

Translated content of the older UniTv (university television) shot about the Department

<http://www.unitv.sk/on-demand/502/EF---Katedra-riadiacich-a-informacnych-systemov/>

(UniTV, 2012 / translated by Ales Janota, DCIS)

Text (opening credits):

Recognize your university

Speech:

Moderator:

Good morning/afternoon,

In you are interested in problems of e.g. intelligent transport systems, the Department of Control and Information Systems is just a place to get more information. History of the Department started with history of the University of Zilina despite it was renamed and updated several times during its existence. So what does the Department deal with?

(Head of department, prof. Spalek's voice):

Obviously, in a broad sense it is primarily electrical engineering since we are a part of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, but particularly it is Automation. That is the field of study whose study programmes are accredited at this workplace. It means that we do our best to educate students who know how to design microprocessor systems, how to design them to be fail-safe, i.e. we talk about safety-related control systems in practice. So we orient to the railway transport which has been a part of our portfolio for almost 60 years, and for recent ca 12 years we also deal with problems of road and highway transport and its control and management. So the study programmes in all three degrees are about automation and process control.

(Note: in the background the out-of-date electro-mechanical interlocking equipment can be seen for illustration of the historical context)

(Moderator's voice):

What education could be taken at the Department?

(Head of Department's voice):

We have accreditation for all three study degrees, even for part-time study. In these days one significant part-time study project is being completed, in the 2nd master degree. In the 3rd degree we have not opened it yet.

(Moderator's voice):

What is a number of students you may show off?

(Head of Department's voice):

We have the same problem as other technically oriented universities have – numbers of students have been decreasing quite a long. The interest in technical study was not extra high since it is more difficult than e.g. operation and economic or so, I do not want to give umbrage to anyone but it is reality. In recent 1-2 years the numbers seem to increase. Our objective is to be possible to make selection of best students and not recruitment of all since our ambitions is to keep quality. The situation in this year is such that we have 100

applicants into the 1st year of bachelor degree study what is the highest number in recent years. If we accept 40 we will be satisfied. Obviously a part out of those 100 applicants may finally prefer other faculties, e.g. Faculty of Management Science and Informatics or elsewhere, but the best 40 whoa are really interested in the study will remain here.

(Moderator's voice):

How many employees take care of education and research activities?

(Head of Department's voice):

The Department has 16 employees. Unlike other similar Departments we are maybe unique in the fact we have four professors. It is a very good number per such a size of the staff. However, on the other side, we are going to lack the young generation; it means those people who will lead the Department in several years. It is our task for future. Now there are 2-3 people ready to become Associate Professors and go successfully through the habilitation process that is the base for next functioning.

(Moderator's voice):

The Department cooperates on several research projects it is really proud of.

(Head of Department's voice):

Recently we have completed one big project (as a partner, not as a coordinator), the coordinator was the German University of Braunschweig. It was the project of the 6th Frame Programme oriented to safety assessment of railway level crossings. The project was very successful and we had also played an important role in it. Today, in the field of road transport, one of our recent biggest projects has been a commercial project for the European Union and Ministry of Transport of the Slovak Republic, it has been called EASYWAY. This project has solved intelligent transport systems in the Central Europe region. The Department participates in 5 project funded from structural funds (Note: ERDF - European Regional Development Funds). By the way, also in the Centre of excellence in intelligent transport and services.

(Moderator's voice):

Students may obtain the PhD degree at the Department. But where will they be employed then?

(Head of Department's voice):

Employability of our graduates is a perfect topic since it results from two main research priorities of our Department. The 1st priority is analysis and design of safe-related control systems for railway transport, which clearly defines potential employers – word for word they “suck” our graduates. As far as the 2nd priority is concerned, i.e. intelligent transport systems and road transport, these students are interesting for all cities where ITSs are implemented, for National Highway Administration. For Ministry of Transport and their organization parts responsible for planning, manufacturing, realizing the highway network in Slovakia.

(Moderator's voice):

The Department assumes modernization in two areas. What are visions for future?

(Head of Department's voice):

In the area of education there is one serious task ahead. Since automation includes not only industry, industrial processes, processes in railway or road transport, our big ambitious is to create a new study programme that will be called Transport telematics or Applied telematics what in other words means the basic theory needed

for building intelligent transport systems. It is a great challenge for us since there is huge interest in that on one side and no offer on the other side; nobody provides that in Slovakia yet. We have both people and practical experience to do that. The question is if student are interested in it.

In the area of research and science the objective is clear and the same at all departments – good projects, good European projects, bringing excellent publications. After completing all of that, we shall be the kings. 😊 Then there will be no problems – neither financial nor personal, students will well up. And our competitiveness in Slovakia will also be higher.

Text (end titles):

Recognize your university

UniTV

Made by TES Media © 2012

Camera, editor: Tomas Stanko

Moderator: Lucia Pekarova