



Formulár k tvorivému (vedeckému / umeleckému) prostrediu

**Name of institution:**

Department of Political Science, Faculty of Arts, University of Trnava

Research area:

Political Science

Context and mission:

The Department of Political Science at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Trnava in Trnava concentrates its publishing and research activities on problems related to the research of the processes of democratic transformation and consolidation of democratic institutions and parties, while the research attention is focused on the issues of coping with the totalitarian past, the development of Slovak political thought and its impact on the transformation of national identity and forms of nationalism determining the processes of party consolidation and European integration.

Strategy:

In the period 2020-2024, the Department linked research within the framework of the ongoing VEGA projects (No. 1/0131/18 Europe on the Move. No. 2/0078/21 Slovak-Middle European Perspectives of Thought; No. 2/0035/22 Ivan Déer in the Context of 20th Century (Czech)Slovak Politics; No. 2/0166/24: Concepts of Culture and Nation in Slovak Philosophical and Political Thought of the 19th and 20th Centuries; No. 2/0166/24: Concepts of Culture and Nation in Slovak Philosophical and Political Thought of the 19th and 20th Centuries; No. 2/0035/22: Concepts of Culture and Nation in Slovak Philosophical and Political Thought of the 19th and 20th Centuries; No. Czechoslovakia and European politics in the political and political philosophy of the 20th and 20th centuries: Initiatives, Polemics, Critique), KEGA (008TTU - 4/2019 Transfer of Personal Responsibility as a Modern Type of Excuse and its Postmodern Solution; 016TTU - 4/2020 New Discoveries in Research on the History of Slovak Political Thought and their Implementation in Study Materials), SIBSU (Safe and Inclusive Border Between Slovakia and Ukraine, 2021 - 2022) or Visegrad fund (Ukraine Cooperation Enhancement Prospects in the Context of Ukrainian EU Accession Negotiations) with the modification of the recommended curricula and the popularization of scientific outputs in social practice. The outputs of the above-mentioned projects formed the basis for the professional-educational activities of the members of the Department in the media environment, for example through the participation of the Department's employees in journalistic and professional-popularization programs, especially in public media. They focused on the analysis of the development of Slovak political thought and its influence on the process of formation of Slovak national identity and the development of political partisanship in Slovakia in the context of contemporary political challenges such as the radicalisation of political expression of relevant actors, the rise of ethnic nationalism and the polarisation of the party system. Individual conclusions of scientific research were communicated in parallel through professional-educational activities in relevant media with a society-wide impact, e.g. RTVS, TV Markíza, Historická revue, or e.g. through participation in the TEDx Bratislava 2022 conference. Part of the development of the workplace is to expand the institutional cooperation with foreign institutions such as Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, Uzhhorod National University, or Silesian University in Opava.

In the period 2025 - 2029, the staff of the department plans to build on the above-mentioned activities through research on the transformation of the content of particular forms of nationalism, which legitimise their relevance through historical narratives determined by ideological reductionism and have an overlap with the programmatic and political activities of relevant party actors determining the basic value consensus on the goals of politics in society. Research on the transformation of nationalism and populism corresponds to the current personnel structure of the department, which creates a prerequisite for the development of interdisciplinary research on selected issues in relation to the establishment of new cleavage lines in Slovak society within the original cleavage line of the centre - periphery, such as the conflict between Euroscepticism and Europeanism. The project is part of the project preparation in order to participate in the submission of the Horizon 2020 project in the framework of international cooperation of EU universities.

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

The Department of Political Science cooperated with selected departments of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (Institute of Philosophy of the Slovak Academy of Sciences v.v.i., Institute of Slovak Literature of the Slovak Academy of Sciences), with the Institute of Memory of the Nation, political science departments of foreign universities (e.g. Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw - UKSW, Uzhhorod State University), as well as with relevant Slovak print and audiovisual media (RTVS, TV Markíza), or the third sector. At the same time, the Department staff developed cooperation with selected civil sector organisations, e.g. in the framework of the Human Rights Olympiad project, where members of the Department provided invited lectures on selected political science topics followed by a discussion for students and participating lecturers (February 2023 - Electoral systems and their impact on the voter and February 2024 - Henry Kissinger - human rights from the perspective of international relations). The cooperation with representatives of the civil sector also includes the popularisation of the scientific results of the projects already carried out, the aim of which is to emphasise the importance of knowledge of Slovak political thought, which has also had a fundamental influence on the articulation of the programme of national institutionalisation of the Slovaks and its modern development. In the given issue, cooperation with other organizations of the civil sector was also intensively developed, e.g. the editorial office of the Historical Review within the thematic processing of individual problems of modern Czechoslovak history and Slovak politics and o.z. Communio

Employees:

The Department, when dealing with the staffing of teaching and scientific development of the department, follows the rules that are part of the internal quality assurance system of higher education of the University of Trnava in Trnava. These were approved by the Scientific Council of the University of Trnava on 9 November 2021. The aforementioned internal regulations of the University of Trnava are a framework document (https://www.truni.sk/sites/default/files/rektor/vnutorny-system-kvality-tu_schvaleny-vr-tu_november-2021_0.pdf), which serves the Programme Board of the Department as well as the selection committees established at the Faculty of Physical Education of the University of Trnava to set the criteria necessary for the continuous staff development of the Department, taking into account the needs for filling the structure of all necessary posts, taking into account the defined research strategy of the Department and its research orientation, which is based on interdisciplinarity. The Institute currently has 2 professors and 3 associate professors and aims to maintain and, where possible, increase the level of education of individual staff members in the coming period. To this end, it is creating opportunities for scientific and pedagogical teaching and student mobility and, through an increase in the financial remuneration of the staff, is striving to improve the structure of publication and project activities in order to meet the habilitation and inauguration requirements of the younger part of the department's staff. The staff structure also includes scientific and pedagogical staff from abroad, who have expanded the possibilities of international cooperation to other foreign workplaces and are part of the University's strategic goal of expanding the internationalisation of the academic environment at TU. The Department cooperates in the provision of some compulsory elective courses with practitioners who have long been active in the media field or in addressing the issue of European integration in the context of development projects.

In terms of support and training of students, the possibility of taking greater account of the individual professional orientation of the students has been ensured through the modification of the recommended curricula for both 1st and 2nd cycle of studies by extending the selection of compulsory elective courses in both levels of study. Changes in the offer of compulsory elective subjects provided students with the opportunity to specialise their studies also through the possibility of internships in public sector institutions (internships in the National Assembly of the Slovak Republic, in the Regional Government, but also in third sector NGOs) in order to broaden the practical skills of students and thus ensure the link between the educational process and social practice through improving the applicability of students in practice. This fact is confirmed by the fact that despite the fact that the workplace did not have an accredited 3rd degree in the years 2020 - 2024, several graduates of the Master's degree after graduating from the Faculty of Arts of the TU continuously continue their doctoral studies at other university and scientific institutions (e.g. University of Economics in Bratislava, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice and the Institute of Philosophy of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, University of St. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava, Catholic University in Ružomberok, etc.).

