

# POLITICKÉ VEDY / POLITICAL SCIENCES

Časopis pre politológiu, najnovšie dejiny, medzinárodné vzťahy, bezpečnostné štúdiá / Journal for Political Sciences, Modern History, International Relations, security studies

URL časopisu / URL of the journal: <http://www.politickevedy.fpvmv.umb.sk>

Autor(i) / Author(s): Ivan Majchút  
Článok / Article: International Scientific Conference: “National and International Security 2015”  
Vydavateľ / Publisher: Fakulta politických vied a medzinárodných vzťahov – UMB Banská Bystrica / Faculty of Political Sciences and International Relations – UMB Banská Bystrica

**Odporúčaná forma citácie článku / Recommended form for quotation of the article:**

MAJCHÚT, I. 2015. International Scientific Conference: “National and International Security 2015”. In *Politické vedy*. [online]. Roč. 18, č. 4, 2015. ISSN 1335 – 2741, s. 209-211. Dostupné na internete: <http://www.politickevedy.fpvmv.umb.sk/archiv-vydani/2015/4-2015/ivan-majchut.html>.

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## INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE: "NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY 2015"

Ivan Majchút\*

On 22 and 23 October 2015, Security and Defence Department of Armed Forces Academy of General M. R. Štefánik in Liptovský Mikuláš, Slovakia organised an international scientific conference "*National and International Security*" already for the 6<sup>th</sup> time.

This traditional conference was organised under auspices of the State secretary of the Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic **Ing. Miloš Koterec** and Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic **LtGen Ing. Milan Maxim**. Five representatives of important university institutions from Slovakia, Czech Republic and Poland were guarantors and sixteen important experts in the domain of national and international security from Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland and Ukraine created Scientific Committee.

The event took place in the conference room of *Svätojánsky kaštieľ* hotel in Liptovský Ján and Vice-Rector for Science of Armed Forces Academy in Liptovský Mikuláš, Assoc. **Prof. Ing. Marcel Harakaľ, PhD.**, opened the conference. He welcomed the participants and wished them good luck during the discussions. The head of Security and Defence Department **prof. Ing. Vojtech Jurčák, CSc.** focused in his opening speech on main objectives of the conference and expressed the hope of success of this conference.

Approximately seventy scholars, experts and specialists from Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, Austria, Hungary, Romania, and Ukraine attended this conference. The working languages were English, Slovak, Czech, Polish and Russian. Given that the organiser of the conference is a military university institution, it is not surprising that armed forces (soldiers) were represented, including Commander of Land Forces of the Armed Forces of the Slovak

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Republic **BG Ing. Ondřej Novosad**, as well as Deputy Commander of Air Forces of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic **COL. Ing. Vladimír Kováč**. The course of the conference was divided into four blocks.

**Assoc. Prof. Ing. Peter Spilý, PhD.** from Armed Forces Academy of General M. R. Štefánik in Liptovský Mikuláš (Slovakia), hosted the first block of the Conference, entitled "International Security". In this block there were presented research results of **Klára Siposné Kecskeméthy, Jozef Sabol, Jindřich Nový, Lucia Husenicová, Juliusz Piwowarski, Wojciech Czajkowski and Jaroslav Ušiak**. All presentations were about security aspects all over the world, especially: NATO partnerships challenges, mass migration to Europe, multilateral world, perspectives of Chinese Silk Road, security culture and post-cold war Hungarian policy.

The second block, entitled "National Security", was hosted by **COL. Ing. Ivo Pikner, Ph.D.** from University of Defence in Brno (Czech Republic). Research results of **Ladislav Hofreiter, Marzena Petryna, Paweł Dziekański and Roman Laml** were presented during in this block. The authors presented their research about national security aspects from various points of view, especially: social vulnerability, illegal migration, regional security, regional diversity of infrastructure, and information in security policy.

The first day of this conference concluded with a social program, during which the participants were discussing security topics or findings from particular security working positions in informal format.

The second day continued by third block, entitled "Theory and Practice of Security", which was hosted by **Dr. Juliusz Piwowarski, PhD.** from Apeiron - Academy of Public and Individual Security, Krakow (Poland). In this block the research results of **Božena Sowa, Vladimír Zikmund and Peter Poljakovič** were presented. This block included theoretical and practical issues of security, especially: electronic money, European security from military perspective, and influence of Ukrainian crisis on migration.

The Conference proceeded with the discussions within the fourth block, entitled "Development Aspects of Armed Forces", hosted by **Assoc. Prof. Ing. Pavel Bučka, CSc.** from Armed Forces Academy of General M. R. Štefánik in Liptovský Mikuláš (Slovakia). In this block the research results of **Miroslav Merenda, Antonín Novotný, Dalibor Procházka, Petr Kovanda, Martin Marchevka and Ivo Svoboda** were presented. Their presentations were about security issues from military point of view, especially: application of fractal structures, possibilities of helicopter acquisition, teaching of the military art,

creation of resources for crisis management, and issues of young officer's preparation.

The Conference ended with closing remarks of the head of Security and Defence Department **prof. Ing. Vojtech Jurčák, CSc.**, who summed up the results of the discussions of both days. He wished participants the success in their future work and expressed the hope to meet the participants during the conference "*National and International Security 2016*" to be held next year.

Research papers presented by the participants during the Conference were summarised in reviewed conference proceedings in digital version on compact discs, where 75 papers were published.<sup>1</sup> The editorial work was completed by **Mgr. et Mgr. Adrián Sipko, PhD.** Hard work of paper reviewing has been carried out by **Assoc. Prof. Ing. Pavel Bučka, CSc.**, **prof. Ing. Vojtech Jurčák, CSc.**, **prof. Klára Siposné Kecskeméthy, CSc.**, **PhDr. Milan Labuzík, CSc.** and **Assoc. Prof. Ing. Peter Spilý, PhD.**

The main benefit of this Conference was the meeting of many security experts at one place, thus creating opportunities to listen to many presentations from various sectors of the security field and from different points of view. An important aspect of the Conference was the opportunity to talk about the presented topics personally with the authors. The presentations itself often served as a beginning for a fruitful debate and in many cases for subsequent cooperation.

In all cases, the Conference was successful and rewarding and it has high assumptions for successful continuation next year.

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<sup>1</sup> The publication is also available at: <http://www.aos.sk/struktura/katedry/kbo/index.php?go=8>.