Portal of Slovak universities - Present and future

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1. Summary
Project Portal of Slovak universities was founded by EUNIS-SK association in 2005. The Portal was introduced to the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport (MESRaS SR) on November 28th, 2006. Since then it has been supported by the MESRaS SR and it is still developing new functionalities. The Portal of Slovak universities is closely related to Electronisation of university application, Central register of students, Central register of employees, Information system for grant scheme administration and partly also to project Development, analyses and interconnection of mobility online system concept (Erasmus plus online). The visit rate of the Portal of Slovak universities is increasing every year, mainly during the period of sending application forms.

2. Current state of projects
University Portal is accessible from URL: https://www.portalvs.sk. The portal currently includes the following modules:

- **Information about university**
Ensuring the creation and presentation of the information regarding universities based on different criteria that are systematically organized and professionally supervised. Information on study programmes serve mainly for applicants that are interested to study at particular universities. It is the most visited part of the Portal.

- **Electronic university application form**
University applicants are offered solution that enables transparent environment and consistent way of application for the university. The system uses a central database of accredited study programs and other central databases, including electronic pupils' books. In case that applicant applies for more than one university he or she enters data about himself/herself only once. The applicant gets information necessary for electronic application form in short time from one place during application filling. He or she can use data about applicant from previous year, than the applicant can send application forms to various universities without the repetition of identical input data. The application form can be corrected before it is sent; it can be also checked online. The applicant can get SMS notifications. This model has strong user support. There is data exchange between electronic application form and particular academic IS through web services.

- **Projects**
An on-line solution which is used to administrate the entire life cycle of submitted / processed / funded / completed projects within the internal grant system of the MESRaS SR.

- **Conferences and Seminars**
The module provides insertion of conferences and seminars in a simple form, giving an overview of the various events, allows filtering of information. Registered events is also in the events calendar.

- **Publication activity**
Link to Central Register of Publication Activity. The module is connected to the Central Register of Publication Activity. It enables users to search publications.
- **E-Learning**

The module is designed especially for university teachers to gain an overview which courses are developed at Slovak universities and to what extent. University teachers can establish cooperation with the authors of these courses, in order to avoid unnecessary work - making duplicates course, once the course with a specific topic has been developed, it can be used in the curriculum as an additional learning support. The module can also serve as a possible choice of guarantors with already prepared teaching support. The module is also designed for students, who can find additional sources for studies due to the fact that many courses or objects are accessible.

- **News**

This module is strength of the portal. The author of this module determines the target reader, the news appear when using selected module (option of multiple choice).

- **Central register of students, Central register of employees**

The central register of students is a non-public system, which has been created for the statistical and budgetary purposes. Register of employees serves for the evidence of the staff at universities, for statistical purposes, budgetary purposes, and control purposes and for the needs of the Accreditation Commission in carrying out its tasks.

3. **Measurable indicators and objectives for the following period**

**Measurable indicators:** Functional application, location and interconnection of different national dials, strong user support - Call center, HelpDesk, involvement of all universities in the module “Information about universities”. Most of the universities are involved in Conferences and Seminars, eLearning, communication interface (SMS tokens, e-mails, discussions, and intranet), access dials to external applications.

**The objectives for the following period:** Portal redesign based on research (results will be presented at the conference), portal personalization, innovation of existing modules and functionalities, extend the application of new modules, namely a module DEKA - module designed to support e-learning in order to ensure continuous availability of courses and documents. Module Further Education will be added - database providing information on training programs for lifelong learning based on rich filtering rules.

**Presentation of the results of questionnaire surveys**

The presentation will publish survey results from the years 2011-2014 from the use of portals, and Central electronic university application form, as well as, the results of contact surveys in order to redesign Portal of Slovak universities. The methods: Evaluation dependencies of ideological issues of identification data using Chi-square contingency test, Kruskal-Wallis test of opinion matters. Electronic support was tested by LSD test of contrasts - testing of mean values compliance.

4. **Conclusion**

Portal of Slovak universities is as a gateway to the information for prospective students, as well as university students and the general public. It is also a gateway to a nationwide projects and other IS, such as KEGA, CRPA, and Electronisation of the university application process. It is great asset especially for universities that provide information about their activities, publish events organized at the university and e-courses. The Portal has been built since 2006 and continuing its operation is of great importance. There are published plenty of information, universities can exchange information with their IS with help of exchange formats.

5. **REFERENCES**
