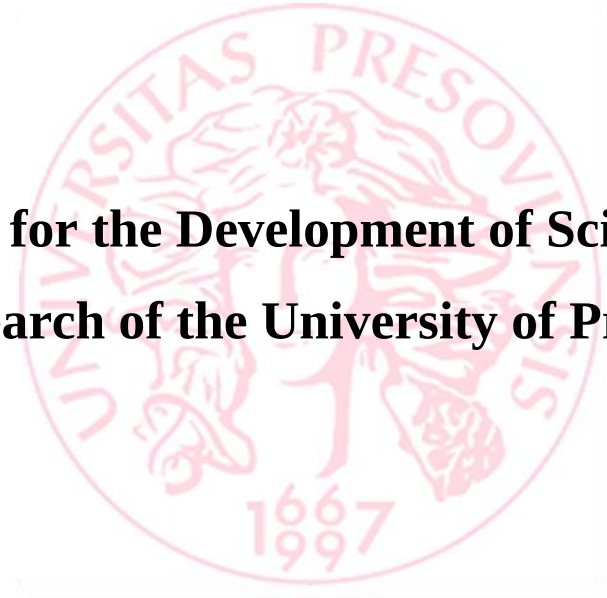
University of Presov



Strategy for the Development of Science and Research of the University of Presov

October 2019

Strategy for the Development of Science and Research of the University of Presov

Elaborated by:	Responsible for accuracy:	Approved by:
prof. PhDr. Milan Portik, PhD. prof. Ing. Jana Burgerová, PhD. doc. Ing. Peter Adamišin, PhD. doc. Ing. Andrej Šutaj-Eštok, CSc. **Date:** October 7, 2019	prof. ThDr. PaedDr. Ing. Gabriel Paľa, PhD. Vice-Rector for Science, Art, Sport and Accreditation **Date:** October 7, 2019	Dr. h. c. prof. PhDr. Peter Kónya, PhD. Rector of the University of Presov **Date:** October 7, 2019

Quality manager: doc. Ing. Andrej Šutaj-Eštok, CSc. **Date:** October 7, 2019

Introduction

The Strategy for the Development of Science and Research, including the action plans, is based on the activities related to its elaboration and development in 2017, when its first version, including the action plans, was elaborated, and in 2018, during which the Council for Science and Research coordinated the elaboration and adopted recommendations related to the measures contained therein.

Furthermore, it is based on the suggestions from the faculties, submitted to the Vice-Rector for Science, Art and Accreditation by 30 April 2019, also suggestions from the Council for Development and Information Technologies discussed on 30 April 2019 and on the basis of the "Report on the implementation of the measures from the Strategy for the Development of Science and Research of the University of Presov for 2018, including the proposal for the progress of work in the next period" - elaborated in March 2019 and updated in June 2019.

All of the above-mentioned documents on which the Strategy is based are accessible to the authorised persons. They are available at the Department for Science, Research and Art.

Approach and background to the development of the strategy

The Strategy for the Development of Science and Research of the University of Presov has been developed on the basis of analysis of the current situation in the given field contained in the Long-term Strategy of the University of Presov and on the basis of a set of suggestions and tasks, which were expressed and accepted at the meetings to elaborate a strategy for the development of science and research at UP. The meetings were held with the participation of the involved Vice-Rectors, the manager for quality and invited experts. The strategy is designed in such a way that in some cases it includes objectives that have a long-term nature, requiring gradual solution or refining the direction of the solution and only subsequent finalizing into an implementation document. In some cases, a proposal is set out directly the wording of the directive. To specify the objectives and measures and to monitor the progress of their implementation, action plans are drawn up. Action Plans (APs) determine who will do what, by when and what to do needs. The APs have the same structure, but different details of elaboration. In the case, where, for example, the intention is clear in its formulation, but implementation is continuous and long-term, the AP is drawn up, which sets out control deadlines for monitoring the progress of the implementation of the given measures and also the responsibilities for its implementation, or in the current year will be determined specific measures in the AP for the following year and will be gradually established for subsequent periods, or will be set for a time horizon of realistically feasible implementation.

Their evaluation shall be carried out within set deadlines and on this basis specific and feasible measures can be taken. Action plans may be updated. Responsibility for drawing up the action plan shall lie with the responsible person. The responsible person is listed in the section ´Responsible persons´ in the 1st place. Subsequently other responsible persons are listed. The responsible person is e.g. a team leader, a specific person, a head of an organizational unit, etc. The responsible person is appointed by the relevant Vice-Rector. Responsibility for the action plans lies with the relevant Vice-Rectors. In such a case, where the solution of the plan is comprehensive and gradual, an action plan shall be drawn up containing a sequence of steps that will demonstrate its effectiveness and feasibility. And subsequently, for example in the case of the establishment of a new organizational unit, its statute and staffing arrangements shall be drawn up, resourcing and provision of other necessary requirements, and only then will be decided on the next steps in its implementation. Action plans are drawn up for each measure.

When action plans are drawn up for the implementation of the strategies, they are drawn up in detail only those steps for which we can determine their content, the deadline for implementation,

responsibilities and provision of resources. However, it is necessary to indicate in the action plan which conditions need to be met in order to proceed with the next necessary steps. Action plans can take different forms. It is a question of what purpose they fulfil.

Each action plan must have a designated responsible person or a team leader at the level of faculties or other UP units.

We understand the strategy as an open document that can be updated if there are significant suggestions for its updating.

The strategy is an open long-term plan that aims to make a significant contribution to the development of science and research at UP. Outside the control mechanisms contained directly in the individual measures and plans, the development in its implementation is discussed at the meetings of the Council for Science and Research of the UP at least twice a year. These meetings may also give rise to suggestions for its updating.

Analysis of the current situation in the given field

For the purposes of initial framing and continuous monitoring of the objectives fulfilment of the Strategy for Development of Science and Research of UP, it is necessary to define a methodology on the basis of which it is possible to determine the position of the University of Presov within a certain reference group. At present, there is a number of Slovak and foreign rankings and evaluations aimed at comparing universities in terms of performance in science and research, education and other relevant fields. The advantage of operational definition of performance in science and research on the basis of position in the rankings lies in the fact that given indicator is measured externally and at the same time continuously. Whereas for an independent evaluation of the fulfilment of the target its continuous traceability is essential.

The second relevant issue in setting up a methodology for measuring performance in science and research is determination of the reference group. In this respect, it is obviously most appropriate to choose Slovak public universities as the reference class, since only in a uniform social and economic context are the data in question comparable in principle. Since the price for seemingly higher objectivity of a quantitative combination of several rankings would be the need for an arbitrary formal system of their unification, it is appropriate to choose a single methodology as the target one. In Slovakia, the only high-stakes methodology for evaluating the performance in science and research that has de facto direct, unmediated impact on funding, and thus further development of science at University of Presov, is the Distribution of subsidies to public universities, or data, on the basis of which the subsidies are allocated. Thus, from a pragmatic point of view, at present, when assessing performance in science and research, it is necessary to understand this methodology as it is understood by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic.

As indicators of the objective fulfilment and thus implicitly as the objective itself, it is possible to monitor some selected coefficients from the budget subsidy methodology, e.g. the year-on-year change in the share of performance in science and research and the ratio of science and research to pedagogical performance.

In terms of the average quality profile of the university defined as the research and development coefficient according to the last accreditation taking into account the research capacity, the University of Presov was ranked 16th out of 20 public universities as of 2017. Its relative share in science and research performance was at the level of 3.2% (10th place), and the ratio of science and research performance to pedagogical research was 62.9% (18th place).

HEIs	Average quality profile of HEIs	Share in R&D	R&D to pedag. Performance
01 UK	7.71	24.92	1.27
02 UPJŠ	7.55	7.08	1.16
03 PU	**4.90**	**3.17**	**0.63**
04 UCM	5.96	1.80	0.58
05 UVLF	6.21	1.76	0.48
06 UKF	5.91	4.02	0.77
07 UMB	5.64	4.18	0.89
08 TRUNI	6.19	2.33	0.89
09 STU	7.08	15.93	1.28
10 TUKE	6.89	10.17	1.17
11 ŽU	5.84	7.51	1.06
12 TUAD	3.95	1.15	0.79
13 EU	4.94	3.20	0.70
14 SPU	6.58	4.10	0.75
15 TUZVO	6.35	2.88	1.12
16 VŠMU	7.66	1.77	0.94
17 VŠVU	5.67	1.00	0.92
18 AU	4.63	0.91	0.83
19 KU	3.85	1.66	0.64
20 UJS	3.59	0.44	0.45

A detailed analysis of the state of science development at UP in Presov is in the Report on the Research and Development of the University of Presov in Presov for the year 2016.

Vision for the development of science and research at PU

The University of Presov will build and develop a functional, open system, supporting the development of science and research, enabling the achievement of results in the field at the same qualitative level as the leading universities in the Slovak Republic. It will also develop a system enabling, in selected areas, the achievement of results at the level of universities in the Central Europe. The intention is to achieve internationally accepted research results, the dissemination of knowledge through teaching, learning and publishing activity. In this respect, the University focuses mainly on the development of scientific knowledge in the humanities - quality of life, human values, the field of performance and their harmony.

The main supporting objectives for the fulfilment of the vision.

C 1. Created and functional internal quality system (IQS) should be further developed as a significantly supportive system for the fulfilment of the adopted vision in the given field, i.e. to develop and improve the documented system structure of UP processes and to apply other effective methods and techniques.

C 2. Create conditions for the fulfilment of the vision for the development of science and research in the field of human resources and motivation.

C 3. Create conditions for the fulfilment of the vision for the development of science and research in the field of infrastructure.

C 4. Focus primarily on the solution of scientific research projects and on publishing activities.

C 5. Identify sources for raising the necessary funds to meet the vision for the development of science and research.

C 6. Build links with the external environment.

C 7. Develop mechanisms for the support of applied research with links to external environment.

Specification of the measures for individual objectives

C1. Created and functional internal quality system (IQS) should be further developed as a significantly supportive system for the fulfilment of the adopted vision in the given field, i.e. to develop and improve the documented system structure of UP processes and to apply other effective methods and techniques.

C1a. Continuously analyse, through creative debates and audits, the possibilities of improvement of the IQS in order to have a documented system structure of the processes at UP.

Responsible: Vice-Rector for University Development, Information Technology and Quality Assurance
Vice-Rector for Science, Art, Sport and Accreditation

Deadline: annually, always by 31.3.

C1b. Create an organizational unit coordinating basic and applied research activities. Its working title is: Centre for Applied Research and Innovation.

R.: Vice-Rector for Science, Art, Sport and Accreditation
Vice-Rector for University Development, Information Technology and Quality Assurance

D: annually, always by 31.03.

R - Responsible

D - Deadline

The specifics of the procedure for dealing with the strategy are set out in more detail in the Action Plan (AP). This principle applies to all initiatives and measures.

C 2. Create conditions for the implementation of the vision for the development of science and research in the field of human resources and motivation.

Measures and suggestions

C2a. Establish consulting services (contact points) to guide the process of developing projects of a scientific and research, development and other nature with an emphasis on economic field and to document these processes on the basis of the experience gained. These services will be established at the faculties and other UP units where such projects are developed.
R.: Vice-Rector for Science, Art, Sport and Accreditation
D: year 2018

C2b. Elaborate a proposal for the establishment of an attestation committee, under responsibility of which would be to negotiate the awarding of the research degrees.
R.: Vice-Rector for Science, Art, Sport and Accreditation
D: June 2018

C2c. Develop and implement systems for the evaluation of the performance of scientific - pedagogical staff.
R: Deans of UP faculties
D: year 2018

C2d. Directly motivate scientists and pedagogical staff to generate outputs in the field of knowledge in science and research, the parameters of which would approach to the knowledge that contributes to the development of a given scientific field on a global scale.
R.: Vice-Rector for Science, Art, Sport and Accreditation
D: year 2018

C2e. Establish a mechanism of effective engagement of students in science and research activities e.g. in Student Research, Professional and Artistic Activities, etc.
R.: Vice-Rector for Science, Art, Sport and Accreditation
D: year 2018

C 3. Create conditions for the fulfilment of the vision for the development of science and research in the field of infrastructure.

C3a. Monitor, renew and continuously develop the existing research infrastructure of the university.
R.: Vice-Rector for Science, Art, Sport and Accreditation
Vice-Rector for University Development, Information Technology and Quality Assurance
D: annually, always by 31.03.

C3b. Support and develop access to information resources.
R.: Vice-Rector for Science, Art, Sport and Accreditation
Vice-Rector for University Development, Information Technology and Quality Assurance
D: annually, always by 31.03.

C3c. *Create conditions for the use of partners' infrastructure in the context of entering into research partnerships with universities and research institutes and for the implementation of joint research projects.*
R.: Vice-Rector for Science, Art, Sport and Accreditation
Vice-Rector for University Development, Information Technology and Quality Assurance
D: annually, always by 31.03.

C3d. Create the conditions for the establishment of an incubator for the support of innovation in the university environment.
R.: Vice-Rector for Science, Art, Sport and Accreditation
Vice-Rector for University Development, Information Technology and Quality Assurance
D: annually, always by 31.03.

C3e. Support and develop the use of videoconferencing infrastructure for all university workplaces.
R.: Vice-Rector for Science, Art, Sport and Accreditation
Vice-Rector for University Development, Information Technology and Quality Assurance
D: annually, always by 31.03.

C 4. Focus primarily on the solution of scientific research projects and on publishing activities.

C4a. Periodically issue calls for the support of the university grant research taking into account the university's capacity.
R.: Vice-Rector for Science, Art, Sport and Accreditation
Bursar
D: annually, always by 31.03.

C 5. Identify sources for raising the necessary funds to meet the vision for the development of science and research.

C5a. Focus on research grants, SGA (VEGA), CEGA (KEGA), cooperation with business, interest clubs, acquiring of donations, etc.
R.: Vice-Rector for Science, Art, Sport and Accreditation
Bursar, Heads of UP units
D: annually, always by 31.03.

C 6. Build links with the external environment.

C6a. Enter or encourage entry into various professional organisations, associations and clusters where there is a potential to intensify cooperation with economic practice.
R.: Vice-Rector for Science, Art, Sport and Accreditation
Bursar
D: annually, always by 31.03.

C 7. Develop mechanisms for the support of applied research with links to external environment.

C7a. Intensify contacts with potential research customers from practice and promote commercialisation of results of the original research.
R.: Vice-Rector for Science, Art, Sport and Accreditation, Heads of UP units

D: annually, always by 31.03.

C7b. Initiate the creation of intra-university partnerships at the level of research workplaces, in order to achieve synergy effects in the solution of basic and applied research projects and to have top-quality scientific research teams.
R.: Vice-Rectors of UP
D: annually, always by 31.03.