

THE ACTIVITY OF THE EXTENSION OF COMENIUS UNIVERSITY IN BRATISLAVA DURING INTERWAR PERIOD OF CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC (1918 - 1938)

^aEDUARD LUKÁČ, ^bLUCIA HARTMANNOVÁ

University of Presov, 17. novembra 1, 080 01 Prešov, Slovakia

email: ^aeduard.lukac@unipo.sk,

^blucia.hartmannova@smail.unipo.sk

The paper is a partial result of the project VEGA 1/0303/17 entitled "Adult education in Slovakia during the existence of Czechoslovakia (1918-1938)".

Abstract: The period of the existence of interwar Czechoslovak Republic (1918 – 1938) provided space for the development of adult education controlled by the state for the first time. In Slovakia, the Extension of Comenius University in Bratislava also participated in this activity and took the extensions in Prague and Bratislava for example. Its main activities were: organization and personal providing of lectures for broad public in the whole area of Slovakia and for Czech and Slovak community in Vienna, of university courses for teachers, of courses for military edifying officers as well as the cooperation with Edifying organization for Slovakia, publishing of lectures and studies in its own edition with the name Collection of lectures and debates of the Extension of Comenius University.

Keywords: history of adult education in Slovakia, Extension of Comenius University, Extension of Czechoslovak universities in Czechoslovak Republic, M. Weingart

Introduction

The area of education came into priority attention of governing classes during the period of Enlightenment and there were reforms to make at least elementary education available to as many people as possible. This tendency also reflected into the interest in adult education, for which the new organizational forms were applied in the area of contemporary Slovakia, like for example reading groups, schooled communities, Sunday schools, economic organizations, educational casinos etc. Their main aim was to saturate the educational needs of adults who, despite compulsory school attendance, attended school only when there was no work in agriculture and their literacy was on a low level. The spreading of higher education is characteristic for the period of second half of the 19th century until the creation of Czechoslovak Republic (1918 - 1938). The adults gained access to the highest education only after the founding of Comenius University in Bratislava through university extension.

1 The beginning of university extensions

The pioneer of universities' engagement into adult education was James Stuart (1843 - 1913). He gained practice at lectures for adults during 1867 – 1868 and elaborated and put into practice the idea of university extension, a new form of adult education for the first time. "In 1873 the University of Cambridge accepted his project and grouped professors into special commission for the organization and coordination of the lectures. This is how the first general university in England, called University extension, was formed. The name indicated broadening of the own academic activity of professors beyond the circle of students, to broader society classes. The activity was also called extra-mural work." (Škoda, K., 1986, p. 169.) The first educational efforts of J. Stuart and his colleagues from Trinity College from Cambridge University concentrated on organizing of the systematic educational courses for women organizations, technical (mechanical) institutes and edifying communities.

According to the experience from Great Britain and example of University of Vienna, the university extension in Czech Republic was founded by the end of the 19th century and the incentive for its founding was the request of literary branch of Czechoslovak workers' debate addressed to Faculty of Arts of Czech university in Prague¹, with the aim to provide lectures for workers. Professors of the given faculty consequently elaborated regulations of the university extension and handed them with the request of its financing to the Ministry of Education, which

accepted the regulations on 16th October 1898. (Horna, R. - Opravil, J. - Paulová, M., 1928) The chairman of the board was Professor J. Reinsberg, the vice-chairman was Professor O. Hostinský and the first lecture of the chairman about the mission and roles of the university extension took place on 5th April 1899. The first thematic lecture about the mission of the extensions gave Professor T. G. Masaryk on 6th April 1899 and it was called "About the development of European society in the 19th century." The first lectures of the Extension of Czech universities in Prague for adults took place only in Prague, but since the spring 1900 there were lectures also in neighboring towns and villages and later in the whole Czech Republic, Moravia and Silesia.

Also teachers from Czech high technical tutoring were being invited to give lectures since 1904 and the tutoring officially joined the university extension in 1908 and the Ministry of Education accepted the altered regulations by the order from 17th January 1908. The international congress concerning the issue of folk education took place in Paris between 1st – 4th October 1908 and the International federation of university extensions and folk universities were founded on the congress. The organization of the university extension of Czech university also became the member of the Federation from its beginning. "The University participated on behalf in the 1st international meeting of folk universities in Bologna, Italy in 1912." (Průcha, J. - Veteška, J., 2014, p. 282).

The university extension started during holiday 1910 lectures concentrated also on further education of teachers. Beside this, there were also courses concentrated on the issue of economy, agriculture, health system, physics etc. on the program in the period before the First World War. There were around 21 Prague courses a year before the First World War and each course comprised the series of 6 lectures. About 100 lectures a year were given in the neighborhood of Prague.

The second centre of extension's lectures became Brno. The „Commission for organizing of folk lectures“ was founded on the 1st February 1905 near Czech Technical university in Brno² and its first chairman was Professor V. Novák. The Commission started its activity on the 1st March 1905 through the lecture of B. Koloušek "On free competition" and 114 lectures for 8151 participants were given in Brno and 212 lectures for 35 284 participants took place in the neighboring towns and municipalities until the creation of the Czechoslovak Republic (Horna, R. - Opravil, J. - Paulová, M., 1928, p. 27).

The creation of Czechoslovak Republic was an incentive for the development of university extension's activity because it enabled the development of school system. The Commission for folk lectures of Czech universities in Brno started to work from the academic year 1919/1920 and beside Masaryk University, also other university institutions in Brno participated in its activity – University of agriculture and Veterinary University.

The order of Ministry of Internal Affairs of Czechoslovak Republic number 16.260 from 30th March 1920 also contributed to the broadening of activity and to the overall improvement of the lectures' efficiency, because it cancelled the duty of the extension to announce its lectures to the police and political offices. Since then, the extensions were able to give lectures freely on the whole area of Czechoslovak Republic.

2 The Extension of Comenius University in Bratislava

Before the Extension of Comenius University in Bratislava (EUC) was founded, the public in Bratislava could attend extension's lectures. For example, the extension of Prague

¹ The order of the Emperor Franz Joseph I. of Austria from 11th April 1881 and consequential Law from 28th February 1882 divided Carl – Ferdinand University in Prague from the half of winter term 1882/1883 and two separate universities were formed: Carl – Ferdinand German University and Carl – Ferdinand Czech University.

² Emperor Franz Joseph I. of Austria signed on the 19th September 1899 a decree of founding of Technical University in Brno.

universities organized from 4th to 16th June 1921 in Bratislava the 14-days-long courses for teachers of town and municipality schools, which could be seen as first courses from branches of Faculty of Arts held in Bratislava. The courses had together 60 lessons. The lectures took place from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. and there were excursions in Bratislava and its surrounding in the afternoon. (Meško, D., 2014) "They took place in the great hall of the district house and 389 participants signed themselves to attend them. Beside them, there were also other people coming to see the lectures. The participants were from 2/3 Slovaks, mainly from the schools in the west of Slovakia, the others were from Moravia and Czech Republic. The lectures gave a collective picture of Slovakia from the philological and historic side." (Hanuš, J. - Weingart, M., 1925, p. 63) M. Weingart was in charge of those courses. He gave lectures since 1916 for the "Edifying organization," he belonged to the board of "Hus's school" (higher folk school) and during 1919 – 1921 he was the secretary of the Commission for organizing of folk lectures of Czech universities in Prague.

Also teachers of Comenius University in Bratislava gave such lectures and they took place mainly in the university aula, like for example "opening lecture of the dean Prof. Hanuš in October 1921 Dobrovodský and Slovakia, the lectures of Prof. Heidler about Havlíček, of Prof. Škultéty about Dostoevsky, of Pražák about Hviezdoslav, of Prof. Orel called the evening of old-Czech music and the evening of chorus' creation of J. B. Foerstr (both in cooperation with Acad. Singing Organization) and of Prof. Weingart: Hundred years of Slavistics since the issuing of the Institution Dobrovodský" (Zpráva odstupujícího rektora prof. Dra. Augustína Rátha, 1925, p. 115).

After the arrival to the Faculty of Arts of Comenius University in 1921, M. Weingart used his experience with edifying work and he remembers this period as follows: "From the beginning of Comenius University it was clear that the important part of its activity must be also the extensive activity: the teaching and educational activity of professors and docents cannot be restricted to only internal lectures and lessons for their own students, but they should also do cultural and educational work among broader classes of Slavistics in Slovakia" (Meško, D., 2014, p. 48) He made his idea about the sense of this work into a proposal to found extension in Bratislava, which he handed to all faculties of University in February 1922 and stated three main reasons for its founding in the given period:

1. „Extensive activity cannot start immediately; the creation of extension, accepting of its regulations and the starting work needs some time to be prepared.
2. If the founding of Bratislava extension was delayed, some other organization giving lectures could gain suitable place for lectures in Slovakia and surrounding countries.
3. Even if Bratislava extension was not being discussed yet, the budget of Ministry of Education considered it in 1922.“ (Weingart, M., 1925, p. 212-213).

In the proposal of the founding of EUC was stated that its role would be to not only organize lectures and cycle of lectures according to the needs and wishes of people, but also to organize special courses concentrated on the target group of teachers. The proposal was accepted at all faculties and consequently a preparing board was elected that accepted the regulations elaborated by Weingart. They were later accepted by other academic organs and by the Ministry, too. He states in the first paragraphs:

§ 1.

The Extension of the Comenius University is a folk-educative institution of Comenius University in Bratislava, which cares for folk lectures that are not included in the official lists of the university lectures, with the aim to enrich academic education of those broader classes, to which the academic study is unavailable.

§ 2.

The subjects of the extensive folk lectures organized continually

(in courses or cycles) or individually, are all scientific branches, if they are appropriate for the folk presentation. Special attention is devoted to the mental needs of the period, nation and Czechoslovak state. Lectures concerning political parties and agitation are excluded." (Věstník, 1923, p. 436).

EUC started to work on 1st March 1923 under leadership of Prof. M. Weingart, who considered it to be "an especially important part of Comenius University from its beginning." (Sýkora, E., 1970, p. 365) Prof. M. Weingart "saw immediately, that the extension in Slovakia has much higher importance than in the native countries, where many organizations care for the organizing of folk-educative lectures. But, on the contrary, in Slovakia the concept "scientific folk-educative lectures" was totally unknown." (Horna, R. - Opravil, J. - Paulová, M., 1928, p. 29).

The Commission for organizing of folk lectures of Comenius University was on the head of the EUC. The Commission's chairman was Prof. M. Weingart and the first members were professors B. Tomsa and V. Vážný (for Faculty of Law), M. Netoušek and B. Polák (for Faculty of Medicine) and D. Orel and M. Weingart (for Faculty of Arts) and the rector J. Hanuš. The lectures of the EUC started in March 1923 by the lecture of S. Kostlivý "On first aid."

Tab. no. 1 Activity of the EUC in year 1923 – spring months

Lecturer	Name of the lecture	Town
S. Kostlivý	On first aid.	Bratislava
K. Krofta	On constitutional development of Slovakia.	Bratislava (6 x)
E. Perfeckij	On Russian admirers of Slavic culture.	Bratislava
R. Horna	On historic meaning of borders of Czechoslovak Republic.	Vienna

Tab. no. 2 Activity of the EUC in August 1923 – course for folk-educative workers

Lecturer	Name of the lecture	Town
J. Škultéty	How to present the history of Slovakia.	Kremnica
A. Pražák	On Czech literature.	Kremnica

Tab. no. 3 Activity of the EUC from the second half of September until 5th October 1923 - courses in cooperation with Prague and Brno extension

Lecturer	Name of the lecture	Town
V. Chaloupecký	Idea of the Czechoslovak state and its historical development.	Trenčín, Žilina, Turč. Sv. Martin, Zvolen, Banská Bystrica
M. Weingart	Who are Slavs?	Trenčín
	Beginnings of Slavonic literature.	Žilina, Zvolen
	Roles of Slavonic philology in Slovakia.	Martin
	Place of the Slovak language in the family of Slavonic languages.	Banská Bystrica

Tab. no. 4 Activity of the EUC in 1923 – fall and winter in Bratislava

Lecturer	Name of the lecture	Lecturer	Name of the lecture
A. Tomsa	Overview of the history of philosophy – ancient era.	D. Orel	J. L. Bella.
	Overview of the history of philosophy – Middle Ages.	B. Polák	On remedies and poisons.

V. Vážný	Chosen chapters from the law of antique.	M. Weingart	Yugoslavia n teenage-boys songs.
A. Kolář	The impact of the antique on the European culture.		

Tab. no. 5 Activity of the EUC in 1923 – lectures in Nitra

Lecturer	Name of the lecture	Date
M. Weingart	Slavs, their beginnings and present state.	10.11.
	Idea of the Slavonic mutuality and its historical development.	24.11.
A. Pražák	Slovak literary present.	13.11.
K. Chotek	Main issues of the Czechoslovak ethnology.	1.12.
D. Orel	J. L. Bella.	8.12.
R. Horna	Historic reasoning of the borders of Czechoslovak Republic.	15.12.

Tab. no. 6 Activity of the EUC in 1923 – fall and winter

Lecturer	Name of the lecture	Town
M. Weingart	Idea of the Slavonic mutuality.	Prešov, Bardejov, Košice, Spišská Nová Ves, Levoča, Kežmarok
R. Horna	Historic reasoning of the borders of Czechoslovak Republic.	Vienna
A. Pražák	Literary and cultural picture of the Czech life in the 60s on the beginning of physical education in Sokol organization.	Vienna

(Elaborated according to: Weingart, M., 1925, p. 215-217)

On the incentive of edifying report of Slovak military command in Bratislava, the EUC organized during January and February 1924 lectures for 40 military officers who had the function of edifying officers.

Tab. no. 7 Courses of the EUC for officers – military edifying officers

Lecturer	Name of the lecture	Nr. of lessons
prof. Chlup	Main principles of pedagogy and didactics.	10
prof. Pražák	History of Czechoslovak modern literature.	11
prof. Toman	Methodology of civics.	6
prof. Orel	Methodology of singing.	7
prof. Weingart	Slovak language and its ratio to Czech language.	7
prof. Daneš	Methodology of geography.	3
prof. Chotek	Ethnologic issues.	5
prof. Chaloupecký	From the history of Slovakia.	5
lector Emler	Public libraries.	4
lector Haluzický	Exercises from Slovak language.	4
lector Hofman	Protection of sights.	4

Bratislava extension started as the first one from all extensions in Czechoslovakia (in Prague, Brno and Bratislava), beside lectures, to orient its attention also on the publishing activity. The impulse to this activity gave Professor R. Horna and under his leadership the edition called „Collection of lectures and debates of the Extension of Comenius University“ started to be published in 1924 and it was issued by the company Academia in Bratislava (Zpráva odstupujícího rektora prof. MUDr. Stanislava Kostlivého, 1925, p. 7). The edition's aim was to “bring studies and books about the current problems of our state, Czechoslovak nation and of all Slavs, in the elaboration available to broader classes of educated public (Zpráva

odstupujícího rektora, 1925, p. 13) and R. Horna was not only the head of the EUC for years, but also the editor of its publications.” (Vietor, M., 1969, p. 200). The following titles were published in the given edition until the end of 1924/1925:

Horna, R.: Hranice Československé republiky ve světle historie (1924),

Laštovka, K.: Vývoj organizace veřejné správy v republice Československé. (1924),

Weingart, M.: Sto knih slavistových (1924),

Krofta, K.: O úkolech slovenské historiografie (1925).

As a part of Danube fair, which took place from 23rd August to 2nd September 1924 in Bratislava, the EUC took part in school exhibition on which it presented its lists of lectures, published books and statistic data about its lecture activity. The following overview belonged to one of these:

Tab. no. 8 Number of lectures of the EUC from its founding until the end of 1923/1924

Town	No.	Town	No.	Town	No.
Bratislava	167	Nitra	10	Trenčín	3
Žilina	2	T. Sv. Martin	3	Kremnica	4
Zvolen	2	B. Bystrica	2	Námesto -vo	1
Sereď	1	Košice	2	Prešov	2
Sp. N. Ves	3	Bardejov	2	Levoča	4
Kežmarok	3	Poprad	2	Vienna	6

(Weingart, M., 1925, p. 220)

The activity of the Bratislava Extension consisted of individual lectures and regular courses and each course involved six lectures. The Extension was active not only in Bratislava; also adults in other towns and municipalities in Slovakia could attend its lectures. “It became a habit that professors at their extension's trips not only gave lectures but also had friendly conversations and debates about current issues with the representatives of the local intelligence. These debates and meetings have sometimes higher importance than the lecture itself.” (Weingart, M., 1925, p. 215). For example, Prof. S. Růžička gave lectures “On eubiotics” in Nitra on 23rd and 30th October 1927 and on 13th November 1927. He also presented this topic on 9th December 1927 and 27th February 1928 in Komárno, where doc. J. Borovička gave lecture “On Trianon Treaty” on 1st February 1928. The lectures had great success mainly in the towns in the middle of Slovakia, where they were organized by Pohronská district of the Czechoslovak legionary municipality (Zpráva odstupujícího rektora 1930). “The most of the lectures gave until his departure to Prague Prof. M. Weingart, who visited many Slovak towns, but also other professors participated in giving lectures, for example A. Pražák, J. Kollář, V. Chaloupecký, K. Chotek, F. Žákovec, J. Eisner J. Borovička etc.” (Paulinyiová, E., 1969, p. 310).

Tab. no. 9 Activity of the EUC in the chosen period

Period	Number of lectures in Bratislava	Number of lectures in the countryside
1923/1924	146	51
1924/1925	68	49
1925/1926	9	77
1926/1927	38	118
together	261	295

(Horna, R., Opravil, J., Paulová, M., 1928, p. 40-41)

The lectures were held in theater halls, cinema halls, or in the halls of district houses, in the town hall as well as in secondary schools and local cultural institutions and mainly local branches of Matica Slovenská were usually in charge of their organization. In some of the towns there was a tradition of regular lectures in winter with their stable audience.

A special centre of the Bratislava Extension became Vienna, where Academic organization of Vienna helped with the organization of lectures and the EUC “should have encouraged

and maintained national awareness of Czechs and Slovaks who lived there.” (Paulinyiová, E., 1969, p. 292) There were around four or five lectures a year that took place in the hall of Slavonic debate and 19 lectures were organized until the end of 1927.

Tab. no. 10 Examples of the EUC lectures in Vienna

Lecturer	Name of the lecture	Date
J. Král	T. G. Masaryk.	2.5.1925
R. Horna	Czechoslovak minorities in the neighboring states.	20.2.1926
A. Pražák	Reactions to war in the current Czech literature.	14.3.1926
M. Weingart	On language ratio between Czech and Slovak language.	17.4.1926
B. Tomsa	„Rothermere's action from the viewpoint of international law.	10.12.1927
Z. Frankerberger	On microscopic structure of human body.	28.1.1928
J. Král	The sense of life.	28.4.1928

In cooperation with Ministry of Education and National Edification, Bratislava Extension also participated in organizing of the annual university courses for teachers, which took place during holiday. In the academic year 1925/1926 the EUC started to cooperate with Comenius organization³ and the results of this cooperation were also common lectures, to which belonged the presentations of J. Král „Sociology and social life,“ respectively of A. Pražák „On the importance of Štúr in the past and present.“ (Zpráva odstupujícího rektora prof. Ph. Dra. Miloše Weingarta, p. 15). Beside lectures in Slovakia, professors from Bratislava started to be active also in Czech towns, like for example in Brno and Prague where they organized courses concentrated on eubiotics (S. Růžička), as well as socially-oriented course (J. Král) in the town Dvůr Králové nad Labem.

Beside realized lectures, other lectures and studies that should have helped to increase general education level among adults were being issued in the edition “Collection of lectures and debates of the Extension of Comenius University.” The initial publications were followed by for example: Pražák, A.: Slovak individuality (1926), Růžička, S.: Eubiotics or healthy lifestyle (1926), Weingart, M.: Slavonic mutuality (1926), Horna, R.: Reports on the history of processes with witches in the western Slovakia. Part I. (1928), Pražák, A.: Mikuláš Šubič Zrinsky and Slovaks (1928), Kolář, A.: Relations of the European culture towards the antique (1929), Kopal, J.: On French war novel (1934), Kolář, A.: Antique and modern democracy (1936), Buben, V.: Studies on modern French (1938) etc. J. Kállay, the Minister for the governing of Slovakia, as well as Ministry of Education and National Edification with the Ministry of Public Health and Physical Education helped financially with the issuing of this edition.

After the first courses for teachers realized in Bratislava in June 1921 by the Extension of Prague universities, the EUC organized during holidays from 12th to 24th July 1926 courses for teachers in Banská Bystrica in cooperation with Bratislava school department.

Concerning the content, they were divided into:

a) *philosophical-pedagogical topics:*

- Introduction to philosophy. (J. Král, 6 lessons)

- Sociologic principles of pedagogy. (J. Král, 6 lessons)
- Psychology of a child. (B. Tomsa, 6 lessons)
- Pedagogy. (J. Hendrich, 6 lessons)
- School hygiene. (S. Růžička, 6 lessons)

b) *geographical topics:*

- Physical geography of the Czechoslovakia. (F. Štůla, 6 lessons)
- Czechoslovak ethnology. (K. Chotek, 6 lessons)
- Czechoslovak language. (M. Weingart, 6 lessons)
- Chapters from Czechoslovak literature. (A. Pražák, 6 lessons)
- Territorial development of the Czechoslovak Republic. (R. Horna, 3 lessons)
- Ration of the church and state in historic overview. (V. Bušek, 3 lessons)

The total number of lessons of this holiday course, which took place in the aula of secondary grammar school for boys, was 60 and 312 participants attended it (Zpráva odstupujícího rektora prof. Ph. Dra. Miloše Weingarta, p. 16). Teachers came mainly from the middle and east of Slovakia, from church and state school institutions. The EUC realized 138 lecture lessons in the given academic period. The most of the participants, 300 in average, came to lectures to the government building in Bratislava, to “Comenius” organization in Vienna, to Ružomberok and to Prešov. The lowest attendance had the lectures in Turčiansky Svätý Martin and new centers of the EUC became Prievidza and Topoľčany.

M. Weingart, the chairman of Organization of the EUC was named regular Professor at Charles University in Prague by the decree of the Republic's president from 17th December 1926. When he was leaving Bratislava, the Academic senate of Comenius University in Bratislava wrote a letter to say goodbye to him. In the letter, A. Pražák, on behalf of the rector O. Sommer, appreciated Weingart's work in the EUC and his other activity. “Before the Faculty of Arts was founded, it was your idea to found university extension in Slovakia and you re-worked this idea in 1922 and since 1923 you bravely promoted it in all Slovakia and in Vienna.” (Sommer, O., 1927, p. 55). The new chairman of the Organization of the EUC became Professor R. Horna, who still edited the issuing of lectures and studies of the EUC and he presented the EUC on the meeting of the board of Masaryk folk-educative organization in Prague on 5th June 1927, as well as on the meeting of folk-educative workers from Slovakia, which took place during holidays in Banská Bystrica. In the academic year 1926/1927 there was a lack of finances so the lectures in the countryside had to be restricted and “in Bratislava the lectures were restricted to the minimum considering the low interest of the local audience.” (Zpráva odstupujícího rektora University prof. JUDRa Otakara Sommera, 1928, p. 12). The EUC organized presentations of the professors in bigger Slovak towns (Trenčín, Nitra, Banská Štiavnica, Banská Bystrica, Zvolen Lučenec, Ružomberok, Levoča, Košice, Prešov etc.) and in Opava, Krnov, Karviná, Moravská Ostrava; two lectures in Vienna and a holiday course for teachers in Turčiansky Svätý Martin.

As the number of visitors in Bratislava was lower than the attendance on lectures held in other towns, the EUC joined with Edifying organization for Slovakia with its seat in Bratislava and together founded Higher folk university. There were lectures of for example D. Orel “Chapters from the history of music” and of Z. Frankerberger “On development of human body” in the academic year 1927/1928 and in the academic year 1928/1929 there were lectures of Prof. R. Horna “Overview of the history of Hungarian law” and “On development of the middle European constitutions”, of F. Žákavec “Czechoslovak painting of the 19th century,” of J. Buchtala “Murders by poisoning, their social meaning and their investigation” or of A. Mach “Care for the teeth.” (Bakoš, V., 1991). The EUC used the chance to present itself at the event “Exhibition of the current culture in Czechoslovakia,” held from May to September in exhibition area in Brno, on which it presented the issued lectures and studies,

³ The organization was founded in 1920 by F. Jetel with the original name „Comenius – the organization for support and maintenance of Czech schools behind the borders of Czechoslovak republic in Prague;“ which changed in 1923 to „Comenius – the organization for support of Czechoslovak foreign schools in Prague.“ It was apolitical and had the aim to support all schools abroad with Czech and Slovak as a teaching language; Czech and Slovak libraries and reading rooms, to organize holiday camps in Czechoslovakia for Czech and Slovak children from abroad, to give lectures, debates and academies about famous people born in Czechoslovakia and active abroad, collect finances, keep the national awareness in people active abroad etc. The organization cooperated intensively with the organization with the same name in Vienna. After the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia was created, the activity of the organization was reduced and by the decision of empire-protector from 31st January 1942 the organization was cancelled.

posters of the folk-educative activities and number of its lectures as a part of university exhibition.

3 The Extension of Czechoslovak universities in the Czechoslovak Republic

The mutual contentual and organizational coordination of these three university extensions led finally to its fusion so on 1st June 1926 they created a common institution called the Extension of the Czechoslovak universities in the Czechoslovak Republic.

The regulations of the Extension, which were accepted by the Ministry of Education and National Edification on 16th June 1926 under number 51.063/24-IV, stated the main role: "To provide opportunity to all classes of people to gain education and to enrich it on the scientific basis to reach mental and moral uplift of the Czechoslovak people. The Extension fulfills this role by providing:

- a) general education
- b) professional education
- c) critical education

to broad classes, which should make the participants able to think individually and critically. The Extension lays special emphasis on the nearest contact with current mental streams of the period, trying to meet all the needs of the personal, national and state life." (Horna, R. - Opravil, J. - Paulová, M., 1928, p. 32). The events of the extensions were public for a small organizational fee and everyone without a certificate of previous education could have attended them.

In practice, the university extensions organized:

1. courses and lectures in the seat towns of the universities, at the expense of the corresponding universities
2. lectures in municipalities on the basis of the request and payment of the local organizers.

The Boards made up from the representatives of the universities in Prague, Brno and Bratislava were on the head of the Extensions. One member of the Board represented 10 professors (Halas, 1981). The Boards elected 4 chairmen and the chairmen of all three extensions created a Representation of the Extension of Czechoslovak universities, which met annually at one of the seats of extensions and its roles were:

- "to discuss all matters that are common for all three local extensions,
- to elaborate individual principles for folk-educative activity of the Extension in the whole Republic,
- to keep contact, mutual cooperation and unity in organizational issues." (Horna, R. - Opravil, J. - Paulová, M., 1928, p. 18).

The function of the Board or representation member lasted for five years.

Tab. no. 11 Lectures organized by all extensions in Slovakia during 1918 – 1928

Town	Number	Town	Number
Bardejov	3	Poprad	3
Brezno	4	Prešov	13
Banská Bystrica	86	Prievidza	1
Banská Štiavnica	17	Rožňava	2
Kežmarok	11	Ružomberok	8
Komárno	3	Sereď	1
Košice	9	Skalica	9
Kremnica	14	Spišská Nová Ves	9
Levoča	18	Tisovec	3
Lučenec	3	Topoľčany	1
Turčiansky Sv. Martin	24	Trenčianske Teplice	1
Liptovský Sv.	3	Trenčín	8

Mikuláš			
Námestovo	1	Trnava	2
Nitra	21	Zvolen	25
Podbrezová	5	Žilina	6

(Elaborated according to the data: Horna, Opravil and Paulová 1928, p. 49 – 53)

After the Extension of Czechoslovak universities in Czechoslovak Republic was founded, the meetings took place during the academic year 1926/1927 concerning the possible common issuing of Extension's lectures and studies, but the idea failed on the fact that no appropriate publisher was found. The effort was successful in the next academic year and the representatives of the individual boards of extensions (Prague, Brno and Bratislava) agreed that from the academic year 1928/1929 "all the three Czechoslovak extension boards will issue a common Collection of lectures and debates in the Unity of mathematicians and physicians in Prague." (Zpráva odstupujícího rectora magnifica prof. MUDRa Jiřího Brdlika, 1930, p. 17)

Based on this agreement, the new edition called "Extension of the Czechoslovak universities in Czechoslovak Republic. Collection of lectures and debates. Issued with the support of Ministry of Education and National Edification." started to be issued. The edition was divided into three parts:

Part I. Extension of Prague universities.

Part II. Extension of Brno universities.

Part III. Extension of Comenius University in Bratislava.

Tab. no. 12 Publications issued by the EUC in edition „Extension of the Czechoslovak universities in Czechoslovak Republic“

Author	Year	Name	Number of pages	Nr.
Kolář, A.	1929	Relation of the European culture towards the antique.	272 p.	1.
Kopal, J.	1930	Romain Rolland.	97 p.	2.
Kuklová-Štúrová, B.	1931	Contagious diseases.	60 p.	3.
Eisner,	1932	Devín in Bratislava.	13 p.	4.
Kopal, J.	1934	On French war novel.	66 p.	5.
Křivý, M.	1934	Ten chapters on nerve and mental diseases for everyone.	96 p.	6.
Knappek, L., Eisner, J., Ondrouch, V.	1935	Some lectures on the history of Slovakia. I.	97 p.	7.
Kolář, A.	1936	Antique and modern democracy.	119 p.	8.
Kopal, J.	1937	George Sandová and Božena Němcová.	26 p.	9.
Buben, V.	1938	Studies on modern French.	114 p.	10.

Even if the main role of the common Extension was the organization of lectures, respectively issuing of lectures and studies, its members organized also courses for teachers and specialized seminars; they prepared exhibitions and organized trips. It was very important that universities were in near contact with the developing theoretical knowledge of the given period at one side and they should have had "vivid understanding for the needs of personal, national and state life" on the other side (Chlup, O. - Kubálek, J. - Uher, J., 1938, p. 407).

4 Activity of the EUC during crisis

The years of crisis had influence also on the activity of Comenius University in Bratislava and reflected into all of its spheres: pedagogical, scientific-research, publication, lecturing as well as into material equipment. This was the reason why the yearbook of Comenius University for the academic year 1928/1929 was published only in 1930 with such evaluation: "The lack of finances in the restricted state budget for universities did not allow to provide money for the publication of the yearbook for the next years" and the following yearbook was published in 1935, describing the state of the previous academic year (Úvodní slovo, 1934).

The clear evidence of the tragic impact of the crisis on the EUC in Bratislava is the fact that "the initial 40 000 Kčs provided for the extension's activity by the Ministry was in the 30s restricted to at first 8000 Kčs and later to only 6000 Kčs." (Paulínyiová, E., 1969, p. 310). The evaluation of the university's activity for the academic year 1932/1933 reveals that special grants, items for social care for students, for issuing of publications, for scientific staff and lecturing activity were sharply restricted. "The carrier of the popularization work here, the Extension of Comenius University, stopped the publication activity completely due to the lack of finances and it had to restrict the lecturing activity to the minimum." (Řeč odstupujícího rektora Magnifica prof. Dra Viktora Reinsberga, 1934, p. 9). Despite this, there were a few lectures on the whole area of Slovakia; the connection to Vienna was being kept, the teachers could attend lectures in the building of radio and the lecturers took part in the 4th year of holiday course of catholic pedagogy in Banská Bystrica. The situation of the EUC did not improve in the following year, it got even worse, because, as the rector B. Tomsa stated in the evaluating report of the academic year 1933/1934, by the restricting or total stopping of grants "was the extensive work nearly handicapped in the last year. The kind of replacement became the lectures of the university in the radio, thanks to the radio-journal that accepted this idea." (Řeč odstupujícího rektora prof. Dr. Bohuše Tomsy, 1935, p. 6-7.). Such worsened situation continued also in the next period; it was not even possible to "run the extension's office in the academic year 1934/1935 due to the lack of finances." (Řeč odstupujícího rektora magnifica prof. Ph. Dr. Antonína Koláře, 1937, p. 6.). The lack also reflected into the restriction of possibilities to publish and the Board of the EUC was forced to decline requests of the various folk-educative organizations to give edifying lectures, so there were only a few of them. The presentations in Bratislava concentrated on the history of Slovakia, organized in cooperation with Edifying organization for Slovakia, belonged to them – J. Eisner: Slovakia on the doorstep of history (5th February 1935), V. Ondrouch: Slovakia in the Roman-German period (12th February 1935), V. Chaloupecký: Slovakia in the Middle Ages (19th February 1935), E. Knappek: Church organization in Slovakia (28th February 1935). The EUC planned to issue these presentations in the edition of extension's lectures, but it did not happen anymore. Beside this cycle, the lectures were also given in the summer term in Piešťany - I. Karvaš: Current economic crisis (24th February 1935), A. Milota: The issue of abortions from the viewpoint of law (28th February 1935), K. Koch: On miraculous doctors (3rd March 1935), in Skalica – V. Klecanda: The importance of the 85th birthday of the republic's president (10th March 1935), in Nitra – J. Babor: Racial problem and heredity (30th March 1935), R. Horna: On west – Slovakia winemaking in the past and present (13th April 1935), I. Karvaš: Economic autonomy of Slovakia (4th May 1935), K. Kizlink: Law and justice (11th May 1935) and in Vienna – V. Klecanda: Fight of Zborov (12th January 1935) and J. Babor: On diluvian human (13th May 1935). The lectures of the university pedagogues in Bratislava radio tried to "save" the situation of the extension's lectures. Such unfavorable conditions were in the activity of the EUC until the end of existence of the interwar Czechoslovak Republic. Also in the academic year 1935/1936, the EUC "had to restrict its lectures and publishing activity to the minimum, what was a great cultural shade." (Zpráva odstupujícího rektora magnifica prof. MUDr. Bohuslava Poláka, 1938, p. 5.). Concerning the lectures in

Bratislava, the cooperation with Edifying organization for Slovakia was still active, in the given period on the topic "Fight against social diseases;" two lectures were held in Vienna and only a few of them in the Slovak countryside; the lectures in the radio continued. This situation persisted until the end of Czechoslovak Republic in 1938.

5 Conclusion

The Extension of the Comenius University in Bratislava represented a form of edifying-educative activity of Comenius University in Bratislava, which was "concentrated on the popularizing of the newer results of scientific work." (Pavlík, O., ed., 1984, p. 230). It could be founded after the Comenius University in Bratislava had been founded and the Czech Professor M. Weingart did the most to found it, because he used his experience and knowledge from the similar schools of the Prague and Brno extensions. Bratislava teachers took them as example and organized lectures in towns and villages in the whole Slovakia, in Vienna and later also in Bohemia and Moravia. Beside public lectures, it also concentrated on university courses for teachers, courses for edifying workers in the army and on radio programs. Compared to the other extensions in Prague and Brno, the EUC was the best concerning the issuing of lectures and studies in its own edition and it successfully participated in the work of the common Extension of the Czechoslovak universities in the Czechoslovak Republic. Its fruitful activity was influenced by the crisis years and by the lack of finances, what led to the continual restriction of the lectures and publishing activity; only radio lectures and special public presentations were given. "The Extension of the Comenius University in Bratislava during bourgeois Czechoslovakia confirmed that its founding was a well-deliberated act, which led to the cultural and social uplift of Slovakia." (Mátej, J., 1976, p. 351). The EUC continued with its activity also after the interwar Czechoslovakia no longer existed and it stopped to exist after 1948 when the institutions active in the area of adult education were united and re-organized.

Literature:

1. BAKOŠ, V.: K pôsobeniu a odozve českej filozofie na Slovensku v rokoch 1918 – 1948. In: *Sborník prací Filozofické fakulty Brněnské univerzity B 38*. Brno: Masarykova univerzita, 1991, roč. 40, 23-30 p. ISBN 80-210-0272-7
2. HALAS, F.: Extenze československých vysokých škol a brněnská univerzita. In: *Sborník prací Filozofické fakulty brněnské univerzity*. C. Řada historická, 1981, roč. XXX, č. 28, 77-94 p.
3. HANUŠ, J. - WEINGART, M.: Počátky Filozofické fakulty University Komenského. In: *Ročenka University Komenského za první pětiletí 1919 – 1924*. Praha: Nákladem Akademického senátu University Komenského s podporou MŠANO, 1925, 62-69 p.
4. HORNA, R. - OPRAVIL, J. - PAULOVÁ, M.: *Extense československých vysokých škol v Republice Československé v třicetiletí 1898 – 1928*. Praha: Grafia, 1928, 55 p.
5. CHLUP, O. - KUBÁLEK, J. - UHER, J.: *Pedagogická encyklopedie. A – Ko. I. díl*. Praha: Novina, tiskařské a vydavatelské podniky, 1938, 407 p.
6. MÁTEJ, J.: Kap. V. Školstvo, výchova a pedagogika v buržoázní Československé republice (1918 – 1939). 2. Slovensko. In: MÁTEJ, J. a kol.: *Dejiny českej a slovenskej pedagogiky*. Bratislava: Slovenské pedagogické nakladateľstvo, 1976, 343-370 p.
7. MEŠKO, D.: *Vivat academia. 95 rokov Univerzity Komenského*. Bratislava: Univerzita Komenského, 2014, 272 p. ISBN 978-80-223-3692-5
8. PAULÍNIOVÁ, E.: Filozofická fakulta Univerzity Komenského. I. Vznik a vývin Filozofickej fakulty Univerzity Komenského v rokoch 1921 – 1945. In: VARSÍK, B. ed. *50 rokov Univerzity Komenského v Bratislave*. Bratislava: Univerzita Komenského, 1969, 283-321 p.
9. PRŮCHA, J. – VETEŠKA, J.: *Andragogický slovník. 2. aktualizované a rozšířené vydání*. Praha: Grada, 2014, 320 p. ISBN 978-80-247-4748-4

10. Řeč odstupujícího rektora Magnifica prof. Dra Viktora Reinsberga o universitě Komenského v st. r. 1932/33, přednesená při instalaci rektora na stud. r. 1933/34 prof. Dra Bohuslava Tomsy. In: *Ročenka university Komenského za studijný rok 1933–1934*. Bratislava: Nákladem Akademického senátu University Komenského s podporou Ministerstva školství a nár. osvěty, 1934, 7-16 p.
11. Řeč odstupujícího rektora prof. Dr. Bohuše Tomsy o universitě Komenského v stud. r. 1933/34. In: *Ročenka university Komenského za studijný rok 1934–1935*. Bratislava: Nákladem Akademického senátu University Komenského v Bratislavě s podporou Ministerstva školství a nár. osvěty, 1935, 3-12 p.
12. Řeč odstupujícího rektora magnifica prof. Ph. Dr. Antonína Koláře o universitě Komenského v stud. r. 1934-35. In: *Ročenka university Komenského za studijný rok 1935–36*. Bratislava: Nákladem Akademického senátu University Komenského s podporou Ministerstva školství a nár. osvěty, 1937, 3-20 p.
13. SOMMER, O.: Odchod prof. Dra. Miloše Weingarta z University Komenského na Universitu Karlovu v Praze. In: *Ročenka university Komenského za studijný rok 1926 – 1927*. Bratislava: Nákladem Akademického senátu University Komenského s podporou Ministerstva školství a nár. osvěty, 1927, 54-55 p.
14. SÝKORA, E.: Tendencie v ponímaní výchovnej funkcie Univerzity Komenského a súčasné problémy. In: *Pedagogika. Časopis pro vědy o vzdělávání a výchově*, 1970, roč. XX, č. 3, 363-378 p. ISSN 0031-3815
15. ŠKODA, K.: Kap. XII. Buržoázna pedagogika a výchovno-vzdelávacie inštitúcie od druhej polovice 19. storočia do roku 1918. In: GALLO, J. – ŠKODA, K.: *Dejiny pedagogiky dospelých*. Bratislava: Slovenské pedagogické nakladateľstvo, 1986, 166-174 p.
16. Úvodní slovo. In: *Ročenka university Komenského za studijný rok 1933–1934*. Bratislava: Nákladem Akademického senátu University Komenského s podporou Ministerstva školství a nár. osvěty, 1934, 5 p.
17. *Věstník Ministerstva školství a národní osvěty*. 1923, roč. V, sešit 7, 436-437 p.
18. VIETOR, M.: Právnická fakulta Univerzity Komenského. I. Vznik a vývoj fakulty za prvej republiky (rok 1921 – 1938). In VARSÍK, B. ed. *50 rokov Univerzity Komenského v Bratislave*. Bratislava: Univerzita Komenského, 1969, 185-225 p.
18. WIENGART, M.: Extense University Komenského. In: *Ročenka University Komenského za první pětiletí 1919 – 1924*. Praha: Nákladem Akademického senátu University Komenského s podporou MŠANO, 1925, 211-221 p.
19. Zpráva odstupujícího rektora prof. Dra Augustína Rátha při rektorské instalaci prof. Dra Josefa Hanuše (7. prosince 1922) o universitě Komenského za stud. rok 1921/22. In: *Ročenka university Komenského za první pětiletí 1919-1924*. Praha: Nákladem Akademického senátu University Komenského s podporou Ministerstva školství a nár. osvěty, 1925, 109-118 p.
20. Zpráva odstupujícího rektora prof. MUDr. Stanislava Kostlivého o universitě Komenského za rok 1923-1924, podaná při instalaci rektora prof. Dra Karla Laštovky dne 10. června 1925. In: *Ročenka university Komenského za první pětiletí 1919-1924*. Praha: Nákladem Akademického senátu University Komenského s podporou Ministerstva školství a nár. osvěty, 1925, 1-11 p.
21. Zpráva odstupujícího rektora prof. Ph. Dra. Miloše Weingarta o universitě Komenského za rok 1925-1926, podaná při instalaci rektora prof. JUDra Otakara Sommera dne 25. listopadu 1926. In: *Ročenka university Komenského za studijní rok 1926-1927*. V Bratislavě: Nákladem Akademického senátu University Komenského s podporou Ministerstva školství a nár. osvěty, 1927, 5-26 p.
22. Zpráva odstupujícího rektora university prof. JUDra Otakara Sommera o universitě Komenského ve stud. r. 1926-1927, podaná při instalaci rektora university na stud. r. 1927-1928 prof. MUDra Jiřího Nrdlika dne 29. listopadu 1927. In: *Ročenka university Komenského za studijní rok 1927-1928*. V Bratislavě: Nákladem Akademického senátu University Komenského s podporou Ministerstva školství a nár. osvěty, 1928, 5-16 p.
23. Zpráva odstupujícího rektora magnifica prof. MUDr. Bohuslava Poláka o univerzite Komenského v štud. r. 1935-36. In: *Ročenka univerzity Komenského za študijný rok 1936– 37*. Bratislava: Nákladem Akademického senátu Univerzity Komenského v Bratislave s podporou Ministerstva školstva a národnej osvety, 1938, 3-11 p.

Primary Paper Section: A**Secondary Paper Section: AB**