



University of Regional Development

Vysoká škola regionálního rozvoje

Abbreviation in Czech: VŠRR

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History

■ The University of Regional Development was given government assent to function as a university in 2003. The fundamental profiled characteristics of the educational goals and of structure of the university's curriculum were created on the basis of an extensive study of current offers and of the needs of the people working in the regions and in state administrative and autonomous bodies. It was clear that, following major organizational and legislative changes, there was a particular shortage of qualified employees for these workplaces. The changes in question include:

- reorganization of the territorial and administrative structuring of the Republic
- a redefinition and generic differentiation of the municipalities with new competences, and changes in the relationship between the state administration and the strengthened role of local autonomy
- a dramatic increase in opportunities for labour mobility, material commodities and access to financial resources, as a result of globalization and tendencies in the framework of the European Union

As a consequence, current regional employees were becoming less adequately qualified, due to their lack of a theoretical background for working in the new conditions, and their shortage of practical experience through real practical training. This formed the basis enabling a statement of the ideal social function of the university: to establish a cadre of new (young) employees who will be trained to be professionals and specialists working in the new conditions, and also to provide current older employees with opportunities to upgrade their knowledge and enhance their qualifications through lifelong education. This formed a sound basis for the statement of the social function of the university.

General description

The University of Regional Development is a private institution with a non-academic pattern, with an accredited study programme in Regional Development, with fields of study in Regional Development and in Management and Regional Development, with a nominal

3-year study period and with the final state examination leading to a bachelor's degree.

The seat of the university is in the Prague 17 – Řepy municipal district, the consulting centre is in Prague 4 – Pankrác, and there is a regional branch office outside Prague, in Jablonec nad Nisou (approx. 75 km from Prague). There is good transport access to the university.

The University of Regional Development is a dynamically developing new educational institution applying modern educational methods, with emphasis on the creativity of its graduates when solving work-related tasks. Graduates are able to use their own creative analytical-synthetic approach in problem-solving and decision-making, taking advantage of the opportunities offered by national and international information networks. The international credit system is established at the university. In the Regional Development programme, classes are held in full-time studies and part-time studies. Major components of the studies are the compulsory practical placement, most often executed in the offices of the Prague municipal districts, and the high-quality language training, with special regard to relevant vocabulary.

There is growing interest among young people in studying at the University of Regional Development.

Structure of the Institution

- The University of Regional Development is not divided into faculties.

Organisation of Studies

- The conception of the studies enables maximum flexibility in students' choice of their final professional specialization, along with strict observance of the obligatory study profile defined by the accreditation. At the same time, students can exploit their motivation in the upper semesters, when they can frame a special curriculum according to their individual interests in the particular field.

The organization of the studies, which can be found in greater detail on the university's websites, is described in the following module conception:

The common rudiments module, taking approx. 4 semesters and containing the fundamentals needed for employment in regional development (rudiments of informatics and information systems, rudiments of law, rudiments of microeconomics and macroeconomics, basic principles of regional studies, municipal economy, world economy, organization of public administration, public funds, global issues, etc.)

Both fields of study essentially share this module, which covers the extended fundamentals of regional studies.

The final module, from the 4th to 6th semester, comprises the obligatory courses for

the relevant field of study (theory and practice of management, social and cultural development of municipalities, the European Union, finances and banking, etc.) together with a sophisticated and relatively broad range of optional courses which generate a range of optional study specialization according to the interests of a student motivated for higher study.

In this way, students are able to specialize in a specific field, for example in the area of rational and effective communication, criminology and safety problems, rudiments of psychology, criminality and crime prevention, selected problems of administrative law, selected problems of public administration, critical proceedings, rudiments of industrial law, etc.)

This module manifests the advantages of the ECTS credit system, enables flexibility of specialization while also balancing the educational difficulties of each educational element.

Basic Statistical Data in Academic Year 2007/2008

■ Total number of students	375
State of teaching staff	43