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8TH INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE “INTERPOLIS’11”

Martina Gočálová*

On November 10th 2011 the Faculty of Political Sciences and International Relations of Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica hosted the 8th International Conference of PhD. Students and Young Scholars INTERPOLIS. The Conference was organised in co-operation with the Faculty of Law of Matej Bel University and Jan Kochanowski University of Humanities and Sciences in Kielce, marking the importance and quality of mutual and long-term cooperation of these institutions. The Conference was dedicated for doctoral students and young scholars specialising in International Relations, Political Sciences, Law and other related disciplines. The languages of the Conference were Slovak, Czech and English.

The main aim of the Conference was to provide internal and external doctoral students and other young scholars with an opportunity to present results of their current research activities to the wider academic community. Moreover, as in previous years, there was an effort to create an opportunity for an exchange of information among participants, to help them to intensify their communication as well as to build a network for further cooperation. The proceedings of the Conference will be published in an edited volume of respective contributions of the participants.

The success of the Conference is best illustrated with its growing popularity discernible in the increasing numbers of participants. This year 40 doctoral students and young scholars coming from various countries – mainly Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland and Moldova – took active part in the Conference and presented their research.

The official opening of the Conference started with opening remarks of **P. Terem**, vice-dean of the Faculty of Political Sciences and International Relations, and **P. Jaroszyński** from University in Kielce. After welcoming the

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participants and wishing them pleasant and intellectually stimulating conference, **Mr. Terem** and **Mr. Jaroszyński** opened the discussion in respective panels. Three thematic panels were created – “*Theoretical and practical questions of international relations*”, “*Crisis of the European Union? Internal and external dimension of new security threats.*”, “*Political and legal aspects of the modern political system development. Modern challenges in managing the economy and public administration.*”

The first panel “**Theoretical and practical questions of international relations**” was chaired by **D. Vlček** and **E. Pajtinka**, members of the Department of International Relations and Diplomacy. Speakers in this panel focused on various contemporary issues of International Relations. The panel started with the contribution of **P. Pienta** entitled *Legitimacy of the Regime through the Foreign Policy: Case Study of Kazachstan*. He was followed by **J.V. Peleczová** (*Global Civil Society*), **T. Tökölyová** (*Middle Power Concept in International Relations (Case Study Australia)*), **M. Gočálová** (*Autonomous Region Xin-jiang – Chinese Area of Unrest*), **T. Marenčáková** (*Arctic in the Centre of International Concern (Canadian Point of View)*), **A. Michalica** (*Geopolitical Status of Polar Regions and Implications for 21st Century*), **I. Odalošová** (*Multinational State and its Specifics in the Context of Bosnia and Herzegovina*), **S. Pinzari** (*From Multilateral Diplomacy to an Effective Multilateralism: EU-UN Cooperation in 21st Century*), **M. Balco** (*Introduction to the Problem of National Minorities in Republic of Serbia*), **D. Barteková** (*Sport – Political Relations in the Context of Theories of International Relations*), **A. Vaščík** (*Demonstrations in Bahrain – Identity of Shiite Communities and Iran’s Interests*), and **M. Horemuž** (*Current Situation and Perspectives of Russian-Ukrainian Relations*). The section closed with the contribution of **R. Šulík**, who raised the question of new approach in the study of EU foreign policy.

The second panel entitled “**Crisis of the European Union? Internal and external dimension of new security threats**” was chaired by members of the Department of Security Studies **L. Husenicová** and **J. Ušiak**. Participants discussed various aspects of the European Union as well as security issues. The panel opened with the presentation of **M. Štulajter** (*Effectiveness of Control and Realisation of Environmental Policy and Environmental Law and the Role of European Commission in this Process*). He was followed by **A. Karvai** (*Representation of Positions in the Area of European Integration: Have the Positions of Political Elites Distanced from the Public Position?*), **M. Boháčiková** (*EMU Project of the EU in the Context of Eurozone Crisis:*

Implications for Future Perspectives of European Integration), **M. Chládeková** (*European Identity in Crisis (?)*), **O. Filipec** (*Impact of the Economic Crisis on Chemical Industry in the EU and Possible Implications for Implementation of REACH*), **D. Svrček** (*Cyber Attacks as a New Security Threat*), **K. Pevná** (*Dynamics in Relations between Regime and Islamic Opposition in the Middle East*), **E. Júdová** (*Enhanced Cooperation of the EU in Cross-Border Legal Relations*), **M. Raškovský** (*Application of Asymmetric Threats Concept on the Example of FARC-EP*), **J. Gandžala** (*Security Challenges in the Context of Preparation for their Management*), and **A. Onufrák** (*Swiss Democracy in the Hands of SVP Propaganda*). This panel was concluded by the presentation of **J. Cingel** (*Privatisation of Security: Is a Nation-State Losing its Exclusive Privilege to Wage a War? Again...*).

The last panel entitled “**Political and legal aspects of the modern political system. Modern challenges in managing the economy and public administration**” was chaired by **D. Ježovicová**, member of the Department of Political Sciences. In this section were discussed various issues, such as problems concerning limits of democracy (**S. Garajová**), specific features of political communication in case of Slovakia (**N. Kováčová**), electoral strategies (**M. Bušša**) or political philosophy of V. Havel (**J. Bureš**).

The Conference concluded with the closing remarks of **P. Terem**, followed by evening reception in the premises of the Faculty of Political Sciences and International Relations, thus giving the participants opportunity to further discuss topics debated at the Conference. Continuing the successful tradition, the 8th International Conference INTERPOLIS provided its participants with an opportunity to gain experience, exchange and discuss their ideas with their colleagues, as well as establish new academic relations.