

**Daniel LAJČIN, Gabriela SLÁVIKOVÁ, Ladislav VÁRKOLY**  
Dubnica Institute of Technology in Dubnica nad Váhom, Slovak Republic

## **Vocational education and other activities at Dubnica Institute of Technology in Dubnica nad Váhom**

### **Introduction**

The mission of Dubnica Institute of Technology in Dubnica nad Váhom is to provide, organize and supply education in accredited study programs, realize creative scientific research and offer further education programs in the form of a wide range of courses and educational activities.

Dubnica Institute of Technology in Dubnica nad Váhom is focused on producing and spreading knowledge and innovations in the field of applied study programs and scientific disciplines training professionals needed in the labor market with the aim to contribute to the development of a knowledge-based and sustainably competitive economy in Slovakia. To fulfil its purpose it cooperates with Slovak and foreign colleges and universities, institutions in private and public sectors, non-governmental organizations, and takes part in international projects.

### **1. Structure of DTI**

Dubnica Institute of Technology in Dubnica nad Váhom has department`s structure and is divided into:

- Department of Didactics, Technology and Educational Technologies,
- Department of Vocational Subjects and Information Technologies,
- Department of Pedagogical and Psychological Sciences.

### **2. Programs of study**

Dubnica Institute of Technology in Dubnica nad Váhom, Slovakia is a private institute providing university education in accredited Bachelor, Master and MBA programs.

**Bachelor programs** are:

- Teacher Training in Vocational Education (study field 1.1.2 Teacher Training in Vocational Subjects and Practical Training),
- Teacher Training in Practical Economic Subjects (study field 1.1.2 Teacher Training in Vocational Subjects and Practical Training),
- Electronics of Transportation (study field 5.2.13 Electronics),
- Management (study field 3.3.15 Management).

**Master programs** are:

- Teacher Training in Technical Subjects,
  - Teacher Training in Economic Subjects
- both in the study field 1.1.2 Teacher Training in Vocational Subjects and Practical Training:

**MBA program** is offered in cooperation with: Warsaw Management University in Warsaw (Wyższa Szkoła Menedżerska w Warszawie, Poland), Institute of International Studies and Education Humanum in Warsaw (Instytut Studiów Międzynarodowych i Edukacji Humanum – ISMiE, Warszawa, Poland) and Dubnica Institute of Technology in Dubnica nad Váhom (Dubnický technologický inštitút v Dubnici nad Váhom, Dubnica nad Váhom, Slovakia).

### **3. Further education**

Dubnica Institute of Technology in Dubnica nad Váhom also offers courses in further education in addition to its accredited bachelor and master programs. Further education programs are a part of lifelong education. The notion of lifelong education can be defined as a targeted, continuous educational activity with the aim to develop and improve knowledge, skills and competences. The notion of lifelong education covers formal, nonformal and informal education at all the levels – pre-school, elementary, secondary, university and further education.

### **4. University of the third age of Dubnica Institute of Technology in Dubnica nad Váhom**

- Information and Communication Technologies in the Life of Seniors  
The program familiarizes course participants with computers, the use of information and communication technologies, and making use of communication opportunities that computer technology offers today. The aim of the program is to introduce students to computer technology, improve their knowledge, provide them with the skills needed to identify and make use of the advantages that recent information and communication offer, and to decrease the barriers between the older generation and recent technological trends. The program places strong focus on both practical exercises as well as application of theoretical knowledge.
- Gardening  
The program is focused on the field of gardening, pomology and garden dendrology. The program aims to acquaint students with the principles of successful gardening in chronologically organized units and to offer not only theoretical knowledge but also practical advice. The program is enriched by ecologically-oriented lectures which are closely related to the main topic of the program.

The standard duration of a program is two terms (one academic year) at a minimum and six terms (three academic years) at a maximum.

## **5. Children's University**

Children's University of Dubnica Institute of Technology in Dubnica nad Váhom is an educational program for children aged 7–13 years old that provides, at early school age, an opportunity to experience an alternative approach to education. As it is in other European children's universities, DTI seeks to interpret knowledge and principles of various fields of science and technology to primary school pupils in a comprehensible way.

Unlike other children's universities in Slovakia, Children's University of Dubnica Institute of Technology in Dubnica nad Váhom offers a theme-based educational program in English. Students of the Children's University not only gain knowledge in particular scientific disciplines but also improve their language skills.

The program of the Children's University is designed in accordance with up-to-date requirements of the knowledge society and is organized in the form of intensive courses during the first week of summer holidays. At graduation ceremony, students receive diplomas and are awarded a degree of 'Little Bachelor'.

## **6. Student research training activities – ŠVOČ**

This competition is focused on student scientific training activities. Traditionally takes place at the end of the spring semester. The aim of the competition is to stimulate the interest of students and their activities in the field of science and research. Students prepare the different topics and projects in two vocational sections – one of them is focused on the 1<sup>st</sup> degree of higher education training an evaluation, second section is focused on the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree of higher education training an evaluation.

## **7. Acta Technologica Dubnicae – scientific journal**

Acta Technologica Dubnicae is a scientific journal published by the Dubnica Institute of Technology in Dubnica nad Váhom. Acta Technologica Dubnicae is published twice a year both in print and online. It carries only original, previously unpublished studies, articles, book reviews and information in English that have not currently been submitted for publication elsewhere. During its three-year existence, the journal has gained a good reputation and is gradually becoming a recognized journal both in Slovakia and abroad. The published articles are from the fields of pedagogy, psychology and technology. The unifying feature, without which articles cannot be published, is education. All the submitted papers are anonymously peer reviewed by two independent experts.

## **Conclusion**

Dubnica Institute of Technology in Dubnica nad Váhom has been established and works in accordance with the standards ISO 9001: 2008 quality man-

agement system in the field of Education in all levels of higher education and related scientific-research and publishing activities. On the basis of the certification audit it has been proved, that the management system fullfils the requirements of ISO 9001: 2008 at DTI.



A certificate is awarded to the Dubnica Institute of Technology in Dubnica nad Váhom by QSCert spol. s r.o. The certificate confirms the imposition and use of quality management system according to the standards in that field. Dubnica Institute of Technology in Dubnica nad Váhom in accordance with the criteria of the internal quality assurance system of higher education under Section 87a of the law no's (KVSĽ) 131/2002 Coll. on universities, as amended, in accordance with the standards and guidelines for quality assurance in the European higher education area (ESG directive) and the requirements of the standards ISO 9001: 2008, defines the integrated internal quality assurance system and quality management system its policy and procedures in the form of quality objectives and related Quality Organization Standards Manual.

## Literature

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### **Abstract**

The article focuses on Dubnica Institute of Technology in Dubnica nad Váhom activities in the field of vocational higher education. It informs of the organizational structure of Dubnica Institute of Technology in Dubnica nad Váhom and study programs offer. Other Dubnica Institute of Technology in Dubnica nad Váhom activities are University of the third age, Children's University, Student research training activities (ŠVOČ) and some others. DTI publishes scientific journal *Acta Technologica Dubnicae*. Dubnica Institute of Technology in Dubnica nad Váhom was awarded an ISO quality certificate, that confirmed, the management system fulfils the requirements of ISO 9001: 2008 at Dubnica Institute of Technology in Dubnica nad Váhom.

**Key words:** vocational education, study programs, University of the 3<sup>rd</sup> age, student research training activities, *Acta Technologica Dubnicae*.