



TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY IN ZVOLEN

Long-term plan of TU in Zvolen for the years 2017 – 2023

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Zvolen 2016

Introduction

The Long-term Plan of the Technical University in Zvolen for 2017-2023 was prepared in accordance with Act No.131/2002 Coll. on Higher Education and on Amendments and Supplements to Certain Acts, as amended, as the main planning and development document with strategic objectives, instruments, and indicators (measurable indicators) in the horizon of seven years, with the aim of ensuring the achievement of an ambitious vision in 2030.

The Long-term plan of the Technical University in Zvolen for the years 2017-2023 builds on the fulfilled vision of the previous long-term plan (Long-term plan of the Technical University in Zvolen for the years 2011-2016) - to be a university with a significant position in the European education and research area, especially in the traditional areas of its activities. Based on the results of the comprehensive accreditation in 2015, the Technical University in Zvolen defended its status of a university higher education institution and was ranked among the 7 best universities in Slovakia out of a total of 22 evaluated universities.

The Long-term plan of the Technical University in Zvolen for 2017-2023 (hereinafter referred as the "Long-term plan") is complementary to national and regional strategies (National Programme for the Development of Education and Training, Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation of the Slovak Republic - RIS3, RIÚS, Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, etc.) and is also in line with strategic documents (EU 2020 Strategy, Horizon 2020, etc.).

The Long-term plan of the Technical University for 2017-2023 with a vision to 2030 defines the identity of the institution, its mission, core values, vision to 2030 and strategic goal in 2023. The main and cross-cutting areas of development of TU in Zvolen are an essential part of it. The Long-term plan is an open document, the fulfilment of the strategic objectives will be evaluated annually based on defined indicators, the measures will be updated if necessary, in accordance with the change of internal and external conditions of its implementation.

1 Identity of TU in Zvolen

The Technical University in Zvolen claims the legacy of the Mining Academy in Banská Štiavnica, founded in 1762, as one of the world's first institutions providing technical higher education.

The Technical University in Zvolen, originally called the University of Forestry and Wood Sciences and Technology in Zvolen, was established by Government Decree No. 30/1952 Coll. on Certain Changes and Organisation of Higher Education Institutions. By Slovak National Council Act No 26/1992 Coll. on the change of the name of the University of Forestry and Wood Sciences and Technology in Zvolen, the name was changed to the Technical University in Zvolen.

The Technical University in Zvolen is a public university within the meaning of Act No. 131/2002 Coll. on Higher Education and on Amendments and Additions to Certain Acts and is classified as a university higher education institution within the meaning of this Act based on the results of the comprehensive accreditation of 2015.

The Faculty of Forestry, Faculty of Wood Sciences and Technology, Faculty of Ecology and Environmental Sciences, Faculty of Environmental and Manufacturing Technology are the organisational parts of the Technical University in Zvolen.

In accordance with the principles of ethics, democracy and humanism and the applicable laws, the Technical University in Zvolen carries out educational, scientific, research, development, artistic and other creative activities, which continue the long tradition of forestry and woodworking education and research in Slovakia. It has a significant position in the system of universities in Slovakia with a focus on forest - timber - natural resources - ecology - environment - ecotechnics - economics and entrepreneurship - emergency services - furniture and interior design, with an extension to related and application areas.

2 Mission of TU in Zvolen

The mission of the Technical University in Zvolen is to develop creative scientific research and, on its basis, to provide higher education at all three levels in the Slovak and European research and education space. In the field of research, it fulfils its mission by solving research projects and programmes of national and international character in seven areas of research: agricultural and forestry sciences, engineering and technology, environmental science and ecology, mechanical engineering, economics and management, safety and security services, arts; as well as in other related and application areas.

In education, the Technical University in Zvolen fulfils its mission in six groups of fields of study: forestry, structural engineering, technology, production and communications, ecological and environmental sciences, security services, economics and management, arts; with an emphasis on the second and third level study programmes and accreditation and implementation of study programmes in foreign languages.

3 Values of TU in Zvolen

The basic values that are applied at the Technical University in Zvolen in practice, i.e., in ensuring its mission and the implementation of its main and supporting activities within the institution, but also in relation to the external environment, are: humanism, correctness, transparency, morality, equality of opportunity, respect, loyalty, efficiency, progress, quality and diversity.

4 Basis for the Long-term plan

The Technical University in Zvolen is a stabilized institution providing quality higher education in accordance with the profile of the university in all three levels of study within Slovakia as well as the European educational area with established access to higher education for traditional as well as new target groups of candidates.

The Technical University in Zvolen is a modern scientific and research institution involved in the building of a European knowledge society within the framework of its profiling as a university college with its uniqueness in Slovakia in the field of forestry and wood processing with appropriate extension to other technical, natural science, security, economic and artistic areas.

The Technical University in Zvolen is an institution with efficient use of available property, with material and technical conditions created to increase the efficiency of the workplaces, with adequate technical and information infrastructure for the pedagogical and scientific research process.

5 Vision to 2030

In 2030, the Technical University in Zvolen will be an internationally recognised, research-oriented university and will be one of the Slovak leaders in its scientific research focus.

In 2030, the Technical University in Zvolen will provide modern education as a systematic transmission of knowledge and common cultural and democratic values in an intergenerational process, as well as strengthening the ideas of humanism, tolerance, cooperation, and responsibility towards life.

The Technical University in Zvolen in 2030 will fulfil the concept of a "green university", providing state-of-the-art scientific knowledge for consistent adherence to the principles of sustainable living.

6 Strategic objectives in 2023

In 2023, the Technical University in Zvolen will be a university and research university that:

- is respected and successful in the national and international context,
- has a high quality of educational activities, scientific research, and artistic activities,
- has graduates who are well employable in practice,
- is aimed at supporting the development of a knowledge-based and innovative economy,
- focuses on the efficient and environmentally friendly use of natural resources,
- is focused on the third mission of universities by specific services for the development of society and the region,
- has all processes ensured on ethical principles and evaluated by an internal quality management system,
- applies the concept of effective internal governance and risk management in all processes.

7 Main and cross-cutting areas of development of TU in Zvolen

Area 1 Educational activities

Strategic objective

Quality education comparable to international standards, considering the needs of the labour market.

Measures

1.1 Maintaining the traditional areas of education at the University with a diverse range of offerings and regular curriculum innovation, applying the latest findings from research and scholarship.

Indicator: Number of newly accredited or re-accredited study programmes at all three levels of study in each research area in the faculties (units) of the university.

1.2 Optimising the numbers of applicants and students at the University through consistent, active marketing and improved cooperation with secondary high schools.

Indicator. Ratio of enrolled students to total enrolments.

1.3 Increasing the quality of the education provided through systematic processes - establish criteria for measuring the quality of the education provided.

Indicator: Student satisfaction with the quality of teaching provided. Ratio of number of students successfully completed to number of students enrolled in degree programmes at each level of study.

1.4 Internationalisation of studies - to increase the proportion of foreign students studying at TU in Zvolen and to increase student mobility.

Indicator. Number of students mobilities. Number of study programmes in a foreign language.

1.5 The product of the University must be a quality graduate capable of assuming responsible and managerial functions in economic and social practice with sufficient acquired theoretical knowledge and practical skills and with a high level of communication and social competences.

Indicator: Proportion of unemployed graduates to the total number of graduates of the university. Number of educational partnerships and cooperation with employers and with the needs of practice.

1.6 Developing lifelong learning through the Centre for Continuing Education.

Indicator: Number of courses held in continuing education. Number of participants and graduates of lifelong learning courses.

1.7 Improving cooperation with university alumni and introduce regular evaluation of graduates by traditional employers in the region.

Indicator: Number of contacts or meetings held with university alumni, employers, and their associations.

1.8 Establishing a transparent system for measuring and evaluating the quality of education services.

Indicator: Regular evaluation of the quality of education provided.

1.9 Obtaining feedback from students at all levels of study and from alumni through questionnaires and surveys and implement measures to improve the quality of education based on the findings.

Indicator: Evaluating student feedback. Number of measures based on student feedback.

Area 2 Research, creative and artistic activities

Strategic objective

Internationally accepted results in research and artistic activities and transfer of knowledge into economic and social practice.

Measures

2.1 Publishing the results of research, creative and artistic activities in the international environment, especially in indexed reputable international scientific journals.

Indicator: Number of publications registered in CCC, Web of Science and SCOPUS per creative employee. Number of top-quality outputs in artistic creation per creative employee in artistic activity.

2.2 Strengthen the position of the University in national and international collaborative research projects.

Indicator: Number of grants from international sources, including the amount of financial support per creative employee. Number of grants from domestic sources, including the amount of financial support per member of staff.

2.3 Identify and support top expert and excellent research activities and activities in individual faculties.

Indicator: Number of top expert and excellent scientific research teams.

2.4 Building research infrastructure, including qualified staff.

Indicator: Financial value and outputs of research infrastructure. Number of creative staff and students using research infrastructure units.

2.5 Deepening the involvement of PhD students in research, creative and artistic activities with the condition of publication in indexed internationally recognized scientific journals.

Indicator: Number of publications registered in CCC, Web of Science and SCOPUS per doctoral graduate.

2.6 Establishing and ensuring the effective operation of a technology transfer centre with emphasis on the commercialisation of research results.

Indicator: Number of research contracts and financial value of income from research and development projects per creative employee. Number of patents, utility models and designs per creative employee.

2.7 Popularising and raising the profile of the results of the university's scientific research and other creative activities in the professional community.

Indicator: Number of international and national scientific and professional events organised.

Area 3 Public relations, national and international cooperation

Strategic objective

Building a positive image of the university, strengthening national and international cooperation.

Measures

3.1 Popularising the results of the university's scientific and research, teaching, and other activities among the public.

Indicator: Number of TUZVO outputs and events and number of participants.

3.2 Strengthening communications with the media and the public and promotion/marketing of the university.

Indicator: Number of media outputs and responses to TUZVO activities, placement in rankings of universities and research institutions.

3.3 Strengthening cooperation with economic and social practice - from private industry to public institutions.

Indicator: Number of cooperation agreements and countdown of their implementation. Participation of TUZVO staff in expert committees and councils.

3.4 Strengthening cooperation with the region and the town of Zvolen.

Indicator: Number of joint activities and projects.

3.5 To activate the activities of the Association of Alumni and Friends of the University.

Indicator: The number of members of the association and the number of activities and outputs.

3.6 Promoting student and staff mobility.

Indicator: Proportion of students and staff on student and staff mobility or work experience abroad.

3.7 Strengthening world language skills of students and staff.

Indicator: Assessment of the level of world language proficiency of staff and students.

3.8 Strengthening cooperation with V4 and EU universities and international organisations that are expertly and professionally close.

Indicator: Number of joint scientific publications registered in CCC, Web of Science, joint projects, participation in the COST Actions.

Area 4 Human resources

Strategic objective

Quality skills structure and modern services for staff.

Measures

4.1 Improving staff selection criteria and promote staff career development.

Indicator. Coefficient of the qualification structure of the departments and TUZVO. Number of publications registered in CCC, H-index of creative employee, workplace and TUZVO. The score value of the evaluation of the creative staff member, the workplace and the TUZVO.

4.2 Promoting excellence in teaching, research, and artistic activities.

Indicator: Share of incentive pay per creative employee.

4.3 Creating an attractive working environment.

Indicator: The area of modernised premises.

4.4 Supporting the provision of quality counselling services in the areas of personal and social well-being.

Indicator: Number of employees who have used the services.

Area 5 Students support

Strategic objective

Effective motivation of students, making facilities for student activities more attractive and providing social needs also for students with specific needs.

Measures

5.1 Encouraging and motivating students by awarding incentive and special scholarships for outstanding academic performance and notable awards, achievements, and activities for the benefit of the university.

Indicator: Number of students awarded incentive and exceptional scholarships. Number of students involved in student organisations.

5.2 Improving the basic social conditions of students in terms of accommodation and catering services, create relaxation zones in the university campus and promote cultural, social, and sporting activities of students at the university.

Indicator. Number of measures based on feedback from surveys. Number of students involved in cultural, professional, social, and sporting activities at the university.

5.3 Developing care for students with specific needs without reducing the demands on their academic performance.

Indicator: Number of measures based on feedback from surveys of students with specific needs in creating conditions for study.

5.4 Supporting the provision of quality counselling services in the areas of study, career, personal and social situation.

Indicator: Number of graduates employed in the respective field of study in relation to the total number of students.

Area 6 Governance, financing and management

Strategic objective

Efficient financing and management of the university.

Measures

6.1 To maintain a positive economic performance of the university as a whole or to improve the financial performance of the organizational parts of the university.

Indicator: Management results of workplaces (revenue, profit, cash flow) and their motivational comparison.

6.2 Establish a model of effective financial planning (consistency between long- and short-term financial plan) with the aim of increasing the profitability of the university.

Indicator: Optimization of CASH FLOW, profitability coefficient of TUZVO and comparison with selected universities.

6.3 Taking advantage of opportunities to obtain EU funding, to the maximum extent possible, for infrastructure development, further development of centres of excellence in the following areas: forest - timber - natural resources - ecology - environment - eco-technology - economics and entrepreneurship - emergency services - furniture and interior design.

Indicator: Number and structure of EU funding received for infrastructure.

6.4 Establishing a model of capital resource generation for major capital development projects of the university.

Indicator: The amount and structure of annual and total capital resources.

6.5 Evaluate the opportunities available to use the University's assets for the development of its business activities, particularly in the Organizational Parts and faculties where their performance is very low.

Indicator: Number of financial resources raised from the business activities of the departments.

6.6 Optimising the organisational structure to improve the level of management, the quality of planning and management results.

Indicator: Number of changes in organisational structure and financial contribution to the university.

6.7 Effective use of the economic information system (application of new appropriate modules for the management and financing of TUZVO - controlling and management superstructure).

Indicator: Number of modules.

6.8 Development of the evaluation and quality assurance system in the strategic management of TUZVO.

Indicator: Number and proportion of university staff to total number of students. Proportion of funds received from the subsidy schedule to previous years.

Area 7 Technical and investment development

Strategic objective

High level of technical and technological infrastructure.

Measures

7.1 Revitalising and modernising the university premises for the development of teaching and research departments at TUZVO or create spatial conditions for the growth of the university's performance.

Indicator: The area of reconstructed premises (in m²).

7.2 Improving the energy efficiency of building operations and build energy source heating for selected buildings.

Indicator: Energy operating costs.

7.3 Ensuring the building of a research park using centres of excellence, with strong links to other research entities as well as to economic practice.

Indicator: Number of financial resources invested.

7.4 Ensuring the optimisation related to the use of available space for core and business activities

Indicator: Operating costs and capacity utilisation rate.

7.5 Establishing a model for the gradual reconstruction of TUZVO buildings and the optimal combination of financial resources.

Indicator: Number and structure of projects ready for implementation.

7.6 Ensuring the modernisation of the accommodation and catering capacities of TUZVO.

Indicator: Number of projects implemented.

7.7 Implementing the building of a new data infrastructure of TUZVO (server room), including the storage of student works in accordance with the requirements for archiving.

Indicator: Phased transfer of the server room in 2017-2023.

7.8 Implementing the technical and technological upgrade of VDL workplaces and building the technology centres.

Indicator: The volume and structure of upcoming projects.

7.9 Modernisation of the TUZVO transport fleet.

Indicator: Number of the means of transport, their cost-effectiveness, and their efficient use.

7.10 Building purpose-built demonstration facilities to improve the quality of educational processes and research activities of the TUZVO departments.

Indicator: Number of demonstration objects.

Area 8 Information Systems and Technology (IST), Library and Information Services (LIS)

Strategic objective

IST: Modern ICT infrastructure for education, science, research, and management.

LIS: Academic library as an information centre for the academic community.

Measures

IST

8.1 Ensuring the upgrading of ICT infrastructure.

Indicator: Number of active network elements. Number of new servers. Number of computers with the latest operating systems. Internet access speed.

8.2 Developing and modernising university information systems.

Indicator: Number of changes implemented in the structure of information systems. Number of security incidents. Number of upgrades of information systems.

8.3 Improving the quality of ICT services.

Indicator: User feedback evaluated annually. Number of new IT services.

8.4 Building a modern, flexible, and interactive website.

Indicator: Number of web services and number of views.

8.5 Optimising supporting information systems to improve own activities.

Indicator: Number of interconnections of information and communication systems.

LIS

8.6 Development of information support for the educational process (information needs, information literacy of TUZVO students and library users).

Indicator: Number and impact of outputs from information seminars.

8.7 Ensuring information support for science and research, creative and artistic activities.

Indicator: Number of library items purchased, and electronic resources made available.

8.8 Recording and registering publication activity.

Indicator: Number of outputs in the database of publications and citations of TUZVO staff.

8.9 Developing library and information services and marketing communications.

Indicator: Number of outputs and new services.

8.10 Ensuring the development of the ARL library-information system.

Indicator: Number of outputs and their impact.

Conclusion

The Long-term plan of the Technical University in Zvolen for the years 2017-2023 with a vision to 2030 as a basic planning document will ensure the development of the university in all key areas. The Long-term plan of the Technical University in Zvolen is the starting point for the development of long-term plans of the faculties at the Technical University in Zvolen.

The Long-term plan will be elaborated into a *Plan for ensuring the fulfilment of the Long-term plan in each year*. The plans will include priority tasks, deadlines, responsibilities, strengths, weaknesses, risks, and possible solutions.

The Long-term plan of the Technical University in Zvolen for 2017-2023 with a vision to 2030 was discussed in the Scientific Board of TUZVO on 06.12.2016 and approved by the Academic Senate of TUZVO at the meeting held on 27.02.2017.

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