

**TRANSFRONTIER COOPERATION IN THE NIŠ-SOFIA-SKOPJE TRIANGLE
IN THE FIELD OF HIGHER EDUCATION:
CURRENT CONDITIONS, PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

This study «Transfrontier Cooperation in the Triangle Niš-Sofia-Skopje in the Field of Higher Education: Current Conditions, Problems and Opportunities» has been prepared as part of the project "Reintegration of Borderline Regions of Serbia & Montenegro, Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: Sustainable Regional Development through Institutional Crossborder Cooperation in the Triangle Nis – Sofia – Skopje". The project was begun in September 2001 with the support of the EastWest Institute and the Council of Europe. This study was commissioned in August 2002. Immediately following, research teams were formed in Nis, Sofia and Skopje¹, and team members proceeded to collect the data as quickly as possible. The project relied on the premise that a unique educational (and research) region in the Nis – Sofia – Skopje triangle existed; that teachers, students and researchers had the opportunity to choose where to teach, study or conduct research. The project looked to explore their knowledge base and answer a series of questions, including: How informed was this group about education and scientific-research activity in the neighboring countries; Where did similarities and differences exist; What is similar or different; What limited student and teacher mobility and cooperation; and Where did opportunities for cooperation already exist.

The first goal of the study was to describe current conditions. To that end, the research team focused on gathering information about the following three points:

- 1) ***The educational policies of Bulgaria, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Serbia.*** This included researching articles of applicable laws, possibilities for cooperation sanctioned by those laws, and the authority of the Governments or relevant Ministries of Education or Science regarding higher education, and financial support to the universities. And, since all three Governments either signed (or about to sign) the Bologna Declaration, the researchers examined the steps already taken towards the goals of the Declaration (establishing a comparable system of academic degrees and diplomas, introducing ECTS, quality assurance mechanisms, etc);
- 2) Information on ***the universities from Sofia, Skopje and Nis.*** This included contact information, their internal organization, their faculties or other educational or research units, resources pertaining to staff, education, research and finances, protocols that were signed with other universities, and in particular, details of existing cooperation with other universities, including information as to the origin of those other universities: Bulgaria, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia & Montenegro, Central or Eastern European countries, EU countries, the USA and other parts of the world;
- 3) Finally, the team looked for information on ***the faculties of the Universities of Sofia, Skopje and Nis:*** which faculties could be found within these universities, their legal position within the university, resources (both human resources and financial) for education and research, fees for local and foreign students, length of a course of study, and student organizations. They also inquired as to research projects and their sponsors (businesses, the local community, the government, and international organizations).

¹ Research teams were headed by Predrag Cvetičanin MA and Nenad Popović MA in Nis, Stephan Nikolov PhD in Sofia, and Kosta Gocev MA in Skopje.

The questionnaire was divided into three sections. The first section dealt with educational policy (using data from laws and other documents on the country's educational policy). The second section covered the university as a whole (data was collected in rectorates and faculties). The last section was compiled at the universities themselves. This was the most detailed part of the questionnaire, since any concrete cooperation, although officially initiated at the university level, is actually conducted at the inter-faculty or inter-departmental levels.

However, since the central research goal was to identify possibilities for and hindrances to cooperation between the universities of Sofia, Skopje and Nis in the areas of education and research, the process of data collection and the description of the current condition was only a prerequisite for realizing the research goals, as follows: 1) Identifying similarities and differences in each country's educational policies, including the organization/functioning of the universities and faculties regarding both teaching and research; 2) Identifying obstacles for educational/research cooperation and teacher and student mobility; 3) Identifying possibilities for educational/research cooperation and teacher and student mobility; 4) Defining concrete and workable solutions that would enhance cooperation between the universities in Sofia, Skopje and Nis in the area of education and research.

The results collected by research teams from Nis, Sofia and Skopje pertaining to the University of Nis, University St Kliment Okhridski from Sofia and the University St. Kiril and Metodij from Skopje were presented in Nis on 7 and 8 October 2002 and in Skopje on 26 October 2002. These original texts along with conclusions reached at these two meetings form the foundation of this comparative analysis; they also make up a part of this report.

This report summarizes the current conditions; identifies problems and possibilities for cooperation and aims at defining recommendations for long-term, mid-term and short-term actions in legislation, educational policy, organization, management and financing for the universities, their educational and research activities, student organizations and international cooperation among universities from Serbia, the Republic of Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

I Legislation and Educational Policy

Higher education is covered by specific legal acts in all three countries. The Law on High Education of the Republic of Bulgaria was passed in 1995. Since 1995, it has undergone changes and additions yearly as the country gains experience in the process of transforming higher education. The latest changes in this law appeared in 2001. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia adopted its Law on High Education in 2000, whereas in Serbia, higher education is regulated by the Law on the University of 2002. In all three countries, the law prescribes the organization, management and financing of higher education establishments. Given that these laws were enacted in the 1990s, one would expect them to be modern, relying on the experience both of countries with long university traditions and also countries that have reformed their higher education systems relatively recently. However, rather than representing "best practices", in all three cases, the laws represented a compromise between local requirements and demands for modernization. In addition, in Serbia, the University Law was regarded as a temporary measure, serving in the interim period before the new reform bill was adopted.

The contents of the three acts are very similar, although their organization and the treatment of particular issues are rather different. The Law on High Education of the Republic of Bulgaria contains a specific chapter devoted to the functions of the state in managing high education. In the Law on High Education of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and in Serbia's Law on the University, articles on this matter

were found throughout the text, but no specific chapter was dedicated to the problem. The Law on High Education of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Law on High Education of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia have special chapters pertaining to a university's autonomy. The University Law in Serbia only proclaims that the University is an autonomous institution in one of its articles. In greater or less detail, all three bills prescribe the ways higher education institutions must be founded or closed, the ways they are managed, the areas of their activity, the academic degrees they offer and the conditions to achieve those degrees, the status, rights and obligations of students, and the financing of higher education. The Law on High Education of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the corresponding act of the Republic of Bulgaria appoint specialized agencies for quality control and accreditation of higher education institutions. In Serbia this control is within the authority of the Ministry of Education and Sport.

In all three countries, some authority in the area of higher education is given to parliaments, governments and applicable ministries. However, some authority is also delegated to university associations – the Interuniversity Conference in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Council of Rectors in Bulgaria, and the Republic Council for the Development of University Education in Serbia.

As for its policy on higher education, the Bulgarian Government has focused on improving the quality of teaching and study, while reducing fees to the maximum extent: 30% of the real price of studying. The rest of the money is provided by the Government from the budget and from other sources. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Parliament has the authority to guide the development of and oversee the financial funds for higher education. It is expected that the Parliament will adopt the four-year Program of Realization and Development of High Education Activity. Apart from outlining goals, this document should contain the "sources and the amount of funds necessary to finance the needs of the state, to enable the development of activities at the state high education institutions, to estimate which education profiles are necessary, to determine the expected numbers of professors and assistants, to take care of the premises and equipment necessary for the advancement of high education, to collect funds to aid private high education institutions when their activity is in accordance with the interest of the state". So far, however, the Parliament in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has failed to pass this document, which is sanctioned by the Law on High Education of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The Ministry of Education and Sport in Serbia has adopted a program document which defines the goals and the dynamics of University reform. The program lists the basic goals of the reform: increasing study efficiency, i.e. reducing the average time period needed to get a diploma; bringing the higher education system in line with European norms; developing the curricula in such a way that it adapts to market demands; introducing multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary studies; strengthening the concept of applied studies and involving students as partners in the teaching process.

The new draft Law aims to validate the higher education system in Serbia along the lines of the Bologna process. It also strives to acknowledge the applicable recommendations of the Council of Europe. The most important changes in comparison to the current law are as follows:

a) the status of high education institutions

The basic change is the new distinction to be introduced in higher education: university studies and professional studies. University education would directly lead to masters' and doctoral degrees, and would be acquired at the university and faculties. Professional studies would be oriented primarily towards practical skills; they would be carried out at Schools for Applied Studies and Colleges. Since both study types would use the ECTS system, it would be possible for students to transfer from one study system into the other. Upon the completion of applied studies, one would be able to continue one's education at the university level.

The draft law proposes that universities become institutionally stronger at the expense of individual faculties, which today are functionally independent. In order for resources to be used more rationally, the draft law proposes that the university become a single organizational, distributive and control center, which would manage the entire process of education. The University would be broken up into Departments, responsible for the teaching process. Additionally, within the University there would be a number of common institutions at the departments' service (the library, the computer center, laboratories, etc.)

b) institutions of accreditation and quality control

The draft law calls for a new institution in the system currently in place in Serbia – the Accreditation Agency. Its purpose will be to decide whether the conditions set by the Law are being met by higher education institutions, and it will introduce accreditation for higher education institutions and study programs. In addition, quality assurance institutions are introduced in the draft – for both internal and external evaluation.

c) The management of higher education institutions

There will also be significant changes to the management of higher education institutions. The University Council (or Senate) and the Rector (University President) will remain the highest university management body. However, this council will take over much authority currently accorded to faculty councils and deans. Simultaneously, the new draft law proposes that university management be improved. In state universities, and perhaps others too, new positions for professional managers will be created. For example, the job requirements for the position of secretary general will be changed, and a brand new position of university financial executive will be created.

d) Higher education financing

Instead of the current practice of using the budget to finance institutions of higher education (primarily faculties), the new law suggests that funds from the budget aimed at higher education should be distributed to universities first. The university will then be responsible for allocating funds to study programs and departments within that university. This would significantly reduce the financial and resource inequality between individual faculties.

e) The status of teachers

The most significant change in the new law will be to cancel the position of assistant. The new law requires that the teaching process at universities be carried out by professors. 'Seminars' or 'laboratory' tutorials will henceforth be covered by Ph.D. students. On the one hand, this would enlarge the number of candidates for future professorships; on the other hand, it would discontinue the current policy of the automatic advancement of teachers regardless of the needs of the institution itself.

f) Student status and study policy

As far as students are concerned, the draft law introduces a number of changes. First, students will be allowed to choose the courses they will attend and take exams in, and they will be able to take up interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary courses. Students will be able to meet the conditions for transferring from self-financing to budget-financing more easily, and the current practice of re-attending and 'losing' whole years of study will be discontinued. Students who have not passed all the exams during one year of studies are left with no other option but to pass their other exams and wait an entire year to continue their studies. The draft law proposes that they can enroll in certain courses (amounting to fewer credits than normally required for one academic year) and, having passed the remaining exams, can catch up with their peers and proceed towards their diploma.

II The Universities – Organization, management, financing

A. Higher Education Institutions and Their Activity

The most detailed articles of higher education institutions are provided by the Law on High Education of the Republic of Bulgaria. The Law uses the general term “high education institution” (visšeto učilište), further divided into: universities, specialized higher education institutions and independent colleges (article 17). In the Law on High Education of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, higher educational institutions include universities, faculties, academies of arts, and high-level professional schools. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the activity in the area of higher education can be conducted both by institutions of higher education and by other accredited scientific-research institutions. The Law in Republic of Serbia simply deals with the university and faculties, or academies of arts which, in this report, are simply called faculties.

A. 1. The University

In Bulgaria, universities are institutions founded for an entire range of specializations in at least three of four areas of science: humanitarian, natural, social and technical. They possess adequate staff and material conditions as required by the state; they organize courses for acquiring M.A. and Ph.D. degrees; they possess enough artistic and scientific resources to develop their basic area of science and culture; they foster the publication of textbooks, monographs, student papers etc; they have a library; and they maintain international contacts. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Law on High Education defines all the relevant terms that it uses in Article 2. In this Article, the University is defined as the highest autonomous institution of higher education, science or art, made up of smaller higher education units founded in accordance with the same law. The Law on University in Serbia defines the university as an “autonomous high education institution in the area of sciences or arts” (article 2), made up of faculties (at least 3), which may also contain institutes, the library and other organizations whose activity is in accordance with the activity of the university (article 3). The university organizes and conducts its scientific/artistic and educational activity and attends to other issues relevant for its functioning, in accordance with the Law and the university Statute.

Only in Bulgaria does the Law define the University as an autochthonous institution. By Law in Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the university is “comprised of” the institutions within its authority, and therefore the University is defined as a “derived” institution, the one to be formed only if there are smaller institutions which will join to form it. The Law in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia also allows for non-legal entities to become parts of universities. This quality is one of the reasons why universities in Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are seen as a loose association of faculties, rather than independent institutions with a clearly defined authority. While in Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia there is the tacit rule “one university center – one university”, in Sofia, Bulgaria, there are nine universities and four academies, two high professional schools and four colleges. Cooperation in the realm of higher education in the Sofia – Nis – Skopje triangle would certainly become much easier if there was institutional cooperation among the institutions of higher education in Sofia.

A. 2. Faculties and Other Institutions

According to the Bulgarian Law on High Education, institutions of higher education carry out their scientific-research or artistic-creative activity and train students in one of the areas of science, arts, physical education or military skill. Higher education institutions consist of basic and supplementary organizational units. The basic units are: faculties, departments, institutes, branches and colleges. The criteria to distinguish between such institutions are the number of employees (faculties over 40, departments 14, colleges 10), the type of activity (institutes conduct research and employ at least 20 people) and the location of the unit (branches are founded in the areas where there are no appropriate faculties and they employ at least 10 people).

An independent college can educate individuals up to the professional rank of “specialist”. The college may be part of a university or a specialized higher education institution. Within each basic organizational unit, chairs may be formed (at least 7 employed in each chair).

Supplementary organizational units are sectors, centers, clinics, libraries, laboratories, experimental stations, publishing houses and others.

In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, faculties are higher education institutions which conduct higher-educational and scientific-research activity in one or a number of related scientific or professional areas. Within a university, faculties may or may not be defined as legal entities. Apart from faculties and the university, the Law in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia also covers academies of arts and high-level professional schools. Apart from such higher education institutions, research institutes can also provide higher education if they are given the appropriate accreditation. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia there are ten institutes who can issue specialist, master’s or doctoral degrees

According to the Law on the University in Serbia, the faculty (the term includes academies of arts) is a “science-educational or arts-educational institution which, within its basic orientation, conducts undergraduate, specialist, master’s and doctoral studies, as well as the innovation of knowledge and professional training and advancement” (article 6).

B. The Foundation, the Change of Statues and the Cessation of Work of Higher Education Institutions

All three Laws allow not only for the state, but also for individuals and legal entities to found higher education institutions. The procedures and the relevant institutions involved in this process, however, are different in all the countries. In Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, agencies for evaluation and accreditation have been formed. Their task is to control the fulfillment of the conditions for conducting activities in the realm of higher education. In Serbia, this task is carried out by the Ministry of Education and Sport, although the creation of agencies was announced after the adoption of the new law on higher education (university). In Bulgaria, Parliament gives the final approval for a new university to commence operations; in Serbia, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia this is the task of the Government Minister responsible for high education. Whereas the exact procedure of the university (faculty) foundation is described in great detail in the laws of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Bulgaria, in the corresponding act in Serbia there are but a few general remarks. One could claim that in Serbia, the foundation of civil associations is much more precisely defined by laws than the foundation of a faculty or university.

C. Organization

The University St Kliment Okhridski in Sofia consists of fifteen faculties (with 72 distinctive educational programs), two departments, the university library, the university computer center, the university publishing house, Ivan Duitchev Center (for ancient scriptures), University Sports Center, Radio Alma Mater, Institute Germanicum, Regional Center for Distance Education, Bulgarian Antarctic Institute, Southeastern European Media Center and the Section of Students' Social Affairs.

“Ss Cyril and Methodius” University in Skopje has state university status. It is a consensual alliance of twenty-four faculties and art academies, two colleges of further education and ten scientific institutes. Common tasks are executed jointly and interests are coordinated in the course of performing higher education and scientific research activities.

The University of Nis is comprised of thirteen faculties. Within the University, there are other organizational units as well: the University Library «Nikola Tesla», the University Computer Center JUNIS, the Center for Scientific Research of the Academy of Arts and Sciences in Serbia & Montenegro, and the University of Nis, the Center for Interdisciplinary and Multidisciplinary Study and Research and University Secretariat.

D. Management

In all three countries, the Law prescribes the management and the basic managing bodies of higher education institutions. The same model is followed everywhere. Higher education institutions are managed by the body made up of elected representatives from the academic community. In Bulgaria, this is the Assembly of the University (or Faculty), in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia it is the University or Faculty Senate, and in Serbia, it is the University or Faculty Council. The Law on the University of the Republic of Serbia and the Law on High Education of the Republic of Bulgaria define academic councils as professional bodies of higher education institutions. The institutions are headed by rectors (at the university level), deans (at the faculty level) and directors (at the level of other units). All managing bodies consist of members of the academic community and are elected by members of the university or faculty. Only the University Law in Serbia prescribes the participation of founders in university (faculty) management bodies. When the founder of the university (faculty) is Republic of Serbia, the Government is allowed to appoint one fourth of the members of the University (Faculty) Council.

Students participate in university (faculty) management through their representatives in the assembly (council, senate) and the academic council.

Joint standards, interests and needs in the realm of higher education are defined with the help of the following institutions: the Council of the Rectors in Bulgaria, the Interuniversity Conference in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and the Republic Council for the Development of University Education in Serbia.

The Law in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia states that a university is managed by its faculty. At Bulgarian and Universities in Serbia, such bodies are defined by university or faculty statutes and thus have more autonomy.

At St. Kliment Okhridski University in Sofia, *University management bodies* consist of the (1). *General Assembly* that includes all academic staff, and authorized representatives of student organizations; it elects the (2) *Rector*, approves the Rector's Annual Report, and elects the (3) 45-members *Academic*

Council (2-3 staff representatives from each Faculty, four students, and *ex officio* the Head of Department of Academic Affairs). *The Rector* is assisted in his duties by four Vice Rectors – On Research, Development, and Administrative Affairs; on Student Affairs; on International Relations; and on Economic Affairs. Following the Academic Council's decisions and under the oversight of the Rector and Vice Rector, day-to-day management is run by the University Administration, which is made up of the following *Departments*: Secretariat, Finance and Accounting, Finance, Legal, Public Relations, Personnel, International Relations and Protocol.

“Ss Cyril and Methodius University of Skopje is governed by The University Senate. The University Senate is the university management body. The Senate is comprised of representatives (selected directly and by secret ballot) of higher education institutions within the university and of scientific institutions operating within the composition of the university from among the professors or scientific associates and students' representatives.

The Rector is the managerial body of the university. The Rector represents and acts on behalf of the university, both in-country and abroad. The Rector is selected by the University Senate – in a specified procedure and by secret ballot, from among the full professors, for a term in office of 4 years. The Rector may authorize Vice-rectors for the purpose of performing his/her rights and responsibilities.

Vice-rectors are selected for one mandate period only, from among the education-scientific and scientific workers, upon proposal from the Rector, within a procedure set out by the bylaw of that university. The university has three vice-rectors: for teaching-scientific questions, for international cooperation and for finance, investment and university development.

The Rector Administration is comprised of the Rector, the Vice-rectors, the deans of the faculties, directors of the higher professional schools, directors of the research institutes and one representative from the Students' Union of the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje. The president of the University Senate and the secretary-general of the University participate in the activities of the Rector Administration, but do not have the right to make decisions. The directors of the accompanying members of the University may also participate in the Rector Administration activities when their activities are affected. The Rector Administration decides which matters belong to the accompanying members' activities. The Rector Administration is managed by the Rector of the University.

The Rector Administration forms the following commissions responsible for teaching-scientific questions: finance, investment and development; cooperation with universities in the country and abroad; publishing activity; and legal regulation and student standard.

The management of the University of Nis consists of *the University Council*, the highest body in charge of the University consisting of 36 members: two representatives of each of the faculties, six student representatives and six members appointed by the Government of Serbia & Montenegro; *the Rector*, who represents the University, coordinates its activities and is held responsible for the implementation of the research and teaching process; *three Vice-Rectors*, in charge of the teaching process and student standard, financial /investment issues and research / cooperation with other universities; and the *collegium*, an informal organ coordinating the daily activities of the faculties – its members are the Rector, Vice-rectors and all the Deans of the Nis Faculties.

The highest professional body of the University of Nis is *the Academic Council*, made up of 28 members. These include the Rector, the Vice-rectors and two full professors from each of the faculties. The Academic Council decides on the most important issues dealing with the research and teaching process; it

gives final consent to the adoption of syllabuses and research programs, and to the election of teachers. It also adopts the yearly university publishing plan.²

E. Financing

In Bulgaria, universities create and manage their own budgets. The University Council manages the funds in the budget and assigns them to university units using adopted rules and criteria. The university's income is made up of: allowances from the state budget, financial aid from municipalities, gifts, legacies, inheritances and sponsorships, as well as its own income. The funds acquired from the state budget are used to finance the teaching process (following a strict process which measures the defined expenses by each student, and takes into account the total number of students, and the assessment earned during accreditation period), research or creative activity, the publication of textbooks, improvements, and investment. One should point out that the Bulgarian Law is the only one of the three documents which allows higher education institutions to take substantial tax deductions.

The research team was unable to obtain reliable data on the real sources of financing, budget structure and expenses from the University in Sofia.

The Law on Higher Education of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia proclaims that a Fund for High Education should be formed within the Ministry in charge of higher education. This Fund is financed by the Budget of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Additional sources are interest rates, dividends, legacies, gifts, wills, grants and the like. The Fund is managed by the Administrative Board, comprised of: the Board President appointed by the Government, six university professors appointed by the Government and eight university professors appointed by the Interuniversity Conference. Among other issues, the Fund assigns money to university institutions, sets the criteria for management of the funds, decides on the investment into higher education, and decides on scholarships a.o. The Administrative Board of the Fund is obliged to regularly report to the Ministry of High Education.

Higher education institutions can acquire funds from: services, selling products, interest rates and dividends, intellectual property royalties, property, legacies, gifts, wills, contributions and other sources. Universities in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia receive substantial funds from outside the state budget. The state contributes to the total university income as little as 37% of the total sum. A quarter of the income is acquired from the university's property (rents and dividends), whereas 17% is obtained from services provided to the market. Study fee income ranks fourth on this scale: 11%.

The Law on the University in Serbia deals with the financing of state-founded universities and faculties only. For those universities and faculties it founds, the Republic finances undergraduate, master's and doctoral studies, along with research or artistic activities whose purpose it is to raise the quality of the teaching process. Serbia provides financial resources to universities it has founded (and faculty) for: material expenses, maintenance, salaries, equipment, research or artistic activities whose purpose it is to raise the quality of the teaching process, professional advancement of the teaching staff, support to the advancement of the youngest members of the staff, work with exceptional students, international cooperation, information resources and information systems and other issues, in accordance with the law.

At the University of Nis, most faculties are almost entirely dependent on the donations they receive from the state budget. In nine of thirteen Nis faculties, the proportion of state budget funds exceeded 70%. In Nis, there is only one Faculty (that of Law) in which the state finances less than 50% of the institution's

² The term in office of all managing and professional university bodies (the University and Faculty Councils, Academic Councils, the Rector, the Vicerectors, and the Deans) is two years.

activity. Budget funds are followed by study fee funds, which extend to over 60% at the Faculty of Law, 30% at the Faculty of Economics, and about 10% at the remaining faculties. Other sources of income were mentioned only by the Faculty of Civil Engineering (25%), the Faculty of Machine Engineering and the Faculty of Economics (19% each).

In cases where universities and faculties are founded by individuals, in Serbia and in Bulgaria, the Law hold the founder responsible for the financing of these institutions. He or she is obliged to guarantee financial resources for the work of such an institution for at least four years. Law in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia allows the financing of private universities from the state budget if the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is satisfied that the programs of such universities fits its needs.

III The Universities: A Comparative Overview of the Data

A. The Teaching Process

At all three universities, undergraduate (BA) and postgraduate (MA and specialist) degrees are awarded. Undergraduate studies take three to six years, and are organized up to the level of doctoral studies. Doctoral degrees are earned by completing and defending one's doctoral dissertation in accordance with the statute of the applicable faculty. Although higher education laws in both the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia allow for the organization of doctoral studies lasting either two (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) or three (Serbia) years, such studies have not yet been organized either in Nis or in Skopje.

B. The teaching staff

Staff who teach fall into a number of categories as follows:

	Skopje	Sofia	Niš
a) full professors –	579	180	269
b) associate professors –	276	603	189
c) assistant professors –	324	823	171
d) junior lecturers -	79	N/A	166
e) teaching assistants –	978	1572	371

Courses in these universities are also taught by visiting professors. There are 135 visiting professors at Sofia University and 19 at the University of Nis. There are no data available on foreign lecturers at the University of Skopje.

Table 1

An overview of the numbers of professors and assistants at the Universities of Sofia, Skopje & Nis

University	Sofia	Skopje	Niš
Number of faculties	15	24	13
Number of professors	1606	1258	815
Number of assistants	1572	978	595
Number of foreign lecturers	135	N/A	23
Number of local lecturers at foreign universities	195	N/A	19

C. Students

The general conditions for enrollment in universities are the same for all individuals who satisfy the requirements, which include applicable prior education (secondary school) and passing entrance exams at the desired faculty. As a rule, foreigners can also study at the Universities of Sofia, Skopje and Nis provided they have completed adequate secondary education, and have passed a language exam. Students enrolled as part of international cooperation programs are usually in a better position than those foreigners coming to study on their own initiative. Foreign students who hold dual citizenship – that of Bulgaria and their country of origin - pay only half of the sum required of other foreign students at Sofia University. Some of the local students receive aid; either from the state, directly, through scholarships and credits, or indirectly, by receiving free tuition.

Table 2.

An overview of the number of undergraduate & postgraduate students at the Universities of Sofia, Skopje & Nis

University	Sofia	Skopje	Niš
Number of faculties	15	24	13
Number of students	24452	35022	22851
Number of foreign students	689	695	279
Study fee (EUR) – local/foreign	100/400	200/400-700	500/1500
Number of specialist students (enrolled/graduated)	/	N-A./49	1530/170
Number of postgraduates MA	/	N-A./187	1128/87
Number of postgraduates PhD	291/N-A.	N-A./96	155/42

D. Research Projects

Along with the teaching process, universities also perform high-level research. In Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, faculties include institutes specialized in research activity. In Serbia such institutions are organized as (dependent) units within the faculty or the university. Research work is financed from the state budget, from international funds and from applied research income.

The University of Sofia implements the greatest number of research projects (1093). The structure of such projects is also the most favorable, with more than half of these projects realized in cooperation with foreign partners. Skopje and Nis had 215 research projects each last year; most were financed by the state, only a few were financed by international sources. There is almost a total lack of international research projects in Nis, the consequence of long detachment from the international academic community.

Table 3

Research projects at the Universities of Sofia, Skopje and Nis in 2001

University	Sofia	Skopje	Niš
Research projects: local/ international cooperation	535/558 ³	197/18	213/2

³ In a period 1995-2002

IV International cooperation

Sofia University has signed bilateral agreements for cooperation with as many as 31 foreign countries, including France (seven universities), Germany (nine), and so on. In the Balkans, the traditional partners of Sofia University include the University of Tirana and the Institute of Linguistics and Literature of the Albanian Academy of Sciences, University of Zagreb, Universities of Athens, Patras, Thessaloniki, and Komotini in Greece, Sts. Kiril and Metodij University in Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Universities of Belgrade and Pristina in Serbia & Montenegro, Ankara, Istanbul, and Canakkale Universities in Turkey.

Research data also revealed that the academic staff at Sofia University maintains extensive links with foreign universities; a significant number of professors from Sofia University teach abroad, and there are a number of foreign lecturers at the University. Using data from 12 of 15 faculties, researchers found that there are 135 foreign lecturers at Sofia, and reliable sources state that 153 Sofia University professors currently have assignments abroad. Unfortunately, no data from the questionnaires appeared to indicate cooperation between teachers of Sofia University, and their colleagues from Serbia & Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. This certainly exists, but at a far from satisfactory level.

Sofia University has signed approximately one hundred agreements on cooperation with other universities. There is currently one with the University “St Kiril and Metodij” in Skopje, and with the two Yugoslav universities (Belgrade and Pristina), but curiously, no such document has ever been signed with the closest foreign university – that in Nis. In its turn, the University of Nis has formalized cooperation with three Bulgarian Universities, namely, the P Hilendarski in Plovdiv, the Technical University “V. Aprilov” in Gabrovo and the University “St Kiril and Metodij” in Veliko Trnovo. The University of Nis has a specially fruitful record of cooperation with the latter.

An agreement on cooperation exists with Kiril and Metodij Skopje University, but it should be further enhanced with more concrete initiatives. Moreover, within and close to the triangle under question there are several other universities that should be considered as possible partners: Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, Bitola University, American University in Blagoevgrad, Southwestern University in Blagoevgrad, and Southeastern European University in Tetovo. The model just implemented by the universities of Russe, Giurgiu, and Bucharest, funded by the Stability Pact, could be studied and used.

International cooperation at the University Ss Kiril and Methodius focuses on intensive involvement in the TEMPUS program, programs offered by UNESCO, and regional Central and East European initiatives promoting cooperation with neighboring and Mediterranean countries.

Equal intensity is present in the implementation of the long-standing bilateral cooperation with universities in the USA, Australia and Europe, through revised cooperation modalities in fields reflecting the priorities of both sides that enter into such agreements. Apart from academic mobility, this is to ensure the introduction of workshops and instructional seminars to restructure development and upgrade academic curricula with modular contents and modernize the management of the University. The University is also a member of and cooperates with the European Association of Rectors, the World Association of Universities and the Regional University Network.

As far as international cooperation is concerned, the University of Nis is a member of the European University Association (EUA), Inter-University Center in Dubrovnik (IUC) and the Academic Network AIMOS. The University of Nis has signed bilateral contracts on cooperation with over 20 foreign universities. In addition, the University of Nis is involved in a number of international programs, such as: the Program of Institutional Evaluation EAU, TEMPUS, UNESCO-CEPES program for strategic planning

at the University, and the international project DYNET under the auspices of DAAD foundation. Incorporation into the COPERNICUS program is currently in progress as well.

During last year's TEMPUS III application period, the University of Nis was granted five projects, two of which appoint the University of Nis as project carrier: «*University Management Reform in Serbia & Montenegro*» (with partners Universite de Nice-Sophia, Antipolic; Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, University of the Aegean-Rhodes and Universities of Belgrade and Kragujevac); «*Innovation of Computer Science Curriculum in Higher Education*» (with partners Universität Dortmund, Institute of Technological Education (GR) and University St.Kiril and Metodij, Skopje). There are also three projects in which the University of Nis is one of the partners: «*Aufbau eines regionalen und internationalen Hochschulnetzes für die Weiterentwicklung des Mittelstandsmanagements an den ökonomischen Fakultäten in BiH und YU in Bezug auf das*»; «*Rebuilding of University International Offices*», and finally «*Building Cooperative Academic Library Network in Serbia & Montenegro*». These projects have begun, and new projects for TEMPUS in 2002 are also expected.

Research data conclude that very few professors from the University of Nis teach abroad, and the corollary: there are very few foreign lecturers at the University. The figures are even lower than appears in the table, since "abroad" often means teaching in the Republic of Srpska (BiH) or hiring colleagues from BiH to teach in Nis. The data further shows that cooperation between teachers from the University of Nis and their colleagues from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Bulgaria boils down to rare participation in boards for defending master's or doctoral thesis. Apart from the lecturers at the Faculty of Philosophy there are no other teachers from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Bulgaria at the University of Nis.

The situation is similar both for the number of foreign students studying in Nis and the number of students involved in international exchange at the University of Nis. Excluding the Faculty of Medicine in Nis where there are 195 international undergraduates (including 4 from Bulgaria and 13 from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), the fact is that among about 20,000 students at the remaining faculties there are only 84 international undergraduates. Nine of these are from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. None are from Bulgaria.

In specialist and master's studies, and doctoral dissertations, similar results were found. There are seven foreign students specializing at the University of Nis, one of them from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Twenty specialist students from the Faculty of Economics are involved in international student exchange, six of them with institutions from Bulgaria or the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In total, there are 24 international master's students: 19 at the Faculty of Physical Education, 3 at the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture, 1 at the Faculty of Medicine and 1 at the Faculty of Philosophy. Only three international students, one of whom is from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, have proposed Ph.D. theses at the University of Nis – two at the Faculty of Medicine and one at the Faculty of Philosophy.

Among about twenty protocols on cooperation that the University of Nis has signed, there are currently protocols with the University "St Kiril and Metodij" in Skopje, the University "Paissi Hilendarski" in Plovdiv, the Technical University "V.Aprilov" in Gabrovo and the University "St Kiril and Metodij" in Veliko Trnovo⁴. In October 2002, the protocol on cooperation with Sofia University «St. Kliment Okhridski» was signed within the project of transfrontier cooperation in the Nis – Sofia – Skopje triangle.

⁴ At the University of Nis cooperation with colleagues from Veliko Trnovo is particularly pointed out.

V Student Organizations

In Sofia University's management structure, students are represented via the Student Council. The Council consists of representatives of student organizations; the proportion of each organization's representatives is decided by student elections. Apart from appointing delegates to various university bodies, the Student Council manages some tasks on its own. It deals with issues such as the fair distribution of student dorm rooms, keeping fees in the dorms to a reasonable level, repairing the occasional poor living conditions in hostels, preserving the right of full-time students to free public transport, and so on. Student interests are represented at the level of the Student Council, comprised of student organizations' members who received the proportional number of votes of all faculty students in all-University elections. Since 1997, the Student Council has been in charge of distribution of rooms at student dormitories, which reduced to a minimum complaints for abuse and corruption in this process. With four representatives, the Student Council represents the students' interests at the University Academic Council.

There are general student organizations (at least five), the most influential being the Federation of Independent Student Societies and the Bulgarian Student Union. There are also specialized associations, such as the Club of Balkan Youth as a part of the network of youth organizations Balkanidea (Ohrid, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), the Civic Pact for the Balkans (Montenegro) and the Mediterranean Network. It has its branches in Belgrade and Tirana as well.

The Student Association of Ss. Cyril and Methodius University (SSUKM) is an organization established in 1949, and re-registered in line with the Law of Citizen Associations and Foundations; today, it is an autonomous, non-governmental and non-party citizen association joined freely by students regardless of their national and religious affiliations and gender. SSUKM members are full-time and visiting students and students enrolled in postgraduate studies. The SSUKM operates on the basis of elected bodies by faculty student organizations belonging to the University.

The SSUKM working bodies are: *Assembly* - the highest decision making body of delegates from all faculties (61). The number of representatives depends on the number of students enrolled at each faculty (1 delegate per 500 students); *Executive Board* (IO) – an executive body of members elected by the Assembly; *President* – represents the SSUKM, presides over the work of IO and Assembly; and presidents are elected by direct vote every two years. The SSUKM is a member of ESIB, and at the Congress in Tripoli, Libya on 20 March 2000 it became a full member of the International Union of Students (IUS).

At the University of Nis there are four student organizations: Student Alliance, Student Association, Student Union and student organization «Academic» (only at the Faculties of Civil Engineering and Architecture and Medicine). The Student Union broke away from the Student Alliance, once the only student organization, in the 90s. In 2000, Student Association was formed; in some faculties it represents a reformed Student Alliance, whereas in some the former alliance split into two organizations. The new draft Law regulates the issue of student interest representation at the level of Student Parliament which will be comprised of student organizations' members who received the proportional number of votes from all faculty students.

VI Bologna process

All three countries are determined to establish a modern higher education system in accordance with the Bologna process. This includes the adoption of common conditions for acquiring academic ranks, the acceptance of ECTS/ECAS (European Credit Transfer / Accumulation System), along with the Diploma Supplement, reorganizing undergraduate and master's studies to take at most five years, and organizing doctoral studies.

The data gathered by the project's research teams showed that, in spite of obvious efforts towards reform, none of these countries has in practice come very close to meeting the demands of the Bologna Declaration. For well-known reasons, Serbia has made the least progress. Undergraduate studies last a minimum of four to six years, and low study efficiency in practice raises this number to seven or eight years. The major problem in academic education in Serbia is that of master's studies. Contrary to one-year such studies common in most developed European countries, in Serbia they last a minimum of three years. On average, these studies take five years, and often last even longer. The University of Nis has not introduced doctoral studies, although the Law on the University sanctions their introduction. Ph.D. degrees are awarded after the defense of the doctoral dissertation, which must happen five years after its proposal at the latest. The situation at the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University is very similar. Undergraduate studies take four to six years (four at most faculties, six at the Faculty of Medicine or Dentistry). The difference compared with the educational system in Serbia is that research institutes, with the status of legal entities, can organize master's studies and the defense of doctoral theses. Although sanctioned by law, doctoral studies are not organized at universities in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia either. At Bulgarian universities, the Sofia research team found that undergraduate studies take four years, and master's studies last one to two years (the Faculty of Law directly assigns the rank of M.A. after five years of studies). Doctoral studies last two years for full-time students, and three years for part-time students.

The concept of the new Law on High Education in Serbia, whose adoption by the Parliament is expected by the beginning of the 2003/2004 academic year, represents a huge step towards reforming their system. Starting from identified weaknesses, as well as from the obligations stemming from the involvement in the Bologna Process and ratification of the Lisboa Convention, the new Law's priorities are: introducing two study-cycles, lasting five years total; introducing ECTS as a measurement of the quantity of studies; introducing the diploma supplement as an additional document to describe the program taken; introducing a joint diploma given by two or more institutions; defining the procedure of the acknowledgement of acquired qualifications and diplomas in accordance with the Lisboa Convention; involving students as partners into the teaching process; establishing the University as the only legal entity; establishing prerequisites for life-time learning; and introducing a quality control system and the foundation for an of accreditation agency.

Data collected by the project's Skopje research team showed, that, as to the application of quality control mechanisms, a lot has been done in the right direction. Assessments of the quality of higher education activities, the management, and the financing, have been performed (by means of an institutional evaluation and by the evaluation of curricula and of the teaching process). Alongside this self-evaluation, the Higher Education Evaluation Agency of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has performed an external evaluation of the universities and other higher education institutions in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

In contrast to universities in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the University of Nis, as in all other universities in Serbia, has no systemic mechanisms of quality assurance. The first external evaluation was a visit paid to the University of Nis by the International Commission for the Institutional Quality Control of the European Association of Universities in the first half of 2002. The report of this commission and the results of self-evaluation coordinated by the Work Group on Self Evaluation of the University of Nis are to be found in the study «Self-Evaluation and Institutional Assessment of the University of Nis»⁵. This external evaluation, taken together with the fact that representatives of Nis University are involved in the program «Regional University Network on Governance and Management of Higher Education in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYROM and FRY» (containing the component *Quality Assurance and Development of Study Programmes*) gives hope that there will be substantial improvements, and this aspect of Universities in Serbia will be brought in line with European standards very soon. It should be noted that the Conception (preliminary draft) of the New Law on High Education in Serbia proscribes an Accreditation Agency whose goal would be «to initiate, monitor, promote and implement accreditation procedures».

As for the introduction of the ECTS/ECTA system, all three countries are currently conducting preparations and announcing the start of their application for the next academic year – 2003/2004. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, university reforms began with the adoption of the Law on High Education, which obliges all Universities in the country to adopt the ECTS system. In this respect, the University of Skopje has adopted a «Rule Book on Unique Grounds for Credit Transfer System and Study Policy». These two documents contain the recommendations of the Bologna Declaration (all that makes up ECTS system, including Diploma Supplement). Information dissemination and faculty staff training on the ECTS system has also been carried out. According to the data collected by the research team in Skopje, almost all the faculties have started to transform their curriculums and syllabuses according to ECTS principles.

The University community in Serbia is about one step behind. The Conception of the new Law on High Education in Serbia implies the introduction of the ECTS system as a measurement of study quantity. The draft proposes undergraduate academic studies (to last a minimum of 180 ECTS and a maximum of 240 ECTS), undergraduate applied studies (to take 180 ECTS), specialist studies (a maximum of 60 ECTS), specialist applied studies (also a maximum of 60 ECTS), master's academic studies (whose total sum with undergraduate academic studies would not exceed 300 ECTS), applied master's studies (120 ECTS), and doctoral studies (a minimum of 180 ECTS and a maximum of 240 ECTS).

The draft of the Law on High Education offers a possible time-table for the implementation of the key tenets of this Law. This would include introducing the new curricula, the ECTS system, and accreditation of undergraduate courses for the academic year 2003/2004. In the school year 2004/2005 the first generation of students would enroll in the university following the new program. The reorganization of the universities, the adoption of new statutes, and university integration with the university as the sole legal entity should be completed by the end of 2005/2006. In 2006/2007 the masters' studies programs will be reorganized, and in the academic year 2007/2008 the first university accreditation cycle in Serbia is to have been completed.

⁵ «Self-Evaluation and Institutional Assessment of the University of Nis», University of Nis, Nis, 2002

COMMON PRIORITIES, ACTION PLAN, RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICY MAKING

The most important strategic goal for the Universities of Nis, St Kliment Okhridski (Sofia), and St Cyril and Methodius (Skopje), and for the three countries involved in this Euroregion, is compliance with the standards set by the Bologna Declaration. Instead of creating specific mechanisms to improve regional student and teacher mobility (bearing in mind the intention of these universities to join the common European educational system) it would be simpler and more efficient to become Euro-compatible and introduce ECTS/ECAS systems, comparable academic degrees and diplomas, and European quality assurance mechanisms. Looking to become compatible with European standards would seem to be of most benefit, as regional mobility is an obstacle that can be easily overcome; language (usually the greatest obstacle to student mobility) poses no particular problem due to the similarities between the three languages. As is the case with the other countries, it would be recommended that a Euro-compatible system be in place by 2010 – the year that the common area for higher education in Europe will be established.

Strategic goals for the Universities of Nis and Skopje also include the transformation of their internal organization and strengthening the University in relation both to their faculties and to the Government. In this context, transforming the financial system for higher education would be desirable, too. Republic of Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia could follow in the footsteps of Bulgaria; this would include annulling the category of 'self-financing' students and requiring all students to pay tuition fees. Such fees would in turn be considerably lower than they currently are in Serbia or the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. This would put the university in a stronger position vis-à-vis the state. Reducing the pressure on the state budget would allow the state to give scholarships to exceptional students and students who are very poor.

Mid-term goals to be achieved by 2005 include the formation of regional academic centers which could serve as decision-making bodies. For example, these centers could form education committees that, as a first step to making university degrees portable across the region, would look to make the regional curricula compatible. The first prerequisite for achieving this goal was the protocol on cooperation between the Universities of Nis, Ss Cyril and Methodius (Skopje) and St Kliment Okhridski signed in Skopje on 26 October 2002. The establishment of common regional resource centers that collect data relevant to the entire region (e.g. the economy, politics etc.) will enable the realization of common research projects. In the realm of education, the University of Nis and the University St Cyril and Methodius in Skopje would have another mid-term goal to achieve: the establishment of doctoral studies which, according to the laws on higher education of both countries, are entirely possible.

Short-term goals to achieve in the academic year 2003/2004 pertain to filling out common applications for TEMPUS projects, e.g. the common regional M.A. degree program in areas including European studies and Public Administration; a common project among Faculties having Departments of Slavic Languages, where (because of obvious commonalities) student mobility would be most easily achieved; the organization of common regional summer schools at the postgraduate level; the organization of student sporting events which would be supported by the local governments and organized in a different town every year; and the formation of a joint web site, which would contain data on educational and research projects, data on professors and alumni currently abroad, and mailing lists for exchange of ideas.

Predrag Cvetičanin
Nenad Popović

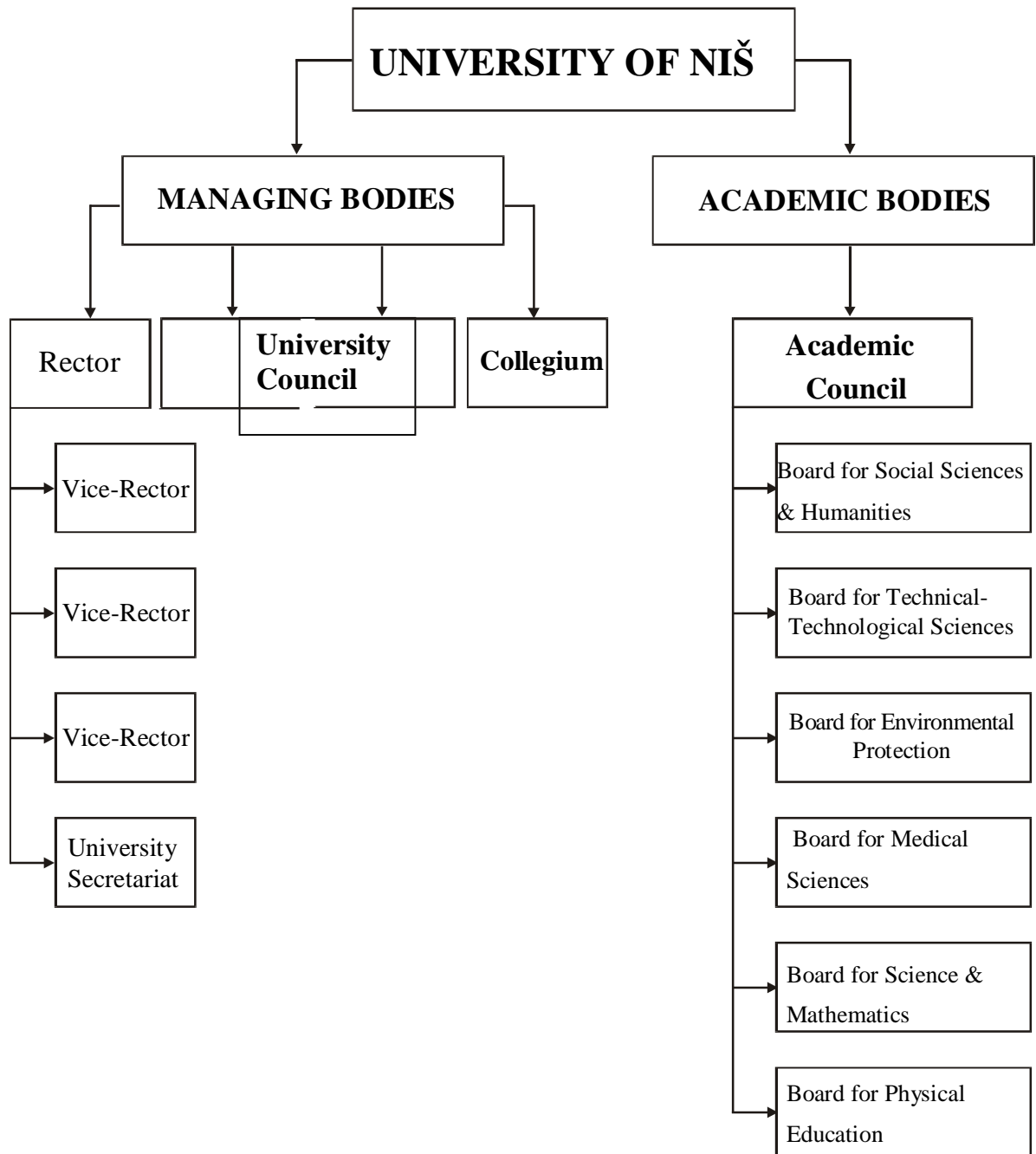
UNIVERSITY OF NIŠ, SERBIA

Founded on 15 June 1965, the University of Nis is one of five universities in the Republic of Serbia. Its core faculties were the Faculties of Law and Economy, and Medicine and Technical Science (formerly part of the University of Belgrade). The University of Nis further developed when the Faculty of Technical Sciences split up into the Faculty of Electronic Engineering (1968), the Faculty of Machine Engineering and the Faculty of Civil Engineering (1971). In addition, the Faculty of Law and Economics was divided into two separate faculties in 1970, and finally in 1971, the Faculty of Philosophy was founded. The Faculty of Occupational Safety separated from the Faculty of Civil Engineering in 1972, and towards the end of the decade, in 1979, the Faculty of Technology in Leskovac opened. The Faculty of Teacher Training in Vranje was founded in 1993. During the 1990s, the department of architecture was added to one of the technical science faculties, and thus the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture was created (1995). In 1999, the Faculty of Philosophy gave birth to the Faculty of Natural Science and the Faculty of Physical Education. In the current academic year (2002/2003), the departments of fine arts, applied arts and music, which since 1998 were under the auspices of the Faculty of Philosophy, became the Faculty of Arts. In the last 36 years, 34,830 students have graduated from the University of Nis, 1,528 postgraduate students have received their master's degrees, and 941 people have received Ph.D.s.⁶

Currently the University of Nis is comprised of thirteen faculties: Arts, Civil Engineering and Architecture, Economics, Electronic Engineering, Machine Engineering, Medicine, Law, Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Occupational Safety, Physical Education and Philosophy (Niš), the Faculty of Technology (Leskovac - 45km south of Nis) and the Teacher Training Faculty (Vranje -120km south of Nis). Within the University, there are other organizational units as well: the University Library «Nikola Tesla», the University Computer Center JUNIS, the Center for Scientific Research of the Academy of Arts and Sciences in Serbia, the University of Nis, the Center for Interdisciplinary and Multidisciplinary Study and the Research and University Secretariat. *The management of the University of Nis* consists of *the University Council*, which is the highest body in charge of the University. It consists of 36 members: two representatives of each of the faculties, six student representatives and six members appointed by the Government in Serbia; *the Rector*, who represents the University, coordinates its activities and is held responsible for the implementation of the scientific and teaching processes; *three Vice-Rectors*, in charge of the teaching process and student standards, financial /investment issues and research/cooperation with other universities; and the *collegium*, an informal body coordinating the faculties' daily activities. Its members are the Rector, Vice-rectors and all the Deans of the Nis Faculties. *The highest professional body* of the University of Nis is *the Academic Council*, comprised of 28 members. These include the Rector, the Vice-rectors and two full professors from each of the faculties. The Academic Council decides on the most important issues dealing with the research and teaching process; it gives final consent to the adoption of syllabuses and research programs, and to the election of teachers. It also adopts a yearly university publishing plan.⁷

⁶ During this research a study was published entitled «Self-Evaluation and Institutional Assessment of the University of Nis » based on the reports on self-evaluation of the Working Group of the University of Nis and the committee of the European University Association carried out in 2002. The data from this study were invaluable for the present report and were used in parallel with the data collected in this research.

⁷ The term in office of all managing and professional university bodies (the University and Faculty Councils, Academic Councils, the Rector, the Vicerectors, and the Deans) is two years.



When deciding on important issues related to studying, the University institutions' role is mainly consultative. For instance, as far as enrollment policy is concerned, faculties give suggestions as to the number of students. The Academic Council of the University supplies its opinion only; the Government of the Republic of Serbia makes the final decision on the number of first year students for each academic year. Syllabuses are adopted by the Faculty Academic Councils, and the University Academic Council can only approve (or disapprove) them. The procedure is similar where teacher appointments, doctoral dissertation proposals and Ph.D. assessment reports are concerned. Faculties advertise vacancies for teacher and assistant postings, they appoint boards for assessing candidates and approve employment of

new teaching staff at the sessions of their own Academic Councils. The Academic Council of the University must approve the appointment of new staff. Otherwise, the entire procedure is repeated. Doctoral dissertation topics and adopting reports on completed theses is also under the faculties' authority, and the Academic Council of the University is only expected to consent. Syllabuses and study fees are approved by faculties alone.

This structure underlines *the basic trait of the organization of universities in Serbia: universities are seen as a loose association of independent and strong faculties*. This is mostly a consequence of the fact that the Ministry of Education and Sport of the Government of Serbia transfers its funds to each individual faculty; a central university budget does not exist.⁸ The European University Association report clearly indicates that the University bodies in Serbia have little authority. This in turn reduces their influence on the Government and corresponding Ministries, and this again weakens their position to intervene at its subordinate faculties. Such constraints make strategic planning at the University much more difficult (or make strategic university plans a mere mosaic of diverse faculty strategic plans); the constraints also make it impossible to put aside university funds for strategic issues, they hinder inter-faculty communication and cause divisions between rich (and powerful) and poor faculties.

Since the founder – the State – plays a decisive role in university funding, one might claim that the real power, and therefore the real power to implement reform as well, rests with the state bodies in Serbia – i.e. the relevant Government ministries. Financial resources necessary for employees' salaries as well as those needed for covering faculties' expenses are disbursed directly by the Ministry of Education and Sport. The amount of the former is determined by the number of students at the particular faculty, and the latter by the physical size of the faculty. Funds for research projects are approved and transferred by the Ministry of Science and Technology. However, these funds are significantly smaller. Additional sources of income for faculties are tuition fees, collected from students who are not financed by the government's budget, and services provided to these students. In addition, there are funds acquired from other sources, primarily by providing services (expertise) to third persons. For this project, the research team attempted to collect specific data on these «other sources» - own activity, donations, rentals, dividends and «other», were listed on the questionnaire, with a space below «other» for details, if any. Interestingly, most faculties claimed that they received no funds from other sources contrary to data collected earlier.

The data collected clearly identified three faculty groups: those fully dependent on state financing: over ¾ of the total budget comes from the Ministry of Education and Sport (Teacher-Training Faculty, Faculty of Philosophy, Faculty of Technology, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Faculty of Electronic Engineering and Faculty of Machine Engineering); the second group is comprised of the Faculty of Medicine, the Faculty of Occupational Health, the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture and the Faculty of Physical Education, which receive significant funds from tuition fees (Medical Faculty 30%, Occupational Health Faculty 23%) or from «other sources» (Civil Engineering and Architecture Faculty 25%, Physical Education Faculty 31%); the third group is made up of the Faculty of Economics, which receives almost half of its income from tuition fees (30%) and other sources (18.8%), and the Faculty of Law, which collects most of the money itself (63.6%, which, according to this year's survey, was all from tuition fees).

⁸ Faculties are seen as legal entities, and have their own bank accounts, akin to the University, which is an independent legal subject, a legal entity with its own account.

**STRUCTURE OF THE UNIVERSITY BUDGET IN THE ACCADEMIC YEAR 2001/2002
- ALLOCATION TO THE FACULTIES -**

INSTITUTION	Government budget (%)	Tuition fees (%)	Other sources of finance (%)
University (Rector's Office and Secretariat)	90%	0%	10%
Teacher-Training Faculty	96%	4%	0%
Faculty of Philosophy	90,1%	5%	4,9%
Faculty of Technology	90%	10%	0%
Faculty of Science & Mathematics	85%	13%	2%
Faculty of Electronic Engineering	84%	16%	0%
Faculty of Mechanical Engineering	78%	3%	19%
Faculty of Medicine	70%	30%	0%
Faculty of Occupational Safety	70%	23%	7%
Faculty of Civil Engineering & Architecture	62%	13%	25%
Faculty of Physical Education	60%	9%	31%
Faculty of Economics ⁹	51,2%	30%	18,8%
Faculty of Law	36,4%	63,6%	0%

Faculties are entitled to manage all the funds outside those appointed by the Government's budget as they wish. They can even decide on the amount of such funds by suggesting to the Government how many «self-financing students» they would like to admit. However, this number must be approved by the Government of the Republic of Serbia. On the other hand, the very low salaries of professors and assistants at the University of Nis forces faculty management to direct most non-budget financial resources to staff salaries.

As for financing the University, i.e. Nis University Rectorate and Secretariat, 90% of the funds comes from the state budget, 5% is received as rental income (of University property) and the remaining 5% is earned by the University's own activities. In the course of an interview at the University, it was found that until the year 2000, faculties had paid 3% of their total tuition fee income to the University, but this stopped in 2001.

If one analyzes the structure of university financing (including all the faculties and the Rectorate) from 1996-2000, a constant tendency towards decreasing the share of state-budget funds and increasing the share of tuition fees and «other sources» funding is evident. Data collected shows that there was an increased share of state funds in 2001/2002, accompanied by a decrease in the «other sources» share, while the proportion of tuition fees remained relatively unchanged. While this data is questionable, as mentioned before, the relationship might have been changed due to improved faculty financing by the Ministry of Education and Sport during the previous school year, especially since March 2002.

⁹ The management of the Faculty of Economics refused to provide data on the structure of their budget to our surveyors; the data used here come from the study «Self-Evaluation and Institutional Assessment of the University of Nis», University of Nis, Nis, 2002

STRUCTURE OF THE UNIVERSITY BUDGET IN THE PERIOD 1996-2002¹⁰ - FINANCIAL RESOURCES

FINANCIAL RESOURCE	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2002
Budget allocated by Government	73,49	67,89	64,77	69,71	60,96	74,05
Tuition fees	11,71	16,35	19,60	18,06	16,69	16,90
Other sources of finance	14,80	15,76	15,63	12,23	22,35	9,05

Out of the thirteen faculties of the University of Nis, six are broken down into departments and sections – thirty in total. At the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture there are sections for civil engineering and architecture; the Faculty of Medicine has departments of medicine, dentistry and pharmacology; at the Faculty of Occupational Safety there are departments of occupational health, fire protection and ecology; at the Faculty of Philosophy there are departments of philosophy, history, sociology, psychology, pedagogy, Serbian language and literature, English language and literature, Slavic studies and Balkan studies, fine arts, applied art and music; at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics there are departments of mathematics, physics, chemistry, geography and biology; and finally, the Faculty of Technology has departments of chemical and biochemical engineering, organic chemistry technology and polymer engineering, textile engineering, and, as of this year, departments of food engineering, pharmaceutical-cosmetic engineering and design and production of textile products. Within the present faculties of the University of Nis, the Faculty of Philology, which so far has existed under the auspices of the Faculty of Philosophy; and the Faculty of Architecture, currently a section of the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture could possibly be “spun-off” into their own faculties. There is also room for some new schools, such as the Faculty of Political Science¹¹.

Data from the study «Self-Evaluation and Institutional Assessment of the University of Nis» show that there are 1410 teachers and assistants and 450 administrative-technical staff employed at the University of Nis. Among them are 815 teachers (full professors, associate professors, assistant professors, senior lecturers and part-time teachers – employed 1/3 of full working hours) and 595 instructors (teaching assistants, junior assistants, language instructors and research assistants).

TEACHERS							
ACADEMIC YEAR	Full professors	Associate professors	Assistant Professors	Senior lecturers	Lecturers	Part-time teachers	Total
1996/97	273	196	184	32	15	0	700
1997/98	244	169	155	11	7	143	729
1998/99	304	214	169	6	14	123	830
1999/2000	266	181	163	5	9	100	724
2000/2001	269	189	171	4	15	167	815

INSTRUCTORS 2000/01						
teaching assistants	junior assistants	Teaching fellows	Research fellows	language instructors	part-time instructors	Total
371	166	43	0	6	9	595

The data gathered by the research team (above) showed a tendency towards growth in the number of professors for 2001/2002, whereas the number of assistants remains even.

¹⁰ Data for the period 1996-2000 was taken from the study «Self-Evaluation and Institutional Assessment of the University of Nis»; data for 2001/2002 were added later.

¹¹ In October 2002, a project of cooperation in political science between the University of Nis and the State University of New York started. The program is financed by the US Department of State, Bureau for Educational and Cultural Affairs; the long-term goal is to found a Faculty of Political Science at the University of Nis.

	Full professors	Associate professors	Assistant professors	Teaching & junior assistants
Faculty of Science & Mathematics	18	21	17	52
Faculty of Physical Education	12	1	9	19
Faculty of Technology	16	7	4	23
Teacher-Training Faculty	18	15	16	32
Faculty of Electronic Engineering	39	23	12	89
Faculty of Economics	23	11	13	31
Faculty of Medicine	71	64	74	117
Faculty of Law	18	7	9	17
Faculty of Mechanical Engineering	31	10	9	28
Faculty of Civil Engineering & Architecture	25	9	6	50
Faculty of Philosophy	18	14	20	53
Faculty of Occupational Safety	7	16	3	24
UNIVERSITY OF NIS – TOTAL	296	198	192	535

The Faculties of the University of Nis organize undergraduate studies, specialist studies, postgraduate (master's) studies, with the possibility to complete doctoral dissertations. Doctoral studies, although allowed by the current Law on the University, are not organized at any of the Faculties. Undergraduate studies last four to six years, depending on the faculty, and are organized into two semesters (winter and summer). At the Faculty of Medicine undergraduate studies last six years; at the Faculties of Electronic Engineering, Machine Engineering, Civil Engineering and Architecture, and Technology (as of this year), the degree program lasts five years; at the rest of the faculties the duration of studies is four years.

FACULTY	Number of students (BA)	Freshman	Graduated in 2002	International students
Faculty of Science & Mathematics	936	341	64	2
Faculty of Physical Education	951	192	38	4
Faculty of Technology	581	67	48	0
Teacher-Training Faculty	520	155	56	0
Faculty of Economics	5219	750	232	3
Faculty of Electronic Engineering	1617	298	No data	5
Faculty of Medicine	2373	315	237	195
Faculty of Law	4350	1185	117	24
Faculty of Mechanical Engineering	1344	171	103	11
Faculty of Civil Engineering & Architecture	1961	288	49	26
Faculty of Philosophy	2462	466	80	5
Faculty of Occupational Safety	537	118	69	4
UNIVER. OF NIS TOTAL	22,851	4,346	1,093	279

Out of 22,851 undergraduate students, almost two thirds (14,404) study at four faculties: Economics, Law, Philosophy and Medicine. More than two fifths (9,569 students) study at the Faculties of Economics and Law. This popularity demonstrates why these faculties are so much better off financially than the others: they acquire the most funds from their own sources. An interesting observation is that 225 of 279 (80.6%) foreign BA students study at three faculties: Medicine, Law and Civil Engineering and Architecture. The vast majority of such foreign students are found at the Faculty of Medicine (196 students – 70.2%)

Specialist studies are organized at nine out of twelve faculties at the University of Nis.¹² They aim to provide students who have completed undergraduate studies with a combination of theoretical and practical skills, training them for highly specialized professional work. At most faculties, specialist studies take one year; at the Faculty of Civil Engineering they last three semesters, at the Faculties of Electronic Engineering and Technology they take two years. Some areas of Medicine and Dentistry require specialization for three to five year periods.

FACULTY	Spec. students	Enrolled in 2002-2003	Graduated in 2001/2002	International students
Faculty of Science & Mathematics	2	2	0	0
Faculty of Physical Education	3	1	1	1
Faculty of Technology	No data	No data	No data	No data
Teacher-Training Faculty	0	0	0	0
Faculty of Economics	1	1	0	0
Faculty of Electronic Engineering	No data	No data	No data	No data
Faculty of Medicine	1502	214	169	6
Faculty of Law	2	0	0	0
Faculty of Mechanical Engineering	0	0	0	0
Faculty of Civil Engineering & Architecture	20	0	0	0
Faculty of Philosophy	0	0	0	0
Faculty of Occupational Safety	0	0	0	0
UNIV. OF NIS TOTAL	1530	218	170	7

Although data from the Faculties of Electronic Engineering and Technology is unavailable, from the table it can be concluded that specialist studies are the most attractive at the Faculty of Medicine: 98% of students are enrolled at the Faculty of Medicine.

FACULTY	Master's students	Acquired MA degree	International MA students
Faculty of Science & Mathematics	31	7	0
Faculty of Physical Education	47	1	19
Faculty of Technology	17	3	0
Teacher-Training Faculty	60	3	0
Faculty of Economics	19	17	0
Faculty of Electronic Engineering	78	2	0
Faculty of Medicine	70	32	1
Faculty of Law	19	4	0
Faculty of Mechanical Engineering	658	3	0
Faculty of Civil Engineering & Architecture	54	3	3
Faculty of Philosophy	20	6	1
Faculty of Occupational Safety	55	6	0
UNIVER. OF NIS TOTAL	1128	87	24

¹² According to our data, specialist studies are not organized at the Faculty of Philosophy, Teacher Training Faculty and Faculty of Machine Engineering.

Master's studies are organized at all faculties of the University of Nis. They include two years of classes, passing specialized exams and completing a master's thesis. With the exception of the Faculty of Machine Engineering (where no data was available), at the University of Nis, master's studies are divided into 85 different profiles.

There is a tremendously high number of master's students at the Faculty of Machine Engineering (658). According to the data available on those who completed master's studies at the same Faculty in 2001/2002, most of these students fit into the category of those «studying forever». Secondly, most foreigners received their master's degrees at the Faculty of Physical Education. Finally, study efficiency at the master's level is highest at the Faculties of Economics and Medicine (at least judging by 2001/2002 data).

There are no doctoral studies organized at the University of Nis, although they are sanctioned by the Law on University. At the faculties of the University of Nis, a Ph.D. is conferred after the defense of one's doctoral thesis. This degree must be obtained within a five year period, starting when the thesis proposal is adopted. This is probably because postgraduate courses are attended only during mater's studies. When the master's thesis is completed, the only requirement is that a doctoral dissertation must be written.

FACULTY	Ph. D. students	Acquired Ph.D.s	International Ph.D. students
Faculty of Science & Mathematics	8	5	0
Faculty of Technology	3	1	0
Faculty of Electronic Engineering	10	9	0
Faculty of Economics	3	1	0
Faculty of Medicine	27	18	2
Faculty of Law	7	3	0
Faculty of Mechanical Engineering	75	1	0
Faculty of Philosophy	14	3	1
Faculty of Occupational Safety	8	1	0
UNIVER. OF NIS TOTAL	155	42	3

The three faculties did not provide data on doctoral studies. The reason could be that since there are no doctoral studies at the faculties, no data was provided. However, the tendencies appear to be the same as for master's studies. There are a huge number of Ph.D. applicants who delay completing their theses at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, and again, those studying at the Faculties of Electronic Engineering and Medicine complete their studies the soonest.

As for financing education at universities in Serbia, there are two types of undergraduate students defined by the Law: those financed by the government's budget, and «self-financing students». The number of students financed by the budget is determined by the Government on the basis of yearly quotas suggested by individual faculties and formulated as drafts by universities. These quotas are filled by new students, who are admitted to faculties under two criteria: grades in secondary schools and entrance exam results. The two numbers are added together, and students with the highest cumulative scores are enrolled. A (proportionally smaller) number of students whose scores are below the minimum required by the state to receive public financing are allowed to study, on the condition that they pay for it themselves (the so-called «self-financing students»). Fees for such students vary. Faculties decide on those fees themselves, although there is a recommendation by the Ministry of Education and Sport each year regarding the lowest and highest desirable sums. At the faculties of the University of Nis, these sums also vary: the lowest yearly fee is at the Faculty of Machine Engineering (150 EUR) whereas 1000 EUR is required to attend the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture, the departments of fine and applied arts of the

Faculty of Philosophy and the Faculty of Medicine. This is the cost of first year study only. For each of the remaining years the cost is 750 EUR. In most other faculties, the average cost is 500 EUR. Master's studies cost from 300 EUR at the Teacher Training Faculty in Vranje to 1,400 EUR at the Faculty of Occupational Health. The average yearly cost in all faculties is about 600 EUR. Since there are no full-fledged doctoral studies, very little data on their cost was available. However, the cost of applying to defend one's doctoral dissertation (500 EUR at the Faculty of Economics, 870 EUR at the Faculty of Machine Engineering) provides a rough guide.

FACULTY	Home students BA	Foreign BA	Home MA	Foreign MA
Faculty of Science & Mathematics	500 EUR	1500 \$	435 EUR	2900 \$
Faculty of Physical Education	560 EUR	1500 \$	700 EUR	2200 \$
Faculty of Technology	500 EUR	1500 \$	650 EUR	2500 \$
Teacher-Training Faculty	200 EUR	/	300 EUR	/
Faculty of Electronic Engineering	500 EUR	1500 \$	650 EUR	2500 \$
Faculty of Economics	420 EUR	1500 \$	850 EUR	3700 \$
Faculty of Medicine	1 1000/ 750 EUR	2200 EUR	540 EUR	2900 EUR
Faculty of Law	500 EUR	1200 \$	350 EUR	1200 \$
Faculty of Mechanical Engineering	150 EUR	1500 EUR	650 EUR	/
Faculty of Civil Engineering & Architecture	1000 EUR	1500 EUR	/	/
Faculty of Philosophy	1000 EUR art dept., 750 music dept., 540 EUR other dept's.	1500 \$	440 EUR	1700 \$
Faculty of Occupational Safety	500 EUR	1500 EUR	1400 EUR	12.200 EUR

The conditions of enrollment for international students are the same as those for citizens of Serbia. Such students must enclose a validated degree certifying their previous education and, if necessary, other documents required by the enrollment advertisement. Foreigners must demonstrate Serbian language proficiency. This can be proved either by presenting certificates from authorized institutions, or the relevant faculty's board can check directly. When enrolling in the first year of studies, stipend recipients from Serbia are favored, as are students with stipends who are participating through international programs. Of all the faculties in Nis, only the Faculty of Medicine organizes courses in English. For these students to enroll, their English proficiency must be assessed by a special board. International students enrolled in studies in English may switch to studies in Serbian at any time. The other way round, however, is possible only before the end of the second year of undergraduate study. Fees are within the ranges previously prescribed by the Government – usually about \$1,500 per academic year. Fees for international students enrolled in Masters' programs range from \$1,200 at the Faculty of Law to \$3,700 at the Faculty of Economics. The Faculty of Occupational Health indicated that the total amount a foreign student should pay to complete a master's degree at this faculty is 12,200 EUR (this is presumed to include tuition fees, exam fees and the fee for thesis application). Information regarding the amount necessary for international students to receive their Ph.D. from the University of Nis comes from the Faculty of Economics which put the fee at \$ 3,000.

The University of Nis has four student organizations: Student Alliance, Student Association, Student Union and student organization «Academic» (only at the Faculties of Civil Engineering and Architecture and Medicine). The Student Union broke away from the Student Alliance in the 1990s. In 2000, Student Association was formed, in some faculties it represents a reformed Student Alliance, whereas in some the

former alliance has split into two organizations. The new Law regulates student interest representation at the level of the Student Parliament which will be comprised of student organizations' members who received a proportional number of votes from all faculty students.

RESEARCH ACTIVITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NIS

Research represents one of two key activities of the University of Nis. All faculties of the University have research institutes. They are not legally or financially independent, but rather act as faculty organizational units. Depending on the project, various faculty teachers and assistants participate. Team research projects are mainly carried out as part of research programs financed by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Development. However, some research is done directly for clients, for companies or other institutions. As well as the institutes, the University also has a Center for Scientific Research of the Academy of Sciences and Arts and the University of Nis, and the Center for Interdisciplinary and Multidisciplinary Study and Research.

The Center for Scientific Research of the Academy of Sciences and Arts in Serbia and the University of Nis was formed in 1991. It has the status of a University of Nis organizational unit. The Center has seven sections: sections for archeology and art history; a section for history; sections for language and literature; a section for studying nations; sections for materials and components; a section for applied mathematics and a section for biomedical research. Unlike this Center, which has been very active, especially in the realm of language and literature research, the Center for Interdisciplinary and Multidisciplinary Study and Research, in the status of a scientific organizational unit of the University of Nis, has still not fully developed its activity. Further developing this center remains a major challenge, and also represents an opportunity for the development of the University of Nis. The Center contains nine sections: for information technologies, for industrial robot research, for technological process automation, for new material research and development, for ecology and environmental planning, for electro-medicine, for biotechnology, for social research and for applied mathematics.

An attempt to show research projects currently carried out at Nis University faculties would look like this:

	Projects total	International projects	Ministry of Science	Researchers (number of)
Faculty of Science & Mathematics	25	0	25	85
Faculty of Physical Education	1	1	0	10
Faculty of Technology	22	0	22 ¹³	76
Teacher-Training Faculty	2	0	2	18
Faculty of Electronic Engineering	38	0	38	193
Faculty of Economics	59 ¹⁴	0	9	90
Faculty of Medicine	20	0	20	216
Faculty of Law	3	0	3	22
Faculty of Mech. Engineering	18	0	18	110
Faculty of Civil Engineering & Architecture	3	1	2	41
Faculty of Philosophy	4	0	4	51
Faculty of Occupational Safety	18	0	18	109
UNIVER. OF NIS – TOTAL	213	2	161	1021

¹³ Seven projects of the Faculty of Technology in the area of technological development and national energy efficiency program, receive 20% of their expenses from each of five end users, mainly companies from south and southeast Serbia.

¹⁴ Last year the Faculty of Economics completed 50 projects for Serbian companies.

The lack of international research projects is noticeable; out of the total 213 research projects currently underway at the University of Nis, only two are international, while 161 are financed by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Development. The Faculty of Economics has only carried out fifty research projects, all ordered by companies from Serbia. Seven Faculty of Technology projects were financed 20% by each of the end users. As expected, there are more projects and engaged researchers in faculties dealing with the natural, technical and medical sciences than in social science faculties.

Projects at the technical science faculties are differentiated as basic research projects, technological development projects and energy efficiency projects. The table below shows the number of projects broken out by Faculty and type of project (the number of active researchers can be found in brackets).

FACULTY	Basic research projects	Technological development projects	Energy efficiency projects	Researchers (number of)
Faculty of Technology	5 (13)	4 (31)	13 (32)	76
Faculty of Electronic Engineering	10 (42)	26 (139)	2 (12)	193
Faculty of Mechanical Engineering	2 (14)	11 (53)	5 (43)	110
Faculty of Occupational Safety	7 (19)	10 (72)	1 (18)	109
UNIVER. OF NIS – TOTAL	24 (88)	51 (295)	21 (105)	488

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NIS

Ten years of international isolation has left its mark on the University, as the dearth of international research projects shows. International cooperation is a weak point and thus one of the main challenges for the University of Nis. However, the recent political changes have led to the reestablishment of some international contacts.

The University of Nis is a member of the European University Association (EUA), Inter-University Center in Dubrovnik (IUC) and the Academic Network AIMOS. The University of Nis has signed bilateral contracts on cooperation with over 20 foreign universities. In addition, the University of Nis is involved in a number of international programs, such as: the Program of Institutional Evaluation EAU, TEMPUS, UNESCO-CEPES program for strategic planning at the University, and the international project DYNET under the auspices of the DAAD foundation. The University is also looking to become part of the COPERNICUS program.

During last year's TEMPUS III application period, the University of Nis was granted five projects, two of which appoint the University of Nis as project carrier: *«University Management Reform in Serbia»* (with partners Université de Nice-Sophia, Antipolic; Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, University of the Aegean-Rhodes and Universities of Belgrade and Kragujevac); *«Innovation of Computer Science Curriculum in Higher Education»* (with partners Universität Dortmund, Institute of Technological Education (GR) and University St.Kiril and Metodij, Skopje). There are also three projects in which the University of Nis is one of the partners: *«Aufbau eines regionalen und internationalen Hochschulnetzes für die Weiterentwicklung des Mittelstandsmanagements an den ökonomischen Fakultäten in BiH und YU in Bezug auf das»*; *Rebuilding of University International Offices*, and finally *«Building Cooperative Academic Library Network in Serbia»*. These projects have begun, and new projects for TEMPUS in 2002 are also expected.

Research data conclude that very few professors from the University of Nis teach abroad, and the corollary: there are very few foreign lecturers at the University. The figures are even lower than appears in the table, since "abroad" often means teaching in the Republic of Srpska (BiH) or hiring colleagues from BiH to teach in Nis. The data further shows that cooperation between teachers from the University

of Nis and their colleagues from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Bulgaria boils down to rare participation in boards for defending master's or doctoral thesis. Apart from the lecturers at the Faculty of Philosophy there are no other teachers from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Bulgaria at the University of Nis.

The situation is similar both for the number of foreign students studying in Nis and the number of students involved in international exchange at the University of Nis. Excluding the Faculty of Medicine in Nis where there are 195 international undergraduates (including 4 from Bulgaria and 13 from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), the fact is that among about 20,000 students at the remaining faculties there are only 84 international undergraduates. Nine are from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. There are none from Bulgaria.

International Teachers at the University of Nis & University Of Nis Teachers Abroad

FACULTY	International teachers at the University of Nis	University of Nis teachers abroad
Faculty of Science & Mathematics	0	0
Faculty of Physical Education	0	0
Faculty of Technology	0	4
Teacher-Training Faculty	0	0
Faculty of Electronic Engineering	0	10
Faculty of Economics	0	0
Faculty of Medicine	20	0
Faculty of Law	0	5
Faculty of Mechanical Engineering	0	0
Faculty of Civil Engineering & Architecture	0	0
Faculty of Philosophy	3	0
Faculty of Occupational Safety	0	0
TOTAL	23	19

NUMBERS OF:

International Students at the University of Nis; Students from Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; International exchange students; Students involved in int. exchange with universities in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Bulgaria.

FACULTY	International students	Students from BG / MK	International Exchange	Exchange with BG/MK
Faculty of Science & Mathematics	2	0	0	0
Faculty of Physical Education	4	2 (MK)	30 (USA)	0
Faculty of Technology	0	0	0	0
Teacher-Training Faculty	0	0	0	0
Faculty of Electronic Engineering	5	1 (MK)	0	0
Faculty of Economics	3	1 (MK)	20	0
Faculty of Medicine	195	4 (BG), 13 (MK)	/	/
Faculty of Law	24	3 (MK)	/	/
Faculty of Mech. Engineering	11	0	0	0
Faculty of Civ. Engin. & Architect.	26	0	0	0
Faculty of Philosophy	5	0	0	0
Faculty of Occupational Safety	4	2 (MK)	0	0
TOTAL	279	26 = 4 (BG) + 22 MK	50	0

In specialist and master's studies, and also including doctoral dissertations, similar results are found. There are currently seven foreign students specializing at the University of Nis, one of them from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Twenty specialist students of the Faculty of Economics are involved in international student exchange, six of them with institutions from Bulgaria or the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In total, there are 24 international master's students: 19 at the Faculty of Physical Education, 3 at the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture, 1 at the Faculty of Medicine and 1 at the Faculty of Philosophy. Only three international students, one of whom is from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, have proposed Ph.D. theses at the University of Nis – two at the Faculty of Medicine and one at the Faculty of Philosophy.

Among about twenty protocols on cooperation that the University of Nis has signed, there are currently protocols with the University "St Kiril and Metodij" in Skopje, the University "Paissi Hilendarski" in Plovdiv, the Technical University "V. Aprilov" in Gabrovo and the University "St Kiril and Metodij" in Veliko Trnovo¹⁵. Until the beginning of the project there was no protocol signed with the University of Sofia, so the *first step in the cooperation with the University of Sofia was the signing a protocol on cooperation on the University level*¹⁶ *at the conference in Skopje in October 2002, within the framework of the EastWest Institute's Project on Transfrontier Cooperation in the Nis-Sofia-Skopje Triangle.*

Bearing in mind the position of all three countries and that they are following the path of European integration, the next probable step would be *following the lines of the Bologna Declaration: adopting common and comparable academic degrees, organizing undergraduate (BA) and postgraduate (MA) studies according to the model 3 + 2 or 4 + 1*, where undergraduate studies cannot be shorter than three years, *introducing ECTS/ECAS* (European Credit Transfer/ Accumulation System) – a credit system including not only institutions of higher education, but also practical experience in companies, introducing a *European dimension in education quality control*, with comparable methods and criteria – which would best eliminate obstacles for student and teacher exchange.

Undergraduate studies in Serbia last a minimum of four to six years; in practice it takes seven or eight years to obtain an undergraduate degree. The atypical length of masters' studies mean that reforming Masters' studies remains the greatest challenge in Serbian higher education. Though such studies commonly take only one year in most developed European countries, in Serbia they last a minimum of three years (two years of lectures and exams, followed by a master's thesis – usually 100 – 150 pages long). On average, these studies take five years, and often last even longer. Given this state of affairs, it's not difficult to see why postgraduate studies in Serbia, in Europe the basic level of student mobility, are quite unattractive to European students. *Therefore the introduction of a one year program of masters' studies and a doctoral program should be a priority for the higher education institutions in Serbia.*

The introduction of ECTS (European credit transfer system) is a prerequisite for unimpeded student mobility in the Nis – Sofia – Skopje triangle. In the first trial phase, mobility could be limited to students of Slavic studies, for whom a stay in the two other areas could be beneficial. However, since differences between the languages of Serbia, Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are not big, the only real condition for unimpeded studying is ECTS. *The organization of a program of this kind regarding students of the University in Nis, Sofia University and University «St Kiril and Metodij» in Skopje could form the basis for a future joint TEMPUS project.*

¹⁵ At the University of Nis, cooperation with colleagues from Veliko Trnovo is particularly noted.

¹⁶ For instance, the Faculty of Economics in Nis has signed protocols on cooperation in the area of education and research with partner organizations in Sofia and Skopje.

There are other areas in which the *Universities of Nis, Sofia and Skopje could cooperate within the TEMPUS III program*. Even though as a candidate country Bulgaria is no longer entitled to take part, the program still allows for the individual involvement of Bulgarian experts, which might be good grounds for cooperation.

Due to the involvement and support of the EastWest Institute for the «*Southeast Europe Summer School of Political Science*», as part of the project of cooperation between the University of Nis and the State University New York (SUNY), students specially selected according to a strict criteria from Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia have been invited to participate. The summer school will be organized for the following three years; the duration of the project. If helped by the city of Nis and other potential funders, the school could become an established place for cooperation between colleagues – not only from Sofia, Skopje and Nis, but also from all the countries and regions of southeast Europe.

In order to accelerate the cooperation between the three Universities, *a mailing list and a joint web site could be created, as the basis for a virtual information center*. Once a week new information on educational programs and local and international research projects could be put up on this site, thus introducing a common framework for projects.

Furthermore, the University of Nis needs additional training for its teachers, and funds for library renewal and equipment. The University should also strive to transform itself into a unified organization, along the lines of modern EU universities. This would make it more efficient, effective and responsive to the local community, the students and the clients it services.

Initial steps have been taken towards the intensification of cooperation between the University of Nis, Sofia, and Skopje but efforts should be increased for its institutionalization and sustainability.

**“Ss CYRIL AND METHODIUS” UNIVERSITY IN SKOPJE –
THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

The status of higher education and educational policy in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is regulated by the Law on higher education, published in August 2000. This Law regulates the conditions and the procedures for establishing, financing and closing higher education institutions, and sets out the principles governing the organization, management and development of higher education as well as the process itself. Institutions for higher education may be public, established by the State, i.e. by the Assembly of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (Parliament), or private, founded by domestic and foreign individuals and legal entities. Citizens of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are guaranteed equal access to institutions of higher education. Foreign citizens may also attend higher education institutions in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, under the same conditions and terms as the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's citizens. The right to higher education is also granted to persons without citizenship, under conditions specified by law and by ratified international acts. The main legal act governing higher education institutions are the institutions' bylaws which regulate in detail the following: the internal organization, the manner of carrying out the process of higher education, the powers and the method of its decision-making bodies, and other issues of importance for its activity and work. The management of the higher education institution enacts the bylaw. The law on higher education specifies that higher education institutions perform their activity based upon the principle of academic autonomy. This autonomy prescribes both academic and administrative autonomy. Even for those universities founded by the state (the Ministry of Education) this autonomy holds. The state does not appoint officials, rectors, deans and members of the Boards, does not participate in electing teachers, does not award expert, academic and scientific titles, and does not participate in granting positions to teaching staff.

A university receives accreditation from the Board of Higher Education Licensing. The Board approves, confirms and recognizes the right of the institution to perform its activity in accordance with this Law. This Board is comprised of 15 members; 9 are elected by the Inter-University Conference of the universities of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, proportional to the number of faculties, higher vocational schools and scientific institutions which, in accordance with the Law on higher education, provide graduate and doctoral studies within the universities; 2 members from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's Academy of Science and the Arts, and 5 members are appointed by the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, from among the professors and persons with scientific degrees. The assessment of the quality of the higher education activity, including the management, the financing, the academic and other activities and priorities are measured by means of an institutional evaluation and by the evaluation of teaching plans and programs and of education and learning processes. Universities are evaluated on the basis of external and self-evaluations; a quality assessment system is in place to assess the quality of the teaching staff. The Higher Education Evaluation Agency of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia performs external evaluations and reviews the academic staff. The higher education institution itself is responsible for the self-evaluation process.

According to the Law on Higher Education, the Assembly of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (Parliament) should approve a Program for accomplishing and developing higher education in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Though the Assembly has not yet approved such a formal document, the Program should define: goals, directions of development, source and volume of resources necessary for financing, and the accomplishment of the development of the activities of state-run higher education institutions, the directions of development of the network of higher education institutions, setting the requirements and determining the number of the teaching-and -scholarly staff and associates, the premises

and equipment and other needs necessary to support the activity of private higher education institutions when their activity is on behalf of the state's interests.

For the purpose of implementing the Program of Higher Education Activity and implementing other matters set out by the present law, the National Higher Education Activity Fund has been established. The financing for the Fund is provided from the Budget of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and from other sources determined by law (interest rates; dividends; legacies; gifts; lots; foundations etc.).

The Management Board of the Fund plans and ensures resources and participates in financing private higher education institutions if the educational goals of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are met through their course-work. Higher education institutions may also gain revenues from: providing educational services to legal entities and individuals, both local and foreign, for which the Fund does not provide financing; marketing scientific and expert services and goods to domestic and foreign legal entities and individuals; subsidizing education costs; copyright revenues (copyright under the ownership of the higher education institution in question); and legacies, gifts, lots, contributions and other sources.

A higher education institution may subsidize the costs of education in cases where the state does not provide the necessary funds. Requirements of the Bologna Declaration that require the establishment of comparable degrees (BA, MA, Ph.D.), a Diploma Supplement and quality control are being established, and ECTS is being introduced.

In order to obtain recognition either for university qualifications or studies obtained abroad, the ministry in charge of higher education may recognize this on the basis of an expert proposal performed by an accredited higher education institution. This proposal must evaluate the value and quality of the foreign qualification as compared to a domestic one.

- By means of academic recognition, the right of access to institutions of higher education in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are assured: e.g. the possibility to continue higher education studies for the purpose of acquiring a higher education qualification, or recognizing a final higher education qualification for academic purposes.
- By means of professional recognition of a higher education qualification, one can perform a professional activity in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
- By means of partial recognition, a portion of higher education studies successfully completed abroad is formally recognized.

There are contracts for mutual recognition (validation) of university diplomas between the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Bulgaria.

“Ss CYRIL AND METHODIUS” UNIVERSITY IN SKOPJE

“Ss Cyril and Methodius” University, in Skopje has state status. The University is an autonomous, consensual alliance of faculties, art academies, colleges of further education and scientific institutes, where common tasks are executed jointly and interests are coordinated in performing teaching and research activities.

The first higher education institution to be established– the Faculty of Philosophy – was inaugurated in 1946. In April 1969, the University of Skopje was given the name “Ss Cyril and Methodius”. Course-

work emphasizes knowledge, creativity, openness, interaction, tolerance, freedom of thought and expression, democracy, balanced communication and respect.

THE BODIES OF THE UNIVERSITY

The University Senate

The University Senate is the university's management body. The Senate is comprised of representatives (selected directly and by secret ballot) from higher education institutions within the university and scientific institutions operating under the auspices of the university from among the professors or scientific associates and students' representatives. The Senate also includes a certain number of representatives elected by the university associate members. The number and manner of selection and dismissal of the Senate members is set out by the bylaws of the university in question. The Senate elects its President and Vice-President from among its members. The rights and responsibilities of the Senate President are regulated by the Senate Rules of Procedure. The Rector and Vice-rectors take part in the work of the Senate, without having the right of decision-making. The Senate members are elected to a mandated period of four years.

The Rector

The Rector is the managerial body of the university. The rector represents and acts on behalf of the university, both in the country and abroad. The Rector is selected by the University Senate directly and by secret ballot, from among the regular professors, for a mandated period of 4 years. The Rector is responsible for the university's legality and bylaw compliance, and has the right and duty to prevent the enactment of an act of any body of the university or any body of another higher education organization that she/he shall find contrary to the law, the bylaw and the general act of the university.

The Rector may authorize Vice-rectors for the purpose of performing his/her rights and responsibilities.

The Vice-rectors

Vice-rectors are selected for one mandate period only, from among the education-scientific and scientific workers, upon a proposal from the Rector, according to a procedure set out by the bylaws of that university. The university has three vice-rectors: for teaching-scientific questions, for international cooperation and for finance, investment and development of the university.

The Rector Administration

The Rector Administration is composed of the Rector, the Vice-rectors, the deans of the faculties, directors of the higher professional schools, directors of the research institutes and one representative from the Students' Union of the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje. The president of the University Senate and the secretary-general of the University participate in the activities of the Rector Administration without having the right to make decisions. The directors of the accompanying members of the University may also participate in the Rector Administration activities where the matters of their activities are concerned. The Rector Administration takes the decision as to which matters belong to the accompanying members' activities. The Rector Administration is managed by the Rector of the University.

Working bodies and commissions

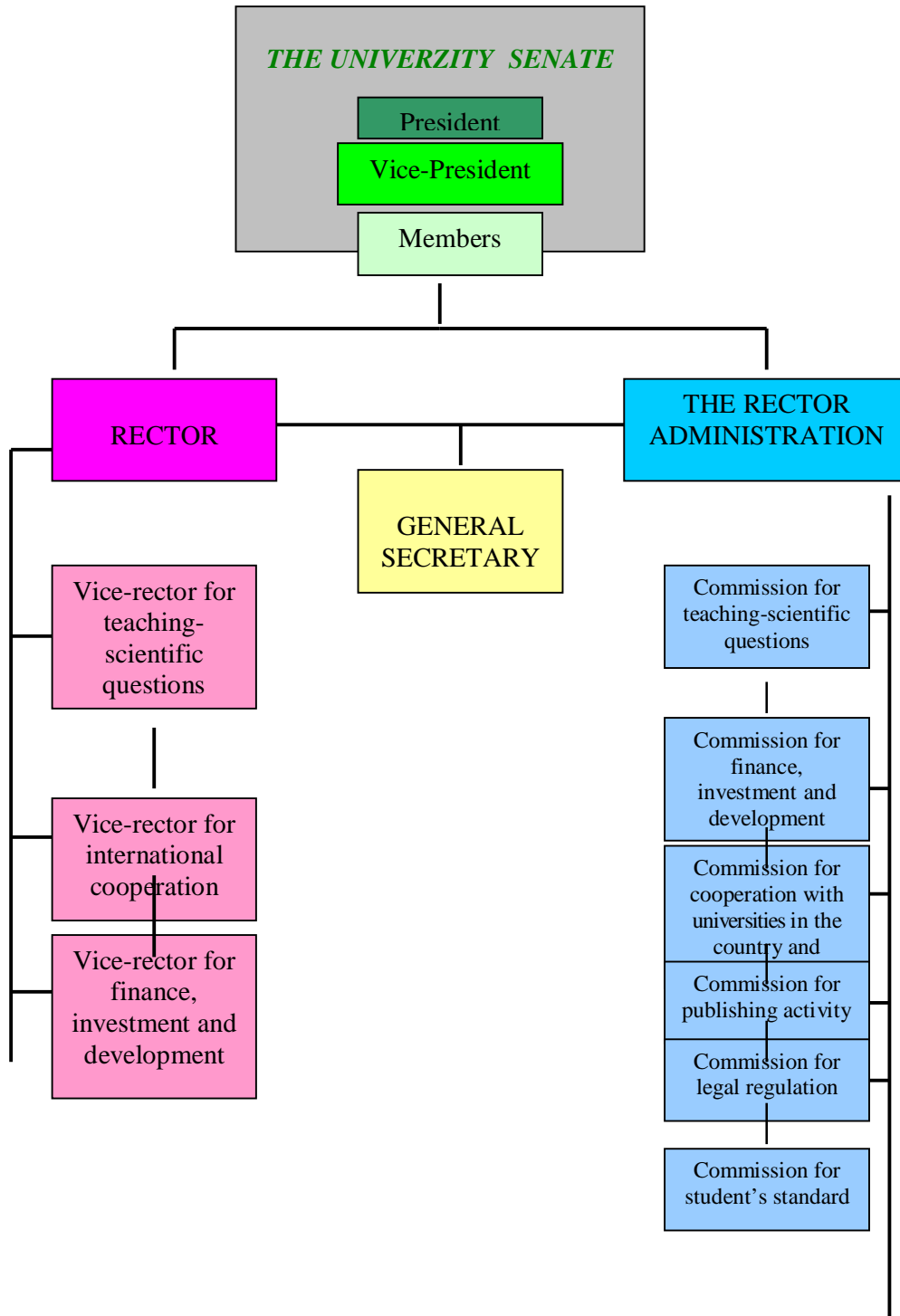
The Rector Administration forms commissions, committees and other working bodies for researching and preparing proposals for issues in the domain of the bodies of the University.

The Rector Administration forms the following commissions responsible for:

- teaching-scientific questions;
- finance, investment and development;

- cooperation with universities in the country and abroad;
- publications;
- legal regulation;
- student's standard.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE UNIVERSITY



Relation of the University and its members

The University “Ss Cyril and Methodius” is a loose association of its members. In fact, the University is a legal entity, but the higher education institutions within it are also legal entities in their own right. For this reason, the University cannot make mandatory decisions for the faculties regarding: student enrolment policy, syllabuses, selection of teaching staff, assignment of scientific ranks, their promotion, and fees, etc.

Financing and the budget

Funds to conduct the universities’ basic activities are provided through the budget of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

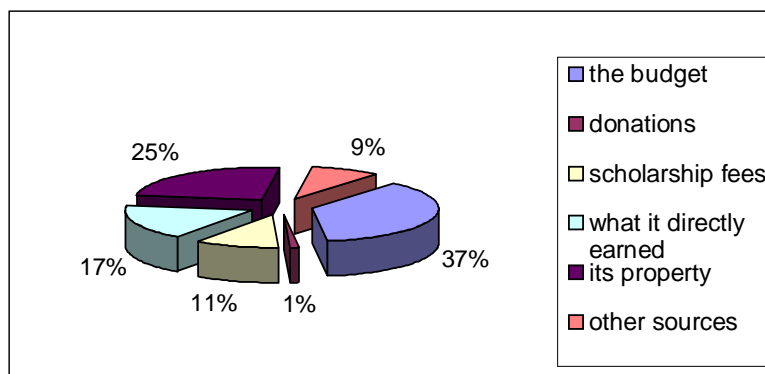
Each higher education institution determines individually the required amount of funds in conformity with its annual work program, and then submits this to the Ministry of Education and Science for approval.

The overall amount of funds for higher education, determined according to predetermined guidelines and criteria, is approved from the Budget of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, upon proposal submitted by the Ministry of Education and Science.

According to data from the university’s account office, the University is financed from:

- the budget 37 % ,
- donations 1 % ,
- scholarship fees 11 % ,
- what it directly earned 17 % ,
- its property (renting, dividend) 25 % and
- other sources 9 % .

Table 1:Structure of financing “Ss Cyril and Methodius” University



Associated higher education institutions

The University “Ss Cyril and Methodius” has 24 faculties in the following areas:

- Technical, natural and mathematical sciences;
- Social sciences;
- Medical sciences;
- Bio-technical sciences;
- Arts.

In addition, the University has 10 scientific- research institutes.

Teaching staff

- a) full professors - **579**

- b) associate professors - **276**
- c) assistant professors - **324**
- d) junior lecturers - **79**
- e) teaching assistants – **978**

The number of students: in the 2001/2002 academic year

- a) total number – **35,022**
- b) enrolled in the first year – **9,062**
- c) graduated BA – **3,368**
- d) acquired MA degrees - **187**
- e) completed specialist studies - **49**
- f) acquired Ph.D. degrees - **96**
- g) the number of foreign students - **695**

International Cooperation

International cooperation at the University focuses on intensive involvement in the PHARE - TEMPUS programs, the programs offered by UNESCO, and the regional Central and East European initiatives promoting cooperation with neighboring and Mediterranean countries.

Starting from the belief that national borders should not be barriers for developing and strengthening scientific exchange and cooperation, Ss Cyril and Methodius University and Janina University have signed a Cooperation Protocol within the INTERREG Program (inter-border cooperation, or inter-neighborly cooperation program).

Ss Cyril and Methodius University is also an active participant in a project within the EU-Royaumont Process of cooperation between universities to promote stability, human rights and sustainable peace in Southeastern Europe. The project includes: Athens University, Zagreb University, Maribor University, Belgrade University, Sofia University, Tirana University, Bucharest University, Budapest University, and Sarajevo University.

equal intensity is present in implementing the long-standing bilateral cooperation with universities in the USA, Australia and Europe, through revised cooperation modalities in fields reflecting the priorities of both sides. The University is also a member of and cooperates with the European Association of Rectors, the World Association of Universities and the Regional University Network.

One of the central elements in the teaching and educational system reform is the introduction of the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). To that end, the University has organized an international symposium, "Credit Transfer System in Transition Countries". There will be 10 foreign participants and a number of faculty representatives from the two universities in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

There are also many joint projects between the faculties of the University in Skopje and the higher education institutions from BG, SER, CEE, EU, USA and other countries around the world.

DATA FOR THE FACULTIES

Faculty financing

I. Sources of financing

The faculties within Ss Cyril and Methodius University did not provide the researchers with all the required data. Based on consultations with officials from the Ministry of Education and Science though, it can be concluded that the structure of financing for the faculties, expressed as a percentage, is similar to the data provided for the university as a whole.

II. Tuition fees in the school year 2001/02 (in EUR) 17:

Table 2:

Summary of tuition fees for local students included both in the state quota & co-financing

FACULTY	Study fees (state quota) / co-financing	FACULTY	Study fees (state quota) / co-financing
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE	200/400	FACULTY OF MEDICINE	200/700
CIVIL ENGINEERING FACULTY	100/250	FACULTY OF DENTISTRY	200/700
FACULTY OF ELECTROTECHNICS	200/400	FARMACEUTICAL FACULTY	200/700
FACULTY OF MECHANICS	150/250	FAKULTY OF PHYSICAL CULTURE	200/700
FACULTY OF TECHNOLOGY AND METALLURGY	150/250	FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE	200/400
FACULTY OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS	200/0	FACULTY OF FORESTRY	200/400
FACULTY OF GEOLOGY AND ORES	100/200	FACULTY OF VETERINARY	200/700
FACULTY OF ECONOMICS	200/400	FACULTY OF DRAMA ARTS	200/0
LAW FACULTY	200/400	FACULTY OF FINE ARTS	200/700
FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY	200/400	FACULTY OF MUSIC ARTS	200/700
FACULTY OF PHILOLOGY	200/400	FACULTY OF PEDAGOGY SKOPJE	150/400
		FACULTY OF PEDAGOGY STIP	150/350

The summary shows that tuition for students included in the state quota at particular faculties ranges from 100-200 euros per student. The co-financing amount is of a larger scope, 200-700 euros (the highest fee is at the fee-paying faculties of medical sciences and arts).

¹⁷ According to Concourse for enrolling students in the first year on faculties of The University "Ss Cyril and Methodius" – Skopje in the school-year 2001/02, Skopje, march 2001

Faculty staff in the school year 2001/02

Table 3: Summary of teaching staff according to faculties and titles

FACULTY	Full Professors	Associate Professors	Assistant Professors	Teaching Assistants	Foreign Lecturers	Local lecturers at Foreign Universities
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE	17	7	7	17	n.a.	n.a.
CIVIL ENGINEERING FACULTY	28	4	8	17	n.a.	n.a.
FACULTY OF ELECTROTECHNICS	32	9	22	41	n.a.	n.a.
FACULTY OF MECHANICS	36	8	14	22	n.a.	n.a.
FACULTY OF TECHNOLOGY AND METALLURGY	36	11	15	31	n.a.	n.a.
FACULTY OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS	68	26	20	80	n.a.	n.a.
FACULTY OF GEOLOGY AND ORES	15	1	7	17	n.a.	n.a.
FACULTY OF ECONOMICS	30	8	13	11	n.a.	n.a.
LAW FACULTY	21	13	13	14	n.a.	n.a.
FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY	37	21	29	33	n.a.	n.a.
FACULTY OF PHILOLOGY	32	13	18	36	n.a.	n.a.
FACULTY OF MEDICINE	74	76	59	440	n.a.	n.a.
FACULTY OF DENTISTRY	20	7	2	75	n.a.	n.a.
FARMACEUTICAL FACULTY	5	6	8	12	n.a.	n.a.
FAKULTY OF PHYSICAL CULTURE	12	2	12	7	n.a.	n.a.
FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE	27	13	14	50	n.a.	n.a.
FACULTY OF FORESTRY	15	12	16	10	n.a.	n.a.
FACULTY OF VETERINARY	11	6	8	18	n.a.	n.a.
FACULTY OF DRAMA ARTS	12	7	5	15	n.a.	n.a.
FACULTY OF FINE ARTS	13	2	10	2	n.a.	n.a.
FACULTY OF MUSIC ARTS	18	8	15	3	n.a.	n.a.
FACULTY OF PEDAGOGY SKOPJE	12	9	6	16	n.a.	n.a.
FACULTY OF PEDAGOGY STIP	8	7	3	10	n.a.	n.a.
TOTAL	579	276	324	978		

As per the table above, there are 2,157 lecturers engaged at the University in the 2001/02 school year; 579 are Full Professors, 276 Associate Professors, 324 Assistant Professors and 978 Teaching Assistants.

Teaching process

Table 4: Undergraduate studies (BA) in the school year 2001/02

FACULTY	Total number of students ¹⁸	Enrolled in the first year ¹⁹	Number of bachelor students	Number of foreign students ²⁰	Students involved in inter. exchange	Involved students in the exch. with BG/SER
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE	796	139	42	18	n.a.	0/0
CIVIL ENGINEERING FACULTY	1,163	186	56	14	n.a.	1/0
FACULTY OF ELECTROTECHNICS	2,393	634	198	25	n.a.	0/1
FACULTY OF MECHANICS	1,732	445	181	4	n.a.	0/0
FACULTY OF TECHNOLOGY AND METALLURGY	1,217	411	87	9	n.a.	0/0
FACULTY OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS	3,131	641	200	21	n.a.	1/0
FACULTY OF GEOLOGY AND ORES	439	217	24	2	n.a.	0/0
FACULTY OF ECONOMICS	5,101	1062	376	60	n.a.	1/0
LAW FACULTY	3,334	971	423	60	n.a.	0/0
FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY	2,870	906	361	28	n.a.	0/0
FACULTY OF PHILOLOGY	3,206	769	394	98	n.a.	0/0
FACULTY OF MEDICINE	1,590	273	156	159	n.a.	2/0
FACULTY OF DENTISTRY	818	151	118	106	n.a.	0/0
FARMACEUTICAL FACULTY	544	89	82	40	n.a.	0/0
FACULTY OF PHYSICAL CULTURE	690	281	125	2	n.a.	1/0
FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE	1,651	517	92	18	n.a.	0/0
FACULTY OF FORESTRY	581	224	52	4	n.a.	0/0
FACULTY OF VETERINARY	323	62	32	11	n.a.	0/0
FACULTY OF DRAMA ARTS	78	23	15	0	n.a.	0/0
FACULTY OF FINE ARTS	181	54	69	4	n.a.	1/0
FACULTY OF MUSIC ARTS	347	74	49	4	n.a.	0/0
FACULTY OF PEDAGOGY SKOPJE	2,057	678	196	7	n.a.	1/0
FACULTY OF PEDAGOGY STIP	780	255	178	1	n.a.	0/0
TOTAL	35,022	9,062	3,368	695		8/1

¹⁸ According to the Statistical review n. 412, State Statistical office of the Republic of Macedonia, Skopje 2002

¹⁹ Same

²⁰ According to Report from the University "Ss Cyril and Methodius" in the school year 2001/02 are enrolled 70 foreign students (50 from Bulgaria and 1 from Serbia)

Table 5: Specialist, Master & Doctoral studies by faculty in the 2001/02 academic year

FACULTY	Number of enrolled Spc. students	Number of graduate d Spc. Students	Number of enrolled MA students	Number of graduate d MA students	Number of graduate d Ph.D students ²¹
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE	0	0	19	1	1
CIVIL ENGINEERING FACULTY	0	0	5	2	3
FACULTY OF ELECTROTECHNICS	0	0	55	16	8
FACULTY OF MECHANICS	0	0	10	11	4
FACULTY OF TECHNOLOGY AND METALLURGY	0	0	10	5	3
FACULTY OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS	18	2	78	46	18
FACULTY OF GEOLOGY AND ORES	0	0	1	1	2
FACULTY OF ECONOMICS	0	0	886	18	0
LAW FACULTY	0	0	59	4	2
FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY	0	1	103	14	12
FACULTY OF PHILOLOGY	0	0	10	12	14
FACULTY OF MEDICINE	0	0	65	15	10
FACULTY OF DENTISTRY	25	33	8	6	7
FARMACEUTICAL FACULTY	0	10	9	1	1
FACULTY OF PHYSICAL CULTURE	9	0	0	6	0
FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE	2	3	16	12	7
FACULTY OF FORESTRY	0	0	6	1	0
FACULTY OF VETERINARY	0	0	0	1	2
FACULTY OF DRAMA ARTS	0	0	0	0	0
FACULTY OF FINE ARTS	0	0	15	7	0
FACULTY OF MUSIC ARTS	0	0	26	8	1
FACULTY OF PEDAGOGY SKOPJE	0	0	0	0	1
FACULTY OF PEDAGOGY STIP	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	54	49	1381	187	96

²¹ Note: there are no doctorate studies on the University “Ss Cyril and Methodius” but an academic degree “Doctor” implies a candidate carrying out some research on the basis of which he/she makes a doctor dissertation and defends it.

Table 6: Specialist, Master & Doctoral studies by institute in the 2001/02 academic year

INSTITUTE	Number of enrolled Spc. Students	Number of graduated Spc. students	Number of enrolled MA students	Number of graduated MA students	Number of graduated Ph.D students
INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL HISTORY	0	0	12	0	2
SOCIOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL AND LEGAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE	23	6	35	12	1
INSTITUTE OF ECONOMY	0	0	0	0	1
FOLKLORE INSTITUTE	0	0	0	0	0
AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE	0	0	1	6	1
EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING AND SEISMOLOGY INSTITUTE	18	18	7	0	0
VETERINARY INSTITUTE	0	0	0	0	0
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia LANGUAGE INSTITUTE	0	0	0	0	2
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia LITERATURE INSTITUTE	0	0	0	0	4
ANIMAL HUSBANDRY INSTITUTE	0	0	0	3	0
TOTAL	41	24	55	21	11

III. DEPARTMENT, PROFILE, STUDY DURATION, USUAL STUDY DURATION

Faculty of architecture

Department (BA)	Profile	Study duration	Usual study duration
Architecture		5	n.a.

Faculty of Civil Engineering

Department (BA)	Profile	Study duration	Usual study duration
a) Civil engineering	Constructive	5	n.a.
	Roads and railways	5	n.a.
	Hydrotechnical section	5	n.a.
b) Geodesy		3	n.a.

Electro – Technical faculty

Department (BA)	Profile	Study duration	Usual study duration
Electronics and telecommunications		5	n.a.
Computer technics, computing and automation		5	n.a.
Electrical energy technology		5	n.a.
Industrial energetic and automation		5	n.a.

Faculty of Mechanical Engineering

Department (BA)	Profile	Study duration	Usual study duration
Production machinery		5	n.a.
Motor vehicles		5	n.a.
Mechanical equipment		5	n.a.
Welding and welded constructions		5	n.a.
Railway machinery		5	n.a.
Thermotechnics and Thermoenergetics		5	n.a.
Hydrotechnical, Pneumatic and automation technology		5	n.a.
Energy equipment and engineering		5	n.a.
Industrial engineering		5	n.a.

Faculty of Technology and Metallurgy

Department (BA)	Profile	Study duration	Usual study duration
a) Technology	Foodstuff technology	5	n.a.
	Basic organic and polymeric engineering	5	n.a.
	Basic non – organic engineering	5	n.a.
	Metal engineering	5	n.a.
	Textile engineering	5	n.a.
	Design and management in chemical industry	5	n.a.
	Biotechnology	5	n.a.
b) Biotechnology	Metallurgical processing eng.	5	n.a.

	Metallurgical extractive eng.	5	n.a.
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Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Department (BA)	Profile	Study duration	Usual study duration
a) Mathematics	Teacher training	4	n.a.
	Theoretical	4	n.a.
b) Information technology	Teacher training	4	n.a.
	Applied	4	n.a.
c) Physics	Teacher training	4	n.a.
	Applied	4	n.a.
d) Chemistry	Teacher training	4	n.a.
	Analytical – Structural	4	n.a.
	Preparation	4	n.a.
e) Biology	Teacher training	4	n.a.
	Biochemistry and physiology	4	n.a.
	Ecology	4	n.a.
f) Geography	Teacher training	4	n.a.
	Ethnology	4	n.a.
g) Mathematics and physics combined		4	n.a.
h) Biology and chemistry combined		4	n.a.

Faculty of Geology and Ores Shtip

Department (BA)	Profile	Study duration	Usual study duration
Mining		5	n.a.
Geology		5	n.a.

Faculty of Economy

Department (BA)	Profile	Study duration	Usual study duration
a) Economy	Economic policy and development	4	n.a.
	Finances and banking	4	n.a.
	International relations	4	n.a.
b) Business economy	Management	4	n.a.
	Marketing	4	n.a.
	International trade	4	n.a.
	Fiscal – accounting management	4	n.a.
c) Economic statistics and computing	Statistics	4	n.a.
	Information technology	4	n.a.

Faculty of Law

Department (BA)	Profile	Study duration	Usual study duration
Law		4	n.a.
Political sciences		4	n.a.
Journalism		4	n.a.

Faculty of Philosophy

Department (BA)	Profile	Study duration	Usual study duration
Philosophy		4	n.a.
Pedagogy		4	n.a.
Defectology		4	n.a.
Sociology		4	n.a.
Psychology		4	n.a.
History		4	n.a.
History of art and archaeology	History of art	4	n.a.
	Archaeology	4	n.a.
Classical studies		4	n.a.
Defence		4	n.a.
Social work and social policy		4	n.a.

Faculty of Philology (study groups)

Department (BA)	Profile	Study duration	Usual study duration
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and South - Slavic languages		4	n.a.
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia literature and South – Slavic literature		4	n.a.
General and comparative literature		4	n.a.
Albanian language and literature		4	n.a.
Turkish language and literature		4	n.a.
German language and literature		4	n.a.
English language and literature		4	n.a.
French language and literature		4	n.a.
Russian language and literature		4	n.a.
Polish language and literature		4	n.a.
Italian language and literature		4	n.a.

Faculty of Medicine (Skopje)

Department (BA)	Profile	Study duration	Usual study duration
General medicine		6	n.a.
Higher school of radiology		2	n.a.

Faculty of Dentistry

Department (BA)	Profile	Study duration	Usual study duration
Dentistry		6	n.a.

Faculty of Pharmacy

Department (BA)	Profile	Study duration	Usual study duration
Pharmacy		6	n.a.

Faculty of Physical Culture

Department (BA)	Profile	Study duration	Usual study duration
Physical education		4	n.a.
Sports		4	n.a.

Faculty of Agriculture

Department (BA)	Profile	Study duration	Usual study duration
General studies		4	n.a.
Vine and fruit cultivation		4	n.a.
Livestock breeding		4	n.a.
Agricultural technology		4	n.a.
Agroeconomy		5	n.a.
Gardening-florriculture		4	n.a.
Crop farming		4	n.a.

Faculty of Forestry

Department (BA)	Profile	Study duration	Usual study duration
Forestry		4	n.a.
Developing " green spaces " and improving the environment		4	n.a.
Mechanical technology of wood		4	n.a.
Design and production of furniture and interiors		4	n.a.

Faculty of Veterinary

Department (BA)	Profile	Study duration	Usual study duration
Veterinary		5	n.a.

Faculty of Drama arts

Department (BA)	Profile	Study duration	Usual study duration
Drama artists / acting		4	n.a.
Film and TV directing		4	n.a.
Theatre directing		4	n.a.
Dramaturgy		4	n.a.
Production		4	n.a.
Film and TV camera		4	n.a.
Film and TV editing		4	n.a.

Faculty of Fine Arts

Department (BA)	Profile	Study duration	Usual study duration
Painting		4	n.a.
Graphics		4	n.a.
Sculpture		4	n.a.
Teacher training		4	n.a.

Faculty of Music Arts

Department (BA)	Profile	Study duration	Usual study duration
Music theory and pedagogy		4	n.a.
Musicology		4	n.a.
Ethnology		4	n.a.
Composition and conduction		4	n.a.
Piano and wire instruments		4	n.a.
Strings instruments		4	n.a.
Solo – singing, brass / woodwind and percussion instruments		4	n.a.

The “ St.Clement of Ohrid ” Pedagogical College – Skopje

Department (BA)	Profile	Study duration	Usual study duration
a) Basic levels	Teaching in the language of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	4	n.a.
	Teaching in Albanian language	4	n.a.
	Teaching in Turkish language	4	n.a.
B Pre-school education	In the language of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	4	n.a.
	In Albanian language	4	n.a.
	In Turkish language	4	n.a.

The “Goce Delchev” Pedagogical College – Shtip

Department (BA)	Profile	Study duration	Usual study duration
Basic levels		4	n.a.
Pre-school education		4	n.a.

IV. Student organizations

The Student Association of Ss. Cyril and Methodius University (SSUKM) is an organization established in 1949, and re-registered in line with the Law of Citizen Associations and Foundations; today, it is an autonomous, non-governmental and non-party citizen association joined freely by students regardless of their national and religious affiliations and gender.

SSUKM members are full-time and visiting students and students enrolled in postgraduate studies. SSUKM has the following goals:

- Protecting and exercising student rights;
- Exercising student rights concerning issues and problems related to the higher educational system;
- Supporting cultural, sports and recreational activities, etc. - Realizing and developing cooperation with students and student organizations in other countries;
- Monitoring, assessing and taking a position in relation to current issues.

The university's faculty-student organizations form the operating foundation of SSUKM.

SSUKM working bodies are:

- Assembly - the highest decision making body of delegates from all faculties (61). The number of representatives depends on the number of students enrolled at each faculty (1 delegate per 500 students);
- Executive Board (IO) – an executive body of members elected by the Assembly;
- President – represents the SSUKM, presides over the work of IO and Assembly; presidents are elected by direct voting every two years.
- Various commissions.

Students actively exercise their rights and duties through participation in the work of all the bodies in the University.

SSUKM is a member of ESIB; at the Congress in Tripoli, Libya on 20 March 2000, it became a full member of the International Union of Students (IUS).

Examples of the scope of activities carried out by SSUKM in the past couple of years are:

- Student Cultural Days;
- *Studentski Informator*;
- University Basketball League;
- University Small Football League;
- Chess Tournament;
- Student Protests;
- Environmental Events;
- The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Student Games;
- Internet – Cyber Cafe;
- Forums etc.

Other University student organizations are:

- *Studentski Zbor* Newspaper Publishing Activity;
- University Sport Association (+ 389 2 367 221);
- Student Cooperation;
- Student Vacation Association (+ 389 2 367 780);
- Student Karate Club (+ 389 2 367 738);
- Academic Movie Club (+ 389 2 362 013);
- Mirce Acev Folk Ensemble (+ 389 2 366 808);

- IAESTE – International Association for Exchange of Students at Technical Faculties (+ 389 2 365 069);
- AIESEC - International Association for Exchange of Students at Economy Faculties (+ 389 2 116 466);
- AEGEE - International Association for Exchange of Students at Law Faculties (+ 389 2 117 244);
- IACES - International Association for Exchange of Students at Civil Engineering Faculties (+ 389 2 116 066).

Scientific – research projects

A list of scientific and research projects by faculty, which were completed or under way in the 2001/02 school year is provided below:

- *Electro – Technical Faculty* - 36 projects funded by the Ministry of Education and Science were under way, and 3 international projects were completed through TEMPUS - PHARE program;
- *Faculty of Geology and Ores* - 15 projects funded by the Ministry of Education and Science were under way and 14 international projects were completed;
- *Faculty of Civil Engineering* - 23 projects funded by the Ministry of Education and Science were completed;
- *Faculty of Philosophy* - 12 projects funded by the Ministry of Education and Science were under way;
- *Faculty of Philology* - 15 projects funded by the Ministry of Education and Science were completed;
- *Faculty of Pharmacy* - 4 projects funded by the Ministry of Education and Science were completed;
- *Faculty of Medicine* - 14 projects funded by the Ministry of Education and Science were under way;
- *Faculty of Veterinary* - 7 projects funded by the Ministry of Education and Science were completed;
- *Faculty of Agriculture* - 14 projects were completed and 9 projects funded by the Ministry of Education and Science were under way;
- *Faculty of Forestry* - 4 projects were completed and 23 projects funded by the Ministry of Education and Science were under way;
- *Faculty of Fine Arts* - 1 project funded by UNESCO and 1 project by TEMPUS programme were completed;
- *Institute of Economy* - 17 projects funded by the Ministry of Education and Science were completed;
- *the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Literature Institute* - 8 projects funded by the Ministry of Education and Science were completed;
- *Animal Husbandry Institute* - 7 projects funded by the Ministry of Education and Science were completed;
- *Veterinary Institute* - 5 projects funded by the Ministry of Education and Science were completed;
- *Agricultural Institute* - 15 projects funded by the Ministry of Education and Science were completed.

CONCLUSION REVIEW

Education working groups in the Nis - Skopje - Sofia triangle held a meeting in Nis on October 7 and 8, 2002 in which representatives from Skopje were actively involved. Guidelines and tasks for cooperation between the universities in Nis, Skopje and Sofia were proposed and approved at the meeting. They include:

Long-term (strategic) tasks:

- Ensuring the portability of degrees obtained in Nis, Sofia and Skopje, and approving the standards resulting from the Bologna Declaration;
- Forming regional academic centers, which will make strategic decisions for the region in the sphere of education;
- Forming a commission to adjust the syllabuses;
- Mutual recognition of university diplomas;
- Solving mutual "brain drain" problems.

Medium-term tasks:

- Establishing doctorate courses;
- Examining the possibilities for joint scientific-research projects;
- Establishing regional resource centers for collecting, processing and distributing data germane to the region;
- Registering regional experts who work for foreign universities.

Short-term tasks:

- Joint application to TEMPUS projects for 2002/03 school year;
- Joint regional MA degree program (European studies, Public Administration);
- Cooperation of Slav-language faculties and study groups in basic studies (students' mobility);
- Creation of a joint Web site;
- Organizing student sports games supported by local authorities (every year in a different city).

These guidelines and tasks were agreed upon as the basis for a trilateral cooperation protocol between the universities of Nis, Skopje and Sofia. It was signed by the rectors of the three universities in Skopje on October 26, 2002 the EastWest Institute's Project on Transfrontier Cooperation in the Nis-Sofia-Skopje Triangle.

Dr. Stephan E. Nikolov

ST.KLIMENT OKHRIDSKI SOFIA UNIVERSITY, REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

St. Kliment Okhridski Sofia University, the first higher educational institution in modern Bulgaria, opened on October 1 1888 initially as a Higher Pedagogical course at the Sofia Public Classical High School. In the beginning, it had a historical-philological department (faculty) with specialties in philosophy (with pedagogy), history and Slavic philology. On January 5, 1889 it was renamed the Higher School, and later, on January 23 1904, the Brothers Evlogui and Khristo Georgievi²². Less than a year later, on January 4 1905 it was renamed the St. Kliment Okhridski University. The Physical & Mathematical department opened in 1889-90, Law in 1892, Medicine in 1918, Agriculture in 1921, Theology 1923, and Veterinary in 1923 (in 1923 this department was renamed "Veterinary-Medicine"). In 1949, the Departments of Agriculture, Veterinary-Medicine, Zootechnics, Medicine and Theology were separated into single higher education institutions. The "Spiritual Academy" "St. Kliment Okhridski" joined Sofia University as a Department in 1991. The university is located in a number of buildings and facilities throughout Sofia. The oldest part, currently the Department of Journalism, is in lamentable condition; cosmetic renovations are paid for with donations, and, in 2002, for the first time in the 125-year history of the University, most of the teaching and academic activities, including the entrance examinations took place at alternative locations because of the probability that the building would be torn down. The University's main building, known as the Rectorate (Rectory), hosts the Law, Geology & Geography, History, Slavic and Western Philology studies as part of the Philosophy Department. The Rectorate was built in 1925-34, and was designed by a French architect, J. Breançeant who won an international competition to design the building. The two side wings were added between 1941 and 1985. The monumental complex is built in the baroque style. It is situated at one of the main avenues of the Bulgarian capital, near the center next to the National Assembly (the Parliament), the National Library, and the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. The Faculties of Mathematics and Informatics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Journalism and Mass Communication, Theology, Economics and Business Administration, and Pre-school and Primary School Education are scattered around six different campuses all over the city. Sofia University has become an important academic and scientific center in the Balkans, a fully developed academic institution whose excellence is recognized internationally. Today St. Kliment Okhridski Sofia University is the largest and most prestigious educational and scientific center in the country. The University offers 72 degree courses. There are 24,090 regular students, and 8,353 more attended correspondent courses in the 2001-02 academic year, according to the official University's Reference Book (published in 2001). In the beginning of the 2002-2003 school year, data from the University administration indicated that there were 3,814 students more.

Along with Sofia University, a number of other higher education institutions were established over the years in Sofia. Today, there are about 20 of them. Many of these emerged from Sofia University to become separate specialized higher education institutions, for example, the Medical University. Some were opened during communist rule in Bulgaria as part of the effort to satisfy increased needs for

²² Both brothers, among the richest Bulgarians at the time, donated their land – 10,200 m² and an ample amount of money, 6,800,000 Golden Levs, so the University could be built. As Romanian citizens however - they ran their businesses in exile during the Turkish domination of Bulgaria – they were denied places in the Bulgarian parliament, and were forced to leave Bulgaria. Their sculpted figures, placed at the main entrance of the University, and not removed even during communist times, are the only testament to their contribution. Their successors not only did not keep their promise to name the University after the two brothers, but also never fulfilled their desire for a Polytechnical school to prepare "business people for the private sector, and not public servants".

engineers, economists, and other experts in higher education – including the unique, Soviet-style higher education institutions for actors, artists, and for those affiliated with physical culture and sports – coaches, teachers, etc. A complete list of these institutions is included in the appendix, but these include Universities for the National and World Economy (former K. Marx Higher Institute of Economy), architecture, construction and geodesy (former Higher Construction Engineering Institute), the Technical University (former Machine Electrotechnical Institute), the Chemical Technology and Metallurgical University, the St. Ivan Rilski Mining and Geological University, and so on. Some of them, having a particular, technological, specialization, adopted the title "university" after 1990, when, according to the law, they acquired autonomy, including the right to adopt a specific name.

According to the 1995 Law on Higher Education²³, Chp. 3, art. 12-16 higher education institutions (universities, specialized higher schools and autonomous colleges) may be public (e.g., founded by the state) or private (founded either by citizens or a business as a private enterprise). In the latter case, the state – the National Agency for Assessment and Accreditation –decides whether a given project for establishing a higher education institution reflects "socially acceptable goals", describes in details structure, curriculum, staff, facilities and sources of funding, proves that the proposed management will keep essential academic freedoms, and corresponds to the universal requirements adopted by the state (as part of the same law). After approval is granted from the afore-mentioned National Agency, the project for establishing the new university or college is submitted to the parliament, and becomes fact only after adoption by the majority, and publication of the decision in the "State Gazette". By law, foreign universities and colleges cannot establish branches in Bulgaria, but local universities and colleges may establish joint ventures with foreign partners. Foreign funded universities, such as the American University in Blagoevgrad, can be established with a special decision of the parliament. The status of Sofia University is defined by the above-mentioned Law.

²³ Published in the *State Gazette (Durzhaven vestnik)* no.112/27 Dec. 1995; amended 1996, 1997 – three times, 1999 – five times, 2000, 2001.

As of the beginning of the current 2002/2003 academic year, Sofia University was comprised of fifteen faculties (Biology, Chemistry, Classical and Modern Philology, Economics and Business Administration, Education (Pedagogy), Geology and Geography, History, Journalism and Mass Communications, Law, Mathematics and Informatics, Philosophy, Physics, Pre-School and Primary School Education, Slavic Studies, and Theology²⁴), and two departments – of Language Learning, and of Information and In-Service Training of Teachers. Within the University, there are other organizational units as well: the University Library²⁵, University Computer Center, University Press, Ivan Duitchev Center (for ancient scriptures), University Sports Center, Radio Alma Mater, Institute Germanicum, Regional Center of Distance Education, Bulgarian Antarctic Institute, Southeastern European Media Center, and Section of Students' Social Affairs. The *University's management bodies* consists of (1) The *General Assembly*: all academic staff, and authorized representatives of the students' organizations; it elects the (2) *Rector*, approves the Rector's Annual Report, and elects the (3) 45-member *Academic Council* (2-3 representatives of each Faculty' staff, four students, and *ex officio* the Head of Department of Academic Affairs). *The Rector* is assisted in his duties by four Vice Rectors for: Research, Development, and Administrative Affairs; Student Affairs; International Relations; and Economic Affairs. Day-to-day business, following decisions made by the Academic Council, and under the Rector's and Vice Rectors' oversight, is run by the University's Administration, which is composed of the following *Departments*: Secretariat, Finance and Accounting, Finance, Legal, Public Relations, Personnel, International Relations and Protocol, and Postgraduate Students.

For the faculties (universities) founded by the state, as is the case with St. Kl. Okhridski Sofia University, it is not the state, but the university itself that elects and appoints officials – Rectors, Deans, Members of the Boards. The university also chooses how it will select and appoint teachers and grant positions to teaching staff. This is even more relevant for private universities.

The state finances higher education according to the following parameters: a) the work of the universities it founds; b) syllabuses for specialties under state contract; c) finances students (pays their fees) enrolled according to the state contract, i. e., as part of the planned number of students to satisfy the projected needs of the state. Students from low income families and those with excellent exam results may receive a stipend. Most of these payments, including the teachers' salaries, are very low, and do not correspond to the real needs. Unfortunately, during this study, attempts to acquire data about Sofia University's financial status and budget were rebuffed. All officials who were interviewed from the faculties and University administration reported 100% state financing. The University, however, has its own auxiliary sources – fees, income from renting out facilities and rendering other services, as well as from donations and gifts. Though small, these amounts provide for the most urgent expenses – for example, renovation and immediate repair of old buildings and equipment – as in the case of the crumbling edifice of the Faculty of Journalism and Mass Communications, the birthplace of Sofia University in 1888.

The Governmental long-term Strategy for higher education in Bulgaria includes two main components: first, to modify system of existing tuition payments in such a way that all students will pay a sum not higher than 30% of the total cost of his or her studies. In the near-to-medium term, however, current

²⁴ The English language translation of the faculties' names as displayed on the Sofia University web site are used.

²⁵ Sofia University Library is one of the best in Bulgaria. Its collection of 1.7 milion volumes, including unique and rare publications, as well as up to date scientific publications is open to all students, teachers, and researchers. From 1925 on it has served as the repository for Bulgarian publications – similar to the American Library of Congress. It has a central library, and 23 branch libraries attached to the various faculties, specialties, and chairs. It uses an integrated automated informational and retrieval system, ALEPH, on-line access to the world's most renowned informational sites, DIALOG and STN, as well as to its own catalogue.

policy does not allow such a full coverage and equalization of payments – i.e., a decrease of payments for those that presently pay full tuition. Other planned changes include sharing responsibility between the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Education & Science for the distribution of the funds according to the demands of the Ministry of Education & Science. It is expected that the funding of higher education will be changed from a mechanism based on an historically outdated model, into one that is based on a formula for calculating normatively defined expenses.

Bulgaria has a system for allocating stipends both for students with high incomes, and for those who need support in order to permit them to at least partly cover their expenses. Because of the chronic budget deficits, however, the number of students receiving stipends is ever-decreasing. The existing program for extending loans to the students has proved to be mostly ineffective.

After 1989-90, distribution of the resources and numbers of students to be enrolled became a joint function of the Ministries of Finance and of Education & Science, but coordination between these two institutions is poor. The process of resource allocation does not consider the needs of the labor market and other essential criteria, and the process of deciding the number of students usually does not take into account efficacy and effectiveness. Based essentially on procedures inherited from the past, these processes maintain the same inequality and lack of effectiveness that existed before the changes that occurred in the 1990s.

Tab. 1. Teaching staff at Sofia University, 2002.

	Full professors	Associate professors	Assistant professors	Teaching & junior assistants
FACULTY OF BIOLOGY	4	42	76	122
FACULTY OF CHEMISTRY	15	47	63	125
FACULTY OF CLASSICAL & MODERN PHILOLOGY	12	43	156	213
FACULTY OF ECONOMICS & BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION	2	18	21	41
FACULTY OF EDUCATION	5	16	19	40
FACULTY OF GEOLOGY & GEOGRAPHY	8	35	37	80
FACULTY OF HISTORY	18	26	36	82
FACULTY OF JOURNALISM & MASS COMMUNICATION	5	19	16	40
FACULTY OF LAW	10	33	56	99
FACULTY OF MATHEMATICS & INFORMATICS	15	59	91	165
FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY	28	70	63	122
FACULTY OF PHYSICS	23	100	78	202
FACULTY OF PRE-SCHOOL & PRIMARY SCHOOL EDUCATION	9	37	32	78
FACULTY OF SLAVIC STUDIES	21	49	78	148
FACULTY OF THEOLOGY	5	9	1	15
UNIV. OF SOFIA – TOTAL	180	603	823	1572

The main problem that decision makers face in the educational sphere is the lack of a contemporary system of monitoring and feedback. As the project’s attempt at data collection has shown, available information is often unsystematic, obsolete, unreliable, and difficult to find. The relevant web sites often show their “most recent data” from 1999, and university administrative personnel keep even the most

elementary data, such as student and staff numbers broken out by category, a confidential secret. There is ever-increasing corruption, on the one hand, and, on the other, an ever-changing legal environment coupled with an ever-changing ministry staff (which leaves many new officials uninformed about policies and thus ineffective at their jobs) discourages innovative practices and risk taking, decreases confidence and trust, and leads to a loss of autonomy and increased dependence on the state.

Improving the quality of teaching and learning. Over the last 10-12 years, higher education in Bulgaria has undergone two fundamental changes. Universities received significant autonomy, while the volume of enrolled students more than doubled. As a World Bank report noted, these developments, were neither combined with the adoption of a framework for elaboration of a long term policy, nor with an improvement of the institutional management and introduction of a dynamic and competitive system for the distribution of scarce resources. As a result, in Bulgaria there are many narrowly-specialized higher education facilities (there are nearly 100 such institutions, or about one such facility for 100,000 people) mostly with feeble structures of internal management, low quality of teaching and research, ageing academic personnel, and little incentives for re-training the staff through re-qualification and employment of younger teachers. There is also ever-deteriorating equipment, libraries and laboratories. In addition, the existing higher education system in Bulgaria preserves the Soviet model of separation between research and teaching, and between the universities and the academies of sciences. Both at the Academy and at the University, funding is limited, while inadequate legislation and the adverse economic situation is reducing any private support to a symbolic volume.

Tab. 2. Students at Sofia University, 2002.

	Total Number of Students	First Year²⁶	Graduated 2002	Foreign students
FACULTY OF BIOLOGY	1,444	176 (25)	n. a.	29
FACULTY OF CHEMISTRY	970	80 (30)	n. a.	2
FACULTY OF CLASSICAL & MODERN PHILOLOGY	2,663	432	n. a.	64
FAC. OF ECONOMICS & BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION	1,988	248	n. a.	–
FACULTY OF EDUCATION	1,017	55	n. a.	13
FAC. OF GEOLOGY & GEOGRAPHY	1,425	100	n. a.	22
FACULTY OF HISTORY	1,758	145	n. a.	23
FACULTY OF JOURNALISM & MASS COMMUNICATION	1596	70	n. a.	81
FACULTY OF LAW²⁷	–	–	–	–
FAC. OF MATHEMATICS & INFORMATICS	1,840	312 (20)	n. a.	12
FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY	2,875	256	n. a.	98
FACULTY OF PHYSICS	972	136 (25)	n. a.	3
FAC OF PRE-SCHOOL & PRIMARY SCHOOL EDUCATION	3028	459 (80)	n. a.	190
FAC. OF SLAVIC STUDIES	2,146	192 (32)	n. a.	26
FACULTY OF THEOLOGY	730	60 (65)	n. a.	16
UNIV. OF SOFIA – TOTAL	24,452	2721 (277)	n. a.	689

²⁶ The numbers indicate planned places for enrollment in the 2002-2003 school year. In parenthesis, the number of places for correspondence (extra mural) courses is indicated.

²⁷ The Faculty of Law confers only a Masters degree.

The Faculties of Sofia University award undergraduate, specialist, postgraduate (master's), and doctoral (PhD) degrees. At all the faculties, undergraduate studies last four years, and, each year, are organized into two semesters (winter and summer).

The data in table 2 shows that the faculty with the greatest undergraduate students' presence is the followed [to be confirmed] by the faculties of Pre-school and Primary School Education with 424 students fewer; next are three faculties with more than 2,000 students: Philosophy (2,875), Classical and Modern Philology (2,663), and Slavic Studies (2,146). The remainder have more than 1,000–1,500 students: the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration (1,988), Mathematics and Informatics (1,840), History (1,758), Journalism and Mass Communications (1,596), Biology (1,444), Geology and Geography (1,425), and Education (1,017); only three of the Faculties: Physics (972), Chemistry (970), and Theology (730) – have less than 1,000 undergraduate students. More than half of the students (14,164) attend five faculties: Law, Pre-school and Primary School Education, Philosophy, Classical and Modern Philology, and Slavic Studies, while the rest are more or less evenly "populated". Data from individual faculties was collected on the very eve of the new school year, and most probably the administrative staff was unable to provide aggregated data for those students just enrolling, and for the most recently graduated students. As for the foreign students, again Pre-school and Primary School Education with 190 students seems to be the most attractive: almost 1/3 of the foreign B. A. students from Sofia University study there. Almost 100 are students at the Faculty of Philosophy, 81 at the Journalism Faculty, and 64 at that of Classical and Modern Philology. The rest have between 13 and 30 foreign students, remarkable exceptions are the Faculties of Chemistry and Physics with only, respectively, 2 and 3 foreign students.

As for both specialist and MA (MSc) studies, the faculties' administrations were not able to present reliable data about the numbers of these students. Different faculties offer various forms of specialization both to their own graduates, and to applicants with a relevant educational background, but these forms of study are currently updated according to contemporary requirements and European standards. They are expected to last between two and four semesters (one or two academic years) at the different faculties. Only the Faculty of Biology reported that 20 MSc students graduated during the current year. The Law Faculty which with its 3,452 students is the largest department, does not grant a B.A. degree, but just a Master of Law degree after a 5 year term of study for full-time students (10 semesters) and 6 years (12 semesters) for part-time students. During the summer of 2002, this Faculty enrolled 200 freshmen, plus 50 in correspondence courses. The number of foreign students at the Faculty of Law, at 298 is also impressive. Currently, there are 776 places for Master Studies spread over 212 specialties at Sofia University for the next academic year.

Sofia University traditionally prepares doctoral candidates both to meet its own needs – regular and continuing refreshment of the teaching staff – as well as on request from other institutions. As a rule, a postgraduate doctoral course lasts two years for full-time postgraduate students and three years for part-time students, and can be extended only due to medical reasons, maternal leave, and other important reasons. However, after taking the two obligatory examinations – in the general branch of the respective science, and in the more narrow field of specialization according to the chosen dissertation topic – doctoral students may indefinitely postpone submission of their final work. Normally, doctoral candidates at the University are teaching assistants who are conducting seminar-type practical classes or experiments with undergraduate students under the supervision of their tutors. They have a very flexible agenda; it is prepared by the doctoral student and approved by their tutor. The program ends with a defense of the Doctoral dissertation and the university degree PhD (Doctor of Laws at the Faculty of Law).

Tab. 3. PhD Students at Sofia University, 2002.

	TOTAL PhD Students	Acquired PhD Degrees	Foreign PhD Students
Fac. of Biology	35	n. a.	n. a.
Fac. of Chemistry	23	n. a.	n. a.
Fac. of Classical & Modern Philology	11	n. a.	n. a.
Fac. of Economics & Business Adm.	2	n. a.	n. a.
Fac. of Education	6	n. a.	none
Fac. of Geology & Geography	3	n. a.	n. a.
Fac. of History	19	n. a.	n. a.
Fac. of Journalism & Mass Communic.	2	n. a.	n. a.
Fac. of Law	1	n. a.	n. a.
Fac. of Mathematics & Informatics	19	n. a.	
Fac. of Philosophy	94	n. a.	n. a.
Fac. of Physics	30	n. a.	n. a.
Fac. of Pre-School & Primary School Education	3	n. a.	n. a.
Fac. of Slavic Studies	58	n. a.	n. a.
Fac. of Theology	20	4-5	4-5
TOTAL	291	n. a.	n. a.

As seen from Table 3, a relatively higher number (nearly 100) PhD applicants are registered at the Faculty of Philosophy; 50 at the Faculty of Slavic Studies, and between 20-30 at the Faculties of Biology, Chemistry, History, Mathematics and Informatics, Physics, and Theology. At the rest, the number of doctoral applicants range from one (Faculty of Law) to 11 (Classical and Modern Philology). Though data about those who delayed completion of their theses is unavailable, this problem is not as great as it was 10-15 years ago, because of the stronger incentive to finalize as quickly as possible the procedure of acquiring a PhD degree. There is also a form of the so-called free doctoral studies, where no enrolling examination is required, but the applicant submits a shortened draft thesis (usually 1/3 the length) to the respective department, and after acceptance, he or she takes the two obligatory examinations ("minimums"), and then completes the dissertation. This came about with the requirement that Assistant Professors have a PhD degree at a certain stage of their career as a part of their professional development.

Until some three years ago, there were two types of undergraduate students according to the Law: those financed by the state budget, and those paying their own study fees. The number of students financed by the budget was determined by the Government (i. e., Ministry of Education and Science) on the basis of yearly quotas suggested by individual faculties and formulated as drafts by universities. These quotas were filled by new students, who were admitted to faculties under two criteria: grades in secondary schools and entrance exam results. The two numbers were added together, and students with the highest cumulative scores were enrolled. A smaller number of students who fell below the lowest necessary score for state financing were allowed to study, on the condition that they paid for it themselves. Today, all B.A. students pay a study fee which may vary at different universities and faculties. For M.A. students, however, the previous situation was preserved, and there is considerable argument as to whether the system for selecting B.A. students should revert to the previous situation as, since individual faculties determine the fee, a considerable source of funding has been lost. As seen from Table 4, at the faculties of

Sofia University, these fees for B.A. students vary only slightly, they range from 100 to 110 EUR for most of the faculties, with the exception of both Educational (Pedagogical) Faculties, where it is as low as 85 EUR. Greater disparity is observed for M.A. students. The highest yearly fees are at the Faculties of Mathematics and Informatics (700 EUR), Philosophy (600 EUR), and Slavic Studies – 500 EUR. Most of the rest are around 350-400 EUR, with the lowest fees being paid at the Faculty of Law (100 EUR) which has no B.A. students, and the Faculty of Theology (130 EUR). Fees are reduced between three and five times for M.A. students whose education is funded by the state budget (they decline to between 95-100EUR with a maximum of 200 EUR).

Tab. 4. Fees paid by B. A. and M. A. Students at Sofia University, 2002.

	Local Students (BA)	Foreign Students (BA)	Local Students (MA)	Foreign students (MA)
FACULTY OF BIOLOGY	110	400	350 (200)	700
FACULTY OF CHEMISTRY	110	400	350 (145)	700
FACULTY OF CLASSICAL & MODERN PHILOLOGY	100	400	500	800
FACULTY OF ECONOMICS & BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION	110	500	400 (100)	700
FACULTY OF EDUCATION	85	400	350 (100)	600
FACULTY OF GEOLOGY & GEOGRAPHY	110	300	350 (100)	700
FACULTY OF HISTORY	100	400	400 (100)	700
FACULTY OF JOURNALISM & MASS COMMUNICATION	100	400	350 (150)	700
FACULTY OF LAW	–	–	100	400
FACULTY OF MATHEMATICS & INFORMATICS	110	400	700 (150)	1100
FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY	100	500	600 (130)	800
FACULTY OF PHYSICS	110	400	360 (150)	700
FACULTY OF PRE-SCHOOL & PRIMARY SCHOOL EDUCATION	85	250	350 (95)	700
FACULTY OF SLAVIC STUDIES	100	500	500 (100)	800
FACULTY OF THEOLOGY	100	400	130	700

NOTE: The third column (Local MA Students' Fees) shows fees, demanded from students that enrolled under the state's commission.

In order to apply to Sofia University, foreign candidates must complete a secondary education which makes them eligible to study at a Bulgarian university; the same qualifications are required by Bulgaria as by institutions of higher education in their respective countries. Foreign students may apply to study at the University as part of intergovernmental programs for educational, scientific and cultural exchange and under statutes issued by the Council of Ministers (Regulation No.103/ 1993 and No.228/1997). Regulation No. 79/09.05.2000 states that foreign citizens can apply to study at institutions of higher learning. In their Secondary Education Diplomas, foreign candidates must obtain at least 62 per cent of the maximum grade for the desired subjects. Under article 95 (6) of the Higher Education Act of Bulgaria *students with dual citizenship (Bulgarian and foreign) pay half (50%) of the tuition fees* when they study at Bulgarian universities as a foreigner. This may apply to young people from Bulgarian background residing in Eastern Serbia (Dimitrovgrad, Bosilegrad municipalities, etc.), who have acquired dual citizenship through a relatively easy procedure. They may also enter a contest for scholarships,

competing against other Bulgarian candidates. In this case they must demonstrate equivalency to the Bulgarian diploma for Secondary Education (if they come from abroad). Citizens of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia may apply under Regulation No. 228/1997 (which precludes eligibility for scholarships) with a tuition fee of 30% of the tuition fee for foreign students. Their documents must be submitted for consideration to the Bulgarian ministry of Education and Science in the first half of August. By September 1, the applicants are invited to submit the requested documents at the Foreign Students' Admission Office. The academic year is divided into two semesters, beginning on October 1 and ending on June 30. Fees are payable at the beginning of each semester through a bank transfer to the account of St. Kliment Okhridski Sofia University. Foreigners must demonstrate proficiency in Bulgarian, either by presenting a certificate from an authorized institutions or via a direct check performed by the responsible faculty's board. In most cases, foreign students may study or improve their Bulgarian language fluency at the Department for Language Learning (formerly the Institute for Foreign Students). Of all the faculties at Sofia University, only the Faculty of Philosophy organizes courses in English. Tuition fees for foreign B.A. students ranges from 250-300 EUR in the Faculties of Geology and Geography, and of Pre-school and Primary School Education, to as much as 500 EUR per academic year for the Faculties of Economics and Business Administration, Philosophy, and Slavic Studies. The rest demand a fee of 400 EUR. Fees for foreign students in Master's studies are as much as 1,100 EUR at the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics (the highest fees for both local and foreign M.A. students are in the specialties of Mathematics and Biotechnology at the above-mentioned Faculty) to 800 at the Faculties of Classical and Modern Philology, of Philosophy, and of Slavic Studies. The Faculties did not supply information about the amount necessary for local and foreign students to receive their Ph.D.s at Sofia University.

There are at least five students' organizations at Sofia University, but they don't appear to be very active – especially those based on political affiliations. Right-wing organizations, primarily the Federation of the Independent Students' Societies (FNSD in Bulgarian) Alliance were the backbone of the anticommunist movement in 1990 and during the winter of 1996-98, when the Socialist governments of A. Lukanov and Zh. Videnov, were overthrown. Both times, Sofia University was closed for several months due to a general strike of the students and many professors. The Bulgarian Students' Union claims the greatest number of students. Together with some smaller organizations, the Students Union promotes students' everyday issues – fair distribution of rooms at the students' hostels, keeping fees at the hostels to a reasonable level, redressing poor living conditions in the hostels, preserving the current free use of public transportation by regular students, and so on. Students' interests are represented at the level of the Students' Council, comprised of student organizations' members who received a proportional number of votes of all faculty students in all-University elections. Since 1997, the Students' Council has been charged with distributing rooms in the students' dormitories. This has reduced to a minimum complaints for abuse and corruption in the housing process. Four representatives from the Students' Council represent the students' interests at the University's Academic Council. Among the specialized organizations worth mentioning is the Balkan's Youth Club, which tries to promote wider cooperation among students from neighboring countries. It is a member of the Balkanidea (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ohrid), Citizens' Pact For Balkan (Montenegro), and Mediterranean Network, and has its own branches in Belgrade and Tirana.

Research Activity at Sofia University. Along with teaching, research is one of two key activities of Sofia University. However, as a legacy from the communist regime, there is still a relatively strict division between the University's teaching and research units, which are part of the Academy of Sciences. Things have changed over the last dozen years; firstly, research institutes and centers of the Academy are no longer places of exile for "politically unreliable" teachers who were to be deprived of direct contacts with

students. Many research associates are invited to teach at Sofia University and other higher education facilities as guest lecturers, giving them the opportunity to extend their knowledge and experience. In turn, the University staff often organizes informal research teams either independently or jointly with outside (or foreign) colleagues. As a rule, they are not legally or financially independent, but act under the respective faculty organizational structure. Depending on the project, various faculty teachers and assistants participate. Team research projects are mainly carried out within research programs funded by the Ministry of Education and Science. In an increasing number of cases, however, a good deal of the research is prepared for clients who order and pay for it. Clients include companies or other institutions. For example, during 1995-2000 the Sofia University staff participated in 558 international research programs and in 535 at the national level. Even though the state expects that 10% of the budget should be allocated to research activities, due to budget restrictions, this often does not happen. The main sources of funding for research include two funds at the Ministry of Education of Science (where projects are selected for financial support through a competition - Scientific Research, and Structural Policy); Bulgarian companies (state-owned or private), EU-funded projects, joint projects with foreign institutions, and internal (university) Scientific Research are quite modest for the moment; less than 15,000 USD was obtained for 2001. The research team was unable to obtain any concrete information about the situation in this field – number of projects, etc.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF SOFIA UNIVERSITY

As an institution for higher education, a priority of Sofia University is the exchange of intellectual resources, not only at the national, but also the global level. By becoming acquainted with other nations' models of education and scientific research and at the same time by integrating centuries-old Bulgarian traditions in education with the world's experience, Sofia University becomes not only competitive internationally, but also a respected center of knowledge. St. Kliment Okhridski University in Sofia has always encouraged and developed contacts with world renowned universities and colleges, and especially in recent years has made successful Agreements with many educational institutions in Europe, the USA, Latin America and Asia. Even during the communist regime, when Bulgaria was next only to Albania in its isolation from most of the world, and contacts in most of the social fields, including trade, were restricted to the then USSR and the so-called "socialist countries" the University prospered intellectually. (The former Yugoslavia was excluded due to ideological reasons, and the few young people that chose to study at Belgrade or Zagreb Universities were hounded almost as much as those who dared to escape to Western countries.)

Sofia University is a member of the European University Association (EUA), and other international academic networks. In addition, it is involved in a number of international programs, such as: the Program of Institutional Evaluation EAU, TEMPUS, UNESCO-CEPES program for strategic planning at the University, COPERNICUS program. Especially worth mentioning is the project under the TEMPUS program, TEMPUS Project IB_JEP-14047-1999, which aims at:

- establishing a Center of Excellence at Sofia University with a branch at the University of Veliko Trnovo
- design and development of courses (subjects) intended for specialists in public administration, banking and employment services
- training administrators and specialists from four national institutions (Ministry of Education and Science - MES, Ministry of Foreign Affairs - MFA, National Employment Agency - NES, International Banking Institute - IBI)
- ensuring sustainable development of the new institution after the completion of the project, and extending the scope of trainees toward other interested parties.

The courses (subjects) will be developed in co-operation with a team of training experts from the national institutions MES, MFA, NES, IBI. The course areas and fields correspond to the target groups and the TEMPUS IB National Priorities. The main goal is to organize training of specialists in areas of strategic importance for joining the EC's internal market, such as: public administration, banking, employment services, etc.

The Bulgarian government decided last year to abolish the already obsolete requirements and regulations for obtaining an university diploma, and universities are looking to adopt the ECTS. The goal is to accomplish this by the start of the next school year, but so far too little progress has been made – even the respective volumes of credits to be attributed to the various courses is still disputable, and most colleagues agree that the deadline will hardly be met. The new draft law for academic degrees has been under discussion in its numerous versions since 1990, but consensus has never been reached. [The](#) next amendment abolished the Soviet system's category of "specialist" that was given to all University graduates, plus some specific degrees like "engineer", "(medical) doctor", "advokat", and so on. All those who have already graduated from the universities and other higher education institutions were recognized as having an M.A. degree. Currently, university students graduate with a B.A. after four years of study, and then may apply, if they wish, and if their diploma permits, for an M.A. course. The earlier "candidate of the (respective) sciences" (kandidat nauk, kandidat na naukite) was replaced by the PhD equivalent – doctor of the (respective) sciences". The main problem is that those that already have or expect to acquire the "doktor nauk", or "doktor na naukite" (DSc, Dr. Habil.) are reluctant to be deprived of their higher level of acknowledgment which is equal to the former "candidates". Colloquially these degrees are called, respectively, "small" and "big" doctors, and formally it is called still "doktor na naukute". No viable solution is seen yet.

Sofia University has signed bilateral agreements for cooperation with as many as 31 foreign countries, including France (seven universities), Germany (nine), and so on. Among Balkan countries, traditional partners of Sofia University include the University of Tirana and the Institute of Linguistics and Literature of the Albanian Academy of Sciences, University of Zagreb, Universities of Athens, Patras, Thessalonica, and Komotini in Greece, Sts. Kiril and Metodij University in Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Universities of Belgrade and Pristina in Serbia, Ankara, Istanbul, and Canakkale Universities in Turkey.

Research data showed that the academic staff of Sofia University maintains extensive contacts with foreign universities: a significant number of professors from Sofia University teach abroad, and there are also foreign lecturers at the University. Bearing in mind incomplete data (using data from 12 of 15 faculties), researchers found that there are 135 foreign lecturers at Sofia University, including 30 at the Faculty of Law, 22 at the Faculty of Biology, 21 at that of Theology, and so on. Two of the faculties (Education and Physics) report that they have no international teaching staff. The University "Champion" is the Faculty of Geology and Geography which has 50 members of its teaching staff currently on assignments abroad, while the Faculty of Classic and Modern Philology has 32 teachers abroad, History: 29, Mathematics and Informatics: 24, Chemistry: 18. The Faculty of Law, quite strangely – probably because of the considerable alumni representation in the current parliament and government – reported that none of its teaching staff are at a temporary job abroad. Unfortunately, data from the questionnaires showed no cooperation between teachers at Sofia University, and their colleagues from Serbia & Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. This probably does exist, though at a far from satisfactory level. The same difficulty occurs when tracking the number of foreign students studying in Sofia or the number of Bulgarian students involved in international exchange. The faculty's

administrations were unable to show any reliable data about the presence of students from Serbia & Montenegro and from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Tab. 5. Foreign teaching staff at Sofia University and teachers from Sofia University abroad

FACULTY	International teachers here	Our teachers abroad
FACULTY OF BIOLOGY	22	11
FACULTY OF CHEMISTRY	4	18
FACULTY OF CLASSIC & MODERN PHILOLOGY	12	32
FACULTY OF ECONOMICS & BUSINESS MANAGEMENT	17	2
FACULTY OF EDUCATION	0	3
FACULTY OF GEOLOGY & GEOGRAPHY	5	50
FACULTY OF HISTORY	11	29
FACULTY OF JOURNALISM & MASS COMMUNICATIONS	9	6
FACULTY OF LAW	30	0
FACULTY OF MATHEMATICS & INFORMATICS	4	24
FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY	N. A.	N. A.
FACULTY OF PHYSICS	0	14
FACULTY OF PRE-SCHOOL & PRIMARY EDUCATION	N. A.	N. A.
FACULTY OF SLAVIC STUDIES	N. A.	N. A.
FACULTY OF TEOLOGY	21	6
TOTAL	135	195

NOTE: Data in the Total row are not complete due to lack of information from certain faculties.

Among the almost one hundred agreements on cooperation that Sofia University has signed, there is currently one with the University “St Kiril and Metodij” in Skopje, but in addition to the two Yugoslav universities – in Belgrade and in Pristina – no such document has been ever signed with their colleagues from the closest foreign University –Nis. In its turn, the University of Nis has formalized cooperation with three Bulgarian Universities, namely, the P Hilendarski in Plovdiv, the Technical University “V. Aprilov” in Gabrovo and the University “St Kiril and Metodij” in Veliko Trnovo – with an especially fruitful record of cooperation with the last one²⁸. Thus, the *first step towards cooperation must be signing a protocol on co-operation at the University level between Sofia and Nis Universities*. Such an agreement exists with Kiril and Metodij Skopje University, but it must be further enhanced with more concrete initiatives. This has often been hampered by historical prejudices and political restrictions that overshadowed and often spoiled relations between Bulgaria, on the one hand, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the whole of the former Yugoslavia, on the other. All three countries have revealed their strong commitment to become integrated into the European structures.

The next probable step in the respective universities' integration would be to *follow the lines of the Bologna Declaration: adopting common and comparable academic degrees, introducing a Diploma*

²⁸This agreement was complicated by the "language debate" between Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia which may have delayed development of normal relations between the two countries, and may have prevented some University officials, including the Sofia University Rector, from signing agreements with Skopje.

Supplement, organizing undergraduate (BA) and postgraduate (MA) studies according to the model 3 + 2 or 4 + 1, where undergraduate studies cannot be shorter than three years and not longer than four years, *introducing ECTS/ECAS* (European Credit Transfer / Accumulation System) – a credit system including not only institutions of high education, but also companies, such that it is valid for a lifetime, *European education quality control*, with comparable methods and criteria would best eliminate obstacles for student and teacher exchange. Bulgaria has made huge steps in moving the introductory parts of the process forward. Use of the sophisticated academic and technological potential of the three universities is a must, bearing in mind the scarce resources of each of these countries taken separately. Moreover, within and close to the triangle under question there are several more universities that could be considered as possible partners in the process: Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, Bitola University, American University in Blagoevgrad, Southwestern University in Blagoevgrad, and Southeastern European University in Tetovo. The model just implemented by the universities of Russe, Giurgiu, and Bucharest, funded by the Stability Pact could be studied and used. Lack of adequate transportation infrastructure, making trips between the three cities an ordeal, is a significant obstacle, but the intensified exchange could accelerate the seriously delayed projects for road improvements, and finally, after 60 years, drive the completion of the railway connection between Sofia and Skopje.

Tab. 6. # of foreign students at Sofia University; # of students from Serbia & the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Total # of international exchange students; # of students involved in international exchange with universities in Serbia & the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

	Total Number of Foreign Students	Students from SER & MK	International Exchange	Intern'l Exchange w. SER & MK
FACULTY OF BIOLOGY	29	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.
FACULTY OF CHEMISTRY	2	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.
FACULTY OF CLASSICAL & MODERN PHILOLOGY	64	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.
FACULTY OF ECONOMICS & BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION	None	None	None	None
FACULTY OF EDUCATION	13	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.
FACULTY OF GEOLOGY & GEOGRAPHY	22	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.
FACULTY OF HISTORY	23	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.
FACULTY OF JOURNALISM & MASS COMMUNICATION	81	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.
FACULTY OF LAW	298	n. a.	n. a.	298
FACULTY OF MATHEMATICS & INFORMATICS	12	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.
FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY	98	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.
FACULTY OF PHYSICS	32	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.
FACULTY OF PRE-SCHOOL & PRIMARY SCHOOL EDUCATION	190	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.
FACULTY OF SLAVIC STUDIES	26	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.
FACULTY OF THEOLOGY	16	4-5	n. a.	n. a.
UNIV. OF SOFIA – TOTAL	906	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.

Introduction of ECTS (European credit transfer system) is a prerequisite for unimpeded student mobility in the Nis – Sofia – Skopje triangle. As our colleagues from Nis propose, in the first tentative phase, mobility could be limited to students of Slavic studies, for whom a stay in the two other areas

could represent good practice. Bearing in mind, that differences between languages spoken in Serbia, Bulgaria, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are not too great, students can often understand lectures or take part in discussions and deliberations without special training in the other language or having to use a translator. Therefore the only real condition for unimpeded studying is ECTS.

The organization of a program of this kind representing students from the University in Nis, Sofia University and University «St Kiril and Metodij» in Skopje could become the basis for a future joint TEMPUS project.

To accelerate the three Universities' mutual cooperation, a ***mailing list and a joint web site, which would serve as the basis for a virtual information center, could be created.*** Information about educational programs, local and international research projects, and other initiatives of interest, should be updated often – once a week or every two weeks. The Balkan's Youth Club at Sofia University might sponsor this activity, hosting the web site and opening in short order, branches in Nis and Skopje.

Close cooperation between the universities of Nis, Skopje and Sofia will also contribute to improving and updating the teaching process, The constant exchange of experience and findings, and increased access to library resources and equipment will enhance each of the Universities' efforts to meet the highest international/European standards. It is expected that cooperation will make these Universities far more efficient, effective and responsive to the communities that they serve. Academic cooperation will greatly contribute to the revival and invigoration of each of the country's border regions.

Today, cooperation between the Universities of Nis, Sofia and Skopje is inadequate. Decisive measures must be taken to strengthen it, a step that will bring positive outcomes not only for the academic community and to the region's young people, but for the good of the region as a whole.

Appendix 1. Scientific disciplines and where they can be studied

Theology		SOF	
Philosophy	SKO	SOF	NIŠ
Psihology	SKO	SOF	NIŠ
Cultural Studies		SOF	
Librarian & Informational Affairs		SOF	
European Studies		SOF	
Pedagogy	SKO	SOF	
Basic levels pedagogy	SKO ²⁹ (Štip)	SOF	NIŠ
Pre-school education	SKO (Štip)	SOF	
Pre-school education with a foreign language		SOF	
Social Pedagogy		SOF	
Special Pedagogy		SOF	
History	SKO	SOF	NIŠ
History of art	SKO	–	
Archaeology	SKO	SOF	
Philology (clasic and modern)	SKO	SOF	
Ethnology	SKO	SOF	
General and comparative literature	SKO	–	
Slavic studies		SOF	NIŠ
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and South - Slavic languages	SKO	–	
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia literature and South – Slavic literature	SKO	–	
Serbian language		–	NIŠ
Serbian literature		–	NIŠ
Bulgarian language		SOF	
Bulgarian literature		SOF	
Balkan Studies		SOF	
Albanian language and literature	SKO	–	
Turkish language and literature	SKO	SOF	
German language and literature	SKO	SOF	
English language and literature	SKO	SOF	NIŠ
French language and literature	SKO	SOF	
Russian language and literature	SKO	SOF	NIŠ
Polish language and literature	SKO	–	
Italian language and literature	SKO	SOF	
Spanish language and literature		SOF	
Portuguese language and literature		SOF	
Scandinavian Studies		SOF	
Classical Philology (Ancient Greek, Latin)		SOF	
Hungarian language and literature		SOF	
Contemporary Greek language and literature		SOF	
Romanian language and literature		SOF	
Arabian Studies		SOF	
Iranian Studies		SOF	
Chinese Studies		SOF	
Hindu Studies		SOF	
Japan Studies		SOF	
Korean Studies		SOF	
Armenian language and literature		SOF	

²⁹ Teaching in Macedonian, Albanian and Turkish language

Social sciences

Law	SKO	SOF	NIŠ
Political sciences	SKO	SOF	
Public Administration		SOF	
Journalism	SKO	SOF	
Public Relations		SOF	
Publishing		SOF	
Sociology	SKO	SOF	NIŠ
Social work and social policy	SKO	SOF	
Defectology	SKO	–	
Defence	SKO	–	
Economy	SKO	SOF	NIŠ
Economic policy and development	SKO	–	
Finances and banking	SKO	–	
International relations	SKO	SOF	
Business economy, Business administration	SKO	SOF	
Management	SKO	SOF	
Marketing	SKO	–	
International trade	SKO	–	
Fiscal – accounting management	SKO	–	
Economic statistics and computing	SKO	–	

Medical sciences

General medicine	SKO	–	NIŠ
Biochemistry and physiology	SKO	–	
Dentistry	SKO	–	NIŠ
Pharmacy	SKO	–	NIŠ
Physical education	SKO	–	NIŠ
Sports	SKO	–	NIŠ
Higher school of radiology	SKO	–	

Natural sciences and mathematics

Mathematics	SKO	SOF	NIŠ
Information technology	SKO	SOF	NIŠ
Applicable Mathematics		SOF	
Statistics	SKO	–	
Ecology	SKO	SOF	
Tourism		SOF	
Geography	SKO	SOF	NIŠ
Physics	SKO	SOF	NIŠ
Engineering Physics		SOF	
Nuclear Technology and Nuclear Power Plants		SOF	
Physics & Mathematics for Secondary School Teachers		SOF	
Chemistry	SKO	SOF	NIŠ
Chemistry & Physics for Secondary School Teachers		SOF	
Biology	SKO	SOF	
Molecular Biology		SOF	
Biotechnologies		SOF	
Biology & Chemistry for Secondary School Teachers		SOF	
Geography & Biology for Secondary School Teachers		SOF	

Technical sciences

Architecture	SKO	–	NIŠ
Civil engineering	SKO	–	NIŠ
Electronics and telecommunications	SKO	–	NIŠ
Computer technics, computing and automation	SKO	–	

Information technology	SKO	–	
Electrical energy technology	SKO	–	
Industrial energetic and automation	SKO	–	NIŠ
Production machinery	SKO	–	
Motor vehicles	SKO	–	
Mechanical equipment	SKO	–	
Welding and welded constructions	SKO	–	
Railway machinery	SKO	–	
Thermotechnics and	SKO	–	
Thermoenergetics	SKO	–	
Hydrotechnical, Pneumatic and automation technology	SKO	–	
Energy equipment and engineering	SKO	–	
Industrial engineering	SKO	–	
Occupational safety		–	NIŠ

Technological sciences

Technology	SKO	–	NIŠ
Foodstuff technology	SKO	–	
Basic organic and polymeric engineering	SKO	–	
Basic non – organic engineering	SKO	–	
Metal engineering	SKO	–	
Textile engineering	SKO	–	
Design and management in chemical industry	SKO	–	
Biotechnology	SKO	–	
Metallurgical processing eng.	SKO	–	
Metallurgical extractive eng.	SKO	–	
Mining	SKO	–	
Geology	SKO	SOF	
Geodesy	SKO	–	

Agriculture and Veterinary

Agriculture	SKO	–	
Tillage	SKO	–	
Vine and fruit cultivation	SKO	–	
Livestock breeding	SKO	–	
Agricultural technology	SKO	–	
Agroeconomy	SKO	–	
Gardening-florriculture	SKO	–	
Crop farming	SKO	–	
Forestry	SKO	–	
Developing “ green spaces ” and improving the environment	SKO	–	
Mechanical technology of wood	SKO	–	
Design and production of furniture and interiors	SKO	–	
Veterinary	SKO	–	

Academies of Arts

Drama artists / acting	SKO	–	
Film and TV directing	SKO	–	
Theatre directing	SKO	–	
Dramaturgy	SKO	–	
Production	SKO	–	
Film and TV camera	SKO	–	
Film and TV editing	SKO	–	
Painting	SKO	–	NIŠ
Graphics	SKO	–	NIŠ
Sculpture	SKO	–	

Teacher training	SKO	–	
Music theory and pedagogy	SKO	SOF	NIŠ
Arts and Pedagogy		SOF	
Musicology and ethnology	SKO	–	
Composition and conduction	SKO	–	
Piano and wire instruments	SKO	–	
Strings instruments	SKO	–	
Solo – singing, brass / woodwind and percussion instruments	SKO	–	

MAIN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN SOFIA

1. St. Kliment Okhridski Sofia University – 1504 Sofia, 15, Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd.

<http://www.uni-sofia.bg/>

2. University for National and World Economy – 1100 Sofia, Khr. Botev Students' city, Tel. numbers (+359 2) 963 0042 (Main information), 686 121. Faculties: General Economy; Economy of Branches; Management and Informatics; Finances & Bookkeeping; Economy of Infrastructure; International Economy and Politics; Law.

<http://www.unwe.acad.bg/>

There is also a Business College within this University's structure, located in the same building, with telephone numbers (+359 2) 62521, 6252 697

3. University of architecture, construction and geodesy – 1421 Sofia, 1 Khr. Smirnenski Blvd., Tel. number (+359 2) 63 321 (switchboard)

<http://www.uacg.acad.bg/> ; http://www.uacg.acad.bg/UACEG_site/UACEG_logoSWF.html

4. Technical University – 1756 Sofia, Khr. Botev Students' city,

Tel. numbers (+359 2) 63682 (switchboard) <http://www.vmei.acad.bg/>

In its structure there are four colleges, three of them outside Sofia. The United Technical College in Sofia is located on the following address: 1618 Sofia, 1 Ovcha kupel, Tel. numbers (+359 2) 563 113, 561 158

5. Chemical Technology and Metallurgical University – 1756 Sofia, 8 Kl. Okhridski Blvd.

<http://www.uctm.acad.bg/>; www.uctm.edu

There is also a Technological College in its structure – 1618 Sofia, 3 Sredorek Str., Tel. numbers (+359 2) 02/577 44, 573 150

6. St. Ivan Rilski Mining and Geological University – 1100 Sofia, Khr. Botev Students' city, Tel. number (+359 2) 62 581, 62 541 (switchboard)

Faculties: Geological Survey; Mining Technology; Mining Electrical Mechanics; European studies and Free Faculty. In its structure there is a college located outside Sofia.

<http://www.mgu.bg/>

7. Timber Technology University 1756 Sofia, 10 Kl. Okhridski Blvd.

Tel. numbers (+359 2) 91-907; 9625-997

<http://www.ltu.acad.bg/>

Faculties: Forestry; Timber Industry; Ecology & Landscape Architecture; Veterinary Medicine; Agricultural; Business Management; Tuition by Correspondence & Continuing Education

8. Medical University – 1431 Sofia, 15 Dimitur Nestorov Blvd.

<http://www.medun.acad.bg/>

Faculties: Medicine 1431 Sofia, 1 Georgi Sofliyski Str., Tel. (+ 359 2) 521 046 (Dean); Dentistry 1431 Sofia, 3 Georgi Sofliyski Str., Tel. (+ 359 2) 518 822, 542 909; Pharmaceutical 1000 Sofia, 2, Dunav Str., Tel. (+ 359 2) 987 9874, 987 3464

In its structure there are three colleges, two of them outside Sofia. The Medical College in Sofia is located at: 1620 Sofia, 3 Yordanka Filaretova Str., tel. numbers (+359 2) 523365, 517 2777 526267

9. National Sports' Academy – 1700 Sofia, Khr. Botev Students' city

<http://nsa.inetg.bg/>

10. Kr. Sarafov National Academy of Theatrical and Movies Art – 1000 Sofia, 108A G. S. Rakovski Str

Natfiz@bgcict.acad.bg; <http://www.art.acad.bg/natfiz/index-b.html>

11. National Academy of Arts – 1000 Sofia, 1 Shipka Str.

<http://www.art.acad.bg/art/index-b.html>

12. Prof. Pancho Vladigerov State Academy of Music – 1505 Sofia, 94 Evl. Georgiev Blvd.

<http://www.bulgarianspace.com/musicaacademy>;

<http://www.art.acad.bg/music/index-b.html>

13. New Bulgarian University – 1635 Sofia, 21 Montevideo Str.,

Tel. numbers (+359 2) 957 1930, 957 1321

<http://www.nbu.acad.bg/>; www.nbu.bg

14. L. Karavelov Higher Construction School (formerly militarized) 1373 Sofia, 32 Sukhodolska Str., Tel. numbers (+359 2) 9202286 (87, 89), Tel./Facsimile 220 066

e-mail: vsu@vsu.bg

<http://www.vsu.bg>

15. T. Kableshkov Higher Transportation School (formerly militarized) – 1574 Sofia, 158 Geo Milev Str.,

Tel. number (+359 2) 720 663

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17. College of Posts and Telecommunications – 1184 Sofia, 1 Arso Pandurski Str., Tel. number (+359 2) 622 893

18. College of Management, Trade and Marketing – 1618 Sofia, 126 Tsar Boris III.

19. Lyuben Groys Theatrical College – 1463 Sofia, Bulgaria Sq., 5th fl., Office 12, Tel. number (+359 2) 986 20 25

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