



UTA Bratislava

University of the Third Age at the Centre for Continuing Education of the Comenius University



The University of the Third Age (UTA) under the auspices of Comenius University was established in 1990 as the first institution of this kind in the Slovak Republic. The UTA is located at the Centre for Continuing Education of the Comenius University, as one of the centre's division.

The UTA organizes courses mainly for retired people, for medically retired (physically handicapped) and for people before retirement - generally for people over 50. It offers to the students a 3-year interest group study in about 26 study branches in 3 cities. Along with Bratislava, there are courses also in Nitra and in Martin (central Slovakia).

The study plan of each year provides for 14 three-hour lectures to be presented each fortnight. During their first year the students are offered basic lectures from each of the offered disciplines. Their second and third year is devoted to the study of optional disciplines and students enroll in the study of specialised branches:

Archaeology	Economics	History of the fine art
History of religions	Philosophy	Regeneration of the strength of Seniors
Slovak history	General history	Latin and the old Roman history
Tourism + services	Yoga	Theatre and music in the passing of time
Ethnology	Social work	General medicine
Pharmacy	Psychology	Computers and Information
Law	Journalism	Horticulture and gardening
Astronomy	Gerontology	History and monuments of Bratislava



The interest in this form of study constantly increases. Yearly almost 1500 elderly students enroll in 46 study groups. After completing their study, students are ceremonially given certificates.

The pedagogical process at the UTA is complemented by other educational and social forms. Along with lectures and seminars, we organise excursions, panel discussions, visits to other universities, informal meetings and conceptualised trips.

Topics, which are the same or similar to those in undergraduate courses, are given by university lecturers either from our faculties or from partner ones. There are about 300 lecturers at our UTA altogether.

We provide other facilities and events for elderly people in addition to the study programme:

- Students organize on themselves meetings and discussions with politicians, they arrange visits to theatres, publish newspapers and manage other free time activities in their Club of the UTA students.
- We regularly organize the "Global walk event" which started in October 1999 around the world. It was organized by WHO from GINA in Geneva. In Bratislava we walk from the main university building across the city to the recreational part of the city.



Survey of number of courses and students:

Year	Courses	Groups	Number of Students
1990/91	1	2	235
1991/92	9	11	407
1992/93	12	15	653
1993/94	14	22	671
1994/95	15	31	745
1995/96	17	32	801
1996/97	19	35	822
1997/98	22	34	884
1998/99	24	42	998
1999/2000	21	34	998
2000/2001	22	37	1040
2001/2002	22	38	1112
2002/2003	22	38	1135
2003/2004	23	42	1277
2004/2005	26	45	1241
2005/2006	26	46	1521

During the years 2002-2004 we participated in the Socrates Grundtvig project group of EuCoNet. Results of our work you can find on the page www.gemeinsamlernen.de/euconet.

The University of the Third Age at Comenius University is a member of the International Association of UTAs (**AIUTA**), the European Federation of Older Students at Universities (**EFOS**) and **EURAG** (European Federation of the Elderly).