



**Choices and Responsibilities:
Higher Education in the Knowledge Society**

Programme on Institutional Management in Higher Education (IMHE)

New Way of Funding in Slovak Higher Education

The Act on HE approved in 1990 brought after strong centralization during the former regime full academic autonomy to Slovak universities. Yet they remained to be state organisations under financial governance of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Finance. Strongly increasing interest in higher education combined with economical problems of the transforming Slovak society caused deepening of the overall problems in the Slovak HE.

During the years 1999-2001, the Ministry of Education together with the representatives of HEIs prepared the new Strategy of Further Development of HE in Slovak for the 21st. century that was approved by the Slovak government in August 2000. Based on this Strategy, the new law on HE has been prepared and adopted by the Slovak parliament in February 2002.

The new law brings for universities in Slovakia, among other changes, full economical autonomy and new way of financing. Slovak HEIs are being transformed from former state budgetary organizations to the new type of non-profit public institutions. Although the main part of financing is still expected from the state budget, the HEIs have to get some part of their budget by their own activities. The law combines the increasing autonomy of HEIs with strengthening of their accountability.

The proposed contribution will present some more details of the new system of financing in the Slovak higher education.

Peter Mederly