



ACADEMIC AND SCIENTIFIC PROFILE
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS IN TRNAVA

University of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Trnava, Slovakia

Higher education institution, public body

Website: <http://www.ucm.sk/sk/hlavna-stranka/>

General description of the organisation

The University of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Trnava (UCM) is a public university and legal entity founded in 1997. Its main aims are to preserve and develop education together with the scientific, academic and creative work in accordance with the national, humanist and democratic values. Its activities contribute to the development of education as part of the culture of whole society, and they also contribute to increasing the scientific, technical and economic levels of the sphere of its activities. In its subsequent-up actions, the UCM follows the European and global development of science, technology, culture and arts. The university focuses on training and education of the highest qualification in providing education curricula, teaching students to understand, disseminate and preserve the national cultural heritage, and it leads students to creative, independent thinking, self-confidence and national pride.

Faculty of Social Sciences

The Faculty of Social Sciences was established in December 2011 based on the previous Institute of Social Sciences and Department of Political Sciences which had originally been established in 1999. The primary activity of the Faculty lies in the area of social sciences (sociology, political science, European studies, political sociology, public policy, public administration, political communication, social counselling, social work, social pedagogy, etc.). There are 3 departments in the faculty: Department of Political Sciences, Department of Public Administration and Department of Social Services and Consulting. All of the departments provide education in bachelor and master levels, including Political Sciences, European Studies, Public Administration, Management of Public Administration and Social Services at bachelor level. Accredited study programs in master level include Political Science, Public Administration, Public Policy, Social Services and Consulting and European Studies. The Faculty of Social Sciences has also 3 PhD. programs: Public Policy and Public Administration, European Studies and Social Policy. Furthermore, the Faculty provides habilitation and inauguration process in the field of Public Administration and Public Policy. The Faculty has 2 centres now: Research Projects Centre and Centre for Regional and Municipal Policy Research. The main purpose of the centres is to provide multi-disciplinary workplaces dealing with topical issues concerning the research at the faculty. The main tasks of the centres are to create conditions for cooperation of the faculty with both domestic and foreign academic, research and professional institutions and personalities mainly in the field of politics, public policy and public administration, law, economy, history, culture, philosophy, international law, and social services in relation to the national and international context.

The Faculty of Social Sciences is a publisher and co-publisher of 3 academic journals:

- Slovak Journal of Political Sciences (indexed in ERIH+) – <http://sjps.fsvucm.sk/>
- Slovak Journal of Public Policy and Public Administration - <http://sjpppa.fsvucm.sk/>
- European Journal of Transformation Studies (indexed in Web of Science) - <http://europeourhouse.weebly.com/ejts.html>

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Relevant research experience

- Expertise in cross-national study of trans-boundary social and ethnic groups in Europe, youth research and well-being, social and economic deprivation of regions and marginalized communities
- Public policies and public administration research, municipal and regional public policy, decentralization processes
- Sociological large scale surveys with combined methods (face-to-face, random walk, quota sampling or Internet data gathering)
- Quantitative methods and analyses of sociological data (IBM SPSS Statistics)
- Qualitative methods (in-depth interviews, focus groups) and their processing and analyses (QSR NVivo)
- Conducting sociological and marketing surveys, correlations, statistical data, in-depth interviews, qualitative and quantitative data processing, systematic review of policy documents, content analyses, comparative politics, international relations studies, youth studies, radicalization and extremism, regional studies, social and economic deprivation.

Relevant international and national projects involvement of the Faculty of Social Sciences

Horizon 2020: RIA –Research and Innovation action: (2018-2019) European Cohort Development Project

The European Cohort Development Project (ECDP) is a Design Study which will create the specification and business case for a European Research Infrastructure that will provide, over the next 25 years, comparative longitudinal survey data on child and young adult well-being. The infrastructure developed by ECDP will subsequently coordinate the first Europe wide cohort survey, which we name EuroCohort.

This is achieved through the following three objectives: i. Building support from key political policy makers with a brief which covers child well-being as well as national funding agencies tasked with infrastructural spending on science and survey data collection ii. Develop a scientifically excellent research design iii. Establish a robust operational framework that will ensure the logistic integrity of EuroCohort. The culmination of ECDP is in the creation of an infrastructural platform with a commitment from key stakeholders across Europe and from which the next stages in finalising EuroCohort can begin.

There is at present no equivalent data source available to scientists to comparatively analyse the well-being of children as they grow up and therefore to develop policies to improve their well-being. As the respondents to EuroCohort grow up an increasing body of data will develop, becoming ever richer and informative, able to show the ways in which national policies have made impacts and showing where policy interventions can make significant improvements.

ECDP has a tripartite focus on securing political support, operational robustness and scientific excellence.

We recognise that each of these imperatives is necessary to the development of a successful research infrastructure, as scientific excellence alone is not enough. ECDP comprises a range of Work Packages that detail the specific requirements of a EuroCohort, the costs that would be involved and the policy benefits that accrue.

Practical Aspects of Civic Participation and Referendum in the Visegrad Countries after 1989 (Visegrad Fund 2017-2018)

The project is based on the commitment to the view that referendum is a vital instrument of civic participation and that its proper use can foster the development of civil society. This is of particular importance in the V4 countries, where civil societies are still relatively young and vulnerable to the challenge of populism and abuse of political power. The project will focus on the analysis of the political and social practice connected to the implementation of referendum in the V4, both on national and local scale. This would allow identifying the strengths and weakness of the use of referendum in the period after 1989, but also to create "Guideline of Best Practices" in this field. This is in accordance with the project's main objective, which is to provide a thorough, large scale, comparative analysis of the referendum in the V4 after 1989 with the intend of summarizing previous experiences and developing desirable practical solutions which could be implemented in the region.

Jean Monnet Chairs (2016-2019): Migration: The Challenge of European States

<http://jmch.fsvucm.sk/>

Migration has become a growing phenomenon in the last years. Governments and professionals themselves are focusing on this trend. It is necessary to focus interdisciplinarily on a complex term as migration to be able to comprehend it. The reason is the fact that the migration, immigration and integration have come under criticism from 2 sides. Research dominated was limited to a small number of disciplines. The research was carried out in isolation, an interdisciplinary research was rare. The project understands the concept of migration in its interdisciplinary approach within the educational process from the point of view of specialisations and nationalities of the members of the team including variety of the study disciplines (European studies and political science). We expect 6 subjects to be innovated (migration, migration policy; current issues of the EU development; security in international relations; law of the EU; public opinion in the EU), the subject of migration and migration policy will be connected with the research. The project will create a space within which some themes will be presented, but also by means of public films with discussions. We will focus on public education in the current issues of migration, based on organising the Slovakia-wide Olympiad on the EU for secondary schools. The aim is deepening of the students' knowledge about migration, training of professionals in order to increase their knowledge and leading students to research work in the laboratory of the Scientific Research Centre. We expect an increase in knowledge and skills of students including young professionals in the given domain and also an increase in the interest of the general public in migration, especially by projections in the film club and discussions, as well as an increase of the interest in the academic space through publications. There are 3 departments of European studies in Slovakia. None of them has carried out research or teaching focused on migration.

MYWEB (2014-2016): Measuring Youth Well being <http://fp7-myweb.eu/>

In this project – Measuring Youth Well-Being (MYWeB) – we explore the feasibility of conducting a longitudinal survey, which would capture the full picture of the growing-up process possibly from birth to the end of a child's education – including aspects related to the transition to work and parenthood. A longitudinal multidisciplinary approach would be needed to understand these different dimensions and the dynamics of these processes. Key elements of the feasibility study include reviewing current, relevant policy, data collection, developing options for a longitudinal study, and scoring these options according to their technical, political and financial feasibility.

MYWeB takes a balanced approach to assessing the feasibility of a European Longitudinal Study for Children

and Young People (ELSCYP) through prioritising both scientific and policy imperatives.

Striking the appropriate balance between science and policy is guaranteed through the use of an appraisal methodology which ensures that the outcomes will be methodologically robust, technically feasible and will represent value for money. A full scale pilot study in six countries means original empirical data on field experiences will provide direct evidence of the feasibility of an ELSCYP. Engagement with a wide range of stakeholders including policy-makers at a European, Member State and regional level ensures that the project outcomes take into account the broadest range of policy makers.

Questions about the «value added» that a longitudinal survey can offer over a cross-sectional survey will, therefore, be fully informed by policy agendas. Children and Young People are integrated into the project plan to contribute to the operationalisation of notions of well-being as well as in understanding the best modes of conducting an ELSCYP.

MYPLACE (2011-2015): Memory, Youth, Political Legacy and Civic Engagement
<https://myplaceresearch.wordpress.com/>

The MYPLACE project is a €7.9 million European Commission funded project, which explores how young people's social participation is shaped by the shadows (past, present and future) of totalitarianism and populism in Europe. The project has sought to map the relationship between political heritage, current levels and forms of civic and political engagement of young people in Europe, and their potential receptivity to radical and populist political agendas.

Facing three ways – to the past, the present and the future – does not sit easily with the first rule of research design, which is to determine a single research question. It does, however, lend the project a distinctive dynamic traction; it understands youth civic and political engagement as firmly rooted in its structural (including historical and cultural) context while recognising that this changes across time and space and that young people themselves are active agents of that change.

Freed from the straitjacket of a single hypothesis drawn from a discrete field of literature, moreover, the project works across and between normally unconnected fields including those of youth studies, democratic theory and participation, memory studies and far right studies.

Migration and its impact on V4 countries (Visegrad Fund 2015)

The current migration crisis in Europe requires an integrated approach. The following project focuses on illegal migration especially to Central and Western Europe, with focus on V4 countries. The meeting of V4 universities in Trnava was divided into two days during which workshops and a conference were held. The aim of the workshop was comparison of current approaches, policies and statistical indicators of individual V4 countries, with the joint recommendations to V4 governments which was also presented during the conference session. During the conference day, important research contributions and findings were also presented. V4 meeting in Trnava determined common objectives for more extensive research projects.

ENRI-East (2008-2011): Interplay of European, National and Regional Identities
<http://www.increast.eu/en/1017.php>

The ENRI-East Project – "Interplay of European, National and Regional Identities: Nations between States along the New Eastern Borders of the European Union" is an FP7-SSH collaborative research project, funded by the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme (2008-2011). This international research project is dedicated to the study of socio-ethnic identities in Eastern European countries. By and large, this is a pilot scientific effort: no study like that has been ever done before in terms of its geographical coverage, thematic scope as well as variety of research tools and methods. The key goal of the ENRI-East project is to develop an in-depth understanding of the ways in which modern European identities and regional cultures are formed and how these are inter-communicated in the Eastern part of the European continent. The study puts a focus on approximately ten ethnic groups representing "split nations" along the new eastern borders of the enlarged European Union and combines

theories of identities and empirical “facts of life”. ENRI-East experts test and adjust existing theories of identity formation based on the outcomes of a series of specially designed quantitative and qualitative sociological surveys and systematic observations. Thus, ENRI-East is a study with equally strong theoretical, methodological and empirical components, which deploys methods and approaches from a variety of social sciences.

UP2YOUTH (2006-2009): Youth – factor of social change <http://www.up2youth.org/>

UP2YOUTH is an EU-funded research project concerned with the agency of young people in the context of social change. While their transitions to adulthood are structured by risk and uncertainty young men and women develop coping strategies which in turn affect social structures. This regards especially work, family and citizenship which are the key topics of UP2YOUTH. However, it depends on the scope of action that state policies provide them whether these strategies contribute both to social integration and for subjectively meaningful biographical perspectives.

EUYOUPART (2003-2005): Political Participation of Young People in Europe - Development of Indicators for Comparative Research in the European Union <http://www.sora.at/index.php?id=44&L=1>

The aim of EUYOUPART was to develop a high-quality instrument for the comparative measurement of political participation of young people (aged 15-25 years) in Europe. The measurement instrument developed is a model questionnaire which builds up on the strengths and weaknesses of existing empirical studies on youth and politics. The research team was able to achieve a high level of comparability of the data on current political participation of young Europeans in the eight participating countries. This is an important success for comparative research. The comparable indicators allow for a realistic picture of the political participation of young people in all eight participating countries, which may serve as a basis for the development of a consistent European youth policy.

Youth and European Identity (2001-2004): Orientations of Young Men and Women to Citizenship and European Identity <http://www.sociology.ed.ac.uk/youth/>

This project explores the views and experiences of young men and women, aged 18-24, concerning their identity, citizenship and attachment to locality, nation and Europe. We are using surveys and more in-depth discussions to speak both to random samples of young people and young people studying subjects likely to lead to 'European careers' beyond their own country.

Participation of young people on school's self-government (2005)

Within the frame of the European Year of Citizenship (2005) and in connection with the task to compile documents for the National Report about awareness and participation of young people in the Slovak Republic for the year 2005 for the European Commission IUVENTA and UIPŠ (Institute of Information and School System Forecasting) carried out a survey about secondary and university youth. Its task was to penetrate deeper into the topic of school boards and academic senate in the education of democratic citizenship. Research was linked to the survey carried out by UIPŠ from 2004 with the aim to acquire more detailed information about the system of establishment of school boards, data necessary for the evaluation of their activity and acquire information about good examples of the functioning of school boards. Survey of university students has for the first time allowed to observe functioning and activities of academic senates at Slovak universities after 1989. At the same time, it offered data necessary for ascertaining whether students - members of school boards show ability to implement experience of civic and political participation at universities.

Integration of young people with migration background and their perception by autochthonous youth (2011-2012)

The aim of the research was to find how the migrants living in Slovakia (at least for one calendar year) as

well as their descendants are viewed by young people (16-23 years) from the position of members of indigenous society, what their knowledge on international migration and personal experience with migrants is. The project focused on the perception of new religious minorities (especially Muslims) in Slovakia, and the assessment of the positive and negative aspects of international migration, or what kind of knowledge they have about the current immigration and integration policy of the Slovak Republic.

First time voters – high school and university students of Trnava region in parliamentary elections 2010 (2010)

The research project "Voice of the first-time voters" is part of Electoral Studies and parliamentary elections research in 2010 conducted by the Department of Political Sciences UCM in Trnava. The research is aimed at exploring the factors affecting the (non-) participation of young people in the democratic functioning of society, including the electoral process. The part of the research consisted of a questionnaire survey through which secondary school students aged 18-21 years in the Trnava region were examined.

First time voters – high school and university students and the European Parliament elections 2009 (2009)

Sociological Research (757 students aged 18 to 23 years) was prepared by the Department of Political Science at Faculty of Arts of UCM in Trnava. We have carried out the research in the form of questionnaire surveys in face to face system. The collection of data was ensured by ASA-Bratislava. The collection of empirical data was realized from 8 to 18 June, 2009.

International Cooperation of the Faculty of Social Sciences

The Faculty of Social Sciences participates in the ERASMUS+ programme and cooperates with more than 40 universities within Europe. The faculty cooperates with international organizations such as IPSA, ESN, AIESEC, etc.

Within the agreements an exchange of information, publications, scientific and methodological materials, scientific and pedagogical workers and their scientific works is realized.

The conditions for the exchange of students and experience in the field of the development of methodology and for the development of cooperation in the field of distance learning have been created. The faculty organizes various lectures, seminars and excursions for the Slovak and foreign students as well.

Most of the ERASMUS + students incoming to our faculty are from Turkey and Poland. Our students have studied in Turkey, Germany, Poland, Spain, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Croatia, Czech republic, Portugal, Romania, Finland, Belgium and other countries.

The faculty has prepared a proposal for the cooperation in the exchange of students and teachers with the Wenzha university in China.

Our faculty participated at the Higher education fair which was organized by the EU and the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The cooperation with Serbia is the most active. Slovak teachers regularly contribute to the conference in Subotica that is annually organized by the Faculty of economics.

We have deepened the cooperation with the Dostoyevsky university in Russia where our teachers can publish their articles.

Every year our faculty organizes excursions in Slovak companies for MBA students of Westsächsische Universität in Zwickau, Germany.

Further information and the list of partner universities can be found on the faculty web page:

http://www.fsvucm.sk/12_129/zahranicna-spoluprac#