



The Brno Universities



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Brno – quick facts

- population – 400,000
- second largest city in Czech Republic
- historical capital of Moravia
- major higher education centre (85,000 students)
- emerging high-tech centre for the Czech Republic and region

Brno – first half of the 1990s – the end of the old

- collapse of traditional industries (textiles, machine tools, heavy industry)
- marginalization of the city (esp. after split of Czechoslovakia)
- search by the city council for a new economic model for the future
- universities the major “growth industry”

Brno – end of the 1990s – the beginning of the new

- discussions on cooperation among the Brno universities
- presentation of ideas and proposals to the city of Brno
 - the knowledge economy - Brno's future
 - key role of the universities in this development
 - need to formalize relationship between the city and the universities
 - need for financial support to promote the city and the universities
- creation (2002) of Brno Centre for European Studies (BCES)

The Brno Universities

Grouped under the formal heading of the BCES, these are

- five public universities
 - Masaryk University
 - Brno University of Technology
 - Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry
 - University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences
 - Janáček Academy of Music and Performing Arts (JAMU)
- one state university
 - University of Defence

The Brno Universities – administration and funding

- run by a board that includes representatives of all six institutions, the city of Brno and, most recently, the South Moravian Region
- activities partially funded by the city of Brno within the framework of its “Brno – City of Universities” programme
- additional funding from South Moravian Region and Czech Ministry of Education (Development Programmes, esp. for internationalization)
- funding anticipated from EU sources

The Brno Universities – cooperation

Municipal

- inclusion of university representatives in
 - meetings with foreign visitors
 - delegations going abroad
 - projects with twin cities (e.g. Utrecht, Leeds, Rennes)

The Brno Universities – cooperation

Events

- international higher education conferences in Brno, most notably the EUA autumn conference 2006 – “European Universities as Catalysts in Promoting Regional Innovation”
- international scholarly conferences on notable figures, often connected with Brno (Kurt Gödel, Georg Placzek, Gregor Mendel)

The Brno Universities – cooperation

International students

- possibility of doing part of studies at another institution
- shared services (e.g. lectures in orientation week)
- joint organization of events (annual concert by JAMU students, visit to wine cellar, etc.)

The Brno Universities – cooperation

Presentation

- brochure, updated annually
- EAIE conference booth annually
- annual presence at the NAFSA conference (USA)
- participation in higher education fairs (e.g. Thailand, Vietnam, China, India, Mexico)
- “Brno University Presses” booth at annual national “World of Books” book fair in Brno

The Brno Universities – cooperation

Projects

- South Moravian Centre for Innovation
- South Moravian Centre for International Mobility
(scholarships for students from twin regions – Serbia, Russia)
- Central European Institute of Technology (funding from EU Structural Funds)

The Brno Universities – long-term results

- creation of cooperative spirit and openness to change
- steadily increasing integration of research
- greatly improved opportunities for funding
- the key player in shaping the future of Brno and the South Moravian Region

Thanks for your attention

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