Metaphysica*) as well as publications in the collective volumes within the publishing houses Brill, Springer, Togga, *Kierkegaard Studies Yearbook* by De Gruyter etc. In larger period the individual monographs can be offered for publications.

3) In the field of education, in addition to fulfilling its core mission, the department will also focus on the development of international cooperation through participation in ERASMUS+ Blended Intensive Programmes (BIP). In cooperation with the Romanian Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, we will continue the education framed by the theme Practical Knowledge in Philosophy: Affectivity, Skills and Knowing-How on which annually participate members of Department. With the Department of Classical Archaeology at the Faculty of Arts, Trnava University of Technology, we are cooperating in the organization of our own interdisciplinary Erasmus+ BIP programme Nature, Culture, Landscape, in which students and teachers from universities in Portugal, Romania, Czech Republic and Italy participated.

Department of Philosophy is also a member of the mobility network CEEPUS "Philosophy and Interdisciplinarity" which offers mobility for teachers and students in cooperation with more than 25 institutions. The aim is to strengthen the internationalisation through mobilities of teachers and students.

Among the annual events which we aim to support in the following period belongs student conference *para/DOXA*, which for students provides an opportunity to present their contributions. After successful attendance of the conference and review of the papers, the participants can also participate in the publication prepared by the department.

To fulfil the comprehensive student-centred evaluation, we support the broader variety of elective courses by providing our courses for other departments, as well as other departments faculty provide their courses for our students.

Members of the department will actively develop networking with those cultural institutions whose activities overlap with philosophical expertise, such as philosophical festivals (e.g. Agora in Košice), summer schools (e.g. LU Eleuzína in Banská Štiavnica), discussions, events as "Philosophy Night" etc. In order to disseminate the philosophical work members of the department write articles for Slovak national magazines and journals as well: *.týždeň*, *Dokument*, *Divadlo*, *Postoj*, *Kabinet pre literatúru a kultúru*, *Novinky z radnice* and others).

Collaboration and contribution to the research field, economy and society:

We are involved in activities of philosophical associations and institutions as follows:

– Central and East European Society for Phenomenology (CEESP) – Jaroslava Vydrová is a vice-president and Michal Zvarík is a member of the executive board. In collaboration with the CEESP the department organized the international conference in September 2024 in Trnava with participants from 20 countries around the world. Both deepen the research of the heritage of phenomenology in Central Europe.

– Slovak Philosophical Association at the Institute of Philosophy Slovak Academy of Sciences – there is a long-standing collaboration between the Department of Philosophy and this association. Several members of the department have been members of the executive committee of the association and have participated in its activities (conferences, individual lectures, student thesis competitions)

– International Kierkegaard Society – the organisation in which Peter Šajda and Milan Petkanič are involved and thanks to which they have produced several publications, teachers/students mobilities and other research activities

– Association Internationale Gaston Bachelard – Anton Vydra as a specialist in philosophy of science and poetics of Gaston Bachelard is involved. The organisation maps activities in this field, promotes them in an international context and organises its own events on the thought of the French philosopher.

We also cooperate with the following institutions:

- Institute of Philosophy, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava
 - Department of Philosophy, Faculty of History and Philosophy, University Cluj-Napoca, Romania
 - Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences
 - The Jan Patočka Archive, Institute of Philosophy Czech Academy of Sciences
 - Faculty of Humanities, Charles University in Prague
 - Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Nis, Serbia
- Collaboration with these organizations takes place at the level of joint grant or research projects, shared mobilities, mutual invited lectures by educators, international exchange of knowledge and experience, as well as joint engagement in a global framework of philosophical activities around the world.

Cooperation with civic and cultural institutions:

- Ján Palárik Theater in Trnava
- cultural centre Malý Berlin
- cultural centre Eleuzína in Banská Štiavnica
- Juraj Fándly Library in Trnava

With these institutions has Department of Philosophy signed memoranda of cooperation which supports the sustainability of joint activities.

– NGO Ostium – members of department are involved in publishing the open-access journal for humanities *Ostium* and other activities such as public discussions which are organized in the framework of this NGO.

Employees:

The Department of Philosophy is an optimized workplace in terms of staffing and does not plan to expand or reduce the number of its members in the future. The workplace consists of six teachers, all full-time. All are respected experts in their fields. There are currently two professors, three associate professors and one assistant professor.

The supervisors of the individual study programmes are the staff in the positions of professors and associate professors, who also provide the teaching of profile subjects. These are: Professor Tomáš Hauer deals with ethical issues of AI, theory of knowledge, philosophy of mind and philosophy of consciousness; Professor Peter Šajda is an expert on metaphysics and Kierkegaard's philosophy of existence, but also on the philosophy of Martin Buber and other existentialist-oriented authors, as well as on topics related to the philosophy of religion; Associate Professor Anton Vydra focuses on issues of critical thinking and logic, hermeneutic research of cultural images, history of Medieval, Renaissance and Early Modern philosophy; Associate Professor Jaroslava Vydrová is an expert in the field of Husserl's phenomenology, philosophy of the 19th century and philosophy of the 20th century. Associate professor Milan Petkanič deals with Kierkegaardian motifs of the relationship between the individual and the crowd, questions of passion in a philosophical context, as well as problems in classical German philosophy.

Doctor Michal Zvarík, who is also the head of the department, works as an assistant professor at the department and focuses on ancient philosophy, the interpretation of myth, phenomenological studies of the work of the Czech philosopher Jan Patočka, Hannah Arendt, Alfred Schutz, Martin Heidegger, as well as on the problems of Eco-Philosophy. Regarding special pedagogical activity is to be mentioned Doctor Jozef Kordoš who provides courses on classical languages (Greek and Latin) as well as the closer cooperation with Departments of Political Science and Classical Archaeology, for which we provide philosophy courses for students.

Currently, there is one internal PhD student (Roman Pikulik) and one external PhD student (Pavla Minarovičová) and in the next five years we expect a gradual increase in the number of PhD students to at least three according to the financial possibilities of the faculty or the university. In the framework of the ERASMUS+ and CEEPUS there take place annually exchanges of teachers who offer individual lectures or workshops.

Doctoral studies:

The Department of Philosophy is authorized to conduct doctoral studies in full-time or part-time form. Since 2020, the following PhD students have successfully completed their studies in Philosophy:

Jana Mišeková: *Fenomény poetického jazyka na pozadí Patočkovej koncepcie existenciálnych pohybov*

<https://opac.crzp.sk/?fn=detailBiblioForm&sid=983A108C82E0ACEA965E7C6AE8A0>

Ján Mičko: *Kríza filozofií identity v kontexte religióznej skúsenosti*

<https://opac.crzp.sk/?fn=detailBiblioForm&sid=2023538FE3639DEE20582A572DF4>

Nikol Bakšová: *Rôzne typy lásky ako filozofický problém*

<https://opac.crzp.sk/?fn=detailBiblioForm&sid=F0082B7A009D1614BFC81DB883AC>

Income, infrastructure and facilities:

In the teaching process we usually use:

- two seminar rooms with a capacity of 24 seats,
- if the capacity utilization of the courses requires it, we also have a room with a capacity of 54 seats, or other rooms available at the Faculty of Arts of Trnava University,
- one room set aside for doctoral seminars, consultations, and teaching of foreign students during exchange stays.

All these rooms have both traditional and modern material and technological equipment, which includes whiteboards, data projectors, laptops or desktops with internet connection and intranet services ([online catalogs](#), library systems, etc.), as well as technologies designed for the projection of presentations, videos, or recordings related to teaching.

Two of the seminar rooms also serve as libraries, where teachers and students have access to classical and contemporary study literature in the fields of philosophy, humanities, and cognitive sciences. The department administrator of this library is doc. Mgr. Milan Petkanic, Ph.D. (milan.petkanic@truni.sk). Each of the teachers uses their desktop or laptop with a connection to a high-speed black and white or color printer. The department also has multifunctional devices, copiers, and scanners. Students have access to photocopiers and computers for quick access to information, located in the hallways of the faculty.

For students, there is also [a study room at the University Library of TU](#) and in their free time, there are spaces with loungers for relaxation or independent study. Students can also use: [Swimming pool Zátvor](#), the gymnasium of the Secondary Vocational School OS, climbing wall [BouldroFka](#), the gymnasium at [the Student Home of Peter Pázmaň](#). More information regarding the sports activities offered to the students of Trnava University is available on the university's website in the [Sports Activities](#) section.

1. Indicate the amount of funding received for science and research from the state budget allocation during the assessed period 1.1.2020 - 31.12.2024. (EUR)

- to be filled out by the respective department of the Ministry of Education,

Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic

2. Please indicate the amount of funds received for science and research in a competitive way (grants) during the evaluated period 1.1.2020 - 31.12.2024 from the state budget or from the European Union sources. (EUR) - *to be filled out by the respective department of the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic*
3. Indicate the amount of funding received during the assessed period 1.1.2020 - 31.12.2024 from other than state and public sources. (EUR) - *to be filled out by the respective department of the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic*