

Thirty Years of Activities of the Faculty of Economics

The 50th anniversary of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University coincided with the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the University's Faculty of Economics. The Faculty was established on 15 February 1965 with the right to train agricultural economists. The Faculty's 11 chairs were then manned by 20 university teachers. Most tenured professors came from the Warsaw and Cracow academic centres, some of them taking permanent positions with the new department. The Faculty had very confined premises, which restricted its development. Teaching activity started on 1 October 1965 for 61 students.

A great demand for qualified economists both nationwide and in the region necessitated introduction of new courses, intensive training of the teaching staff and new organization best suited to the new tasks. The enhanced effort of the teaching faculty resulted in the opening of new courses: economics of industry, organization and management, labour economics and social policy. Further development of the teaching staff was enhanced by the acquisition of full academic rights: the right to confer Ph.D. (1969) and postdoctoral degree (1970). The Faculty's structure was likewise deeply transformed. Two and later three institutes were established to be divided into departments arisen out of the former chairs.

The teaching activity was extended upon the University's Branch in Rzeszów and the Consulting Centres in Tarnobrzeg, Stalowa Wola and Jarosław. This was made possible by the introduction of extra-mural studies, thus maintaining annual enrolment for the first year at a high students were enrolled, including 1203 extra-mural students. Extra-mural studies lasted 9 terms, culminating with a master's degree in economics. Extra-mural studies had two levels. Level I studies lasted 6 terms culminating with a diploma in economics. Level II lasted 3 terms and culminated with a master's degree in economics.

As early as in the second year of its activities the Faculty set up its own journal: an economics section (H—Oeconomia) with the Annales

UMCS series. This is where original studies by Lublin economics scholars appeared. Papers by authors from outside Lublin and foreigners cooperating with the Economics Faculty were also published. In order to reach foreign readers, more and more articles are now printed in congress languages. Particular volumes are now exchanged with 14 university centres abroad and are sent to 21 scientific institutions at home. 28 annual files of the journal have appeared so far, covering the years 1967—1994. This yearly still remains the only economics periodical in Eastern Poland, which integrates specialists in economic sciences. It permits to present research and scientific interpretation of socioeconomic phenomena in the Central-Eastern Macroregion. It is also worth noting that under agreements between this University and foreign centres, the Faculty immediately started co-operation with universities in Lvov (Ukraine), Yerevan (Armenia), Jassy (Rumunia), Modena, Camerino and Lecca (Italy). Innsbruck (Austria) and Kassel (Germany).

Three distinct periods can be distinguished in the work of the Faculty of Economics: 1965—1975, 1976—1986 and 1987—1995. The first decade, marking the beginnings of the Faculty, was filled with intense organizing and teaching efforts. Major stages of development in that period include granting of the right to confer Ph.D. and post-doctoral degree, organization of investigations, the appearance of the first issues of the economics section of the *Annales UMCS* and granting degrees to the first graduates. The second decade of the Faculty was marked by considerable achievements in the development of the young teaching staff, the further development of courses taught and the expansion of fields of investigations. A very important event for the Faculty was the acquisition of 104 own premises in 1978 and a modern teaching pavilion with three lecturing theatres seating 200 each and 17 seminar rooms. The new premises covered 3160 m² of teaching floor.

The Faculty's entrance in the third decade of activity was characterized by intensified research work and distinct progress in completion of post-doctoral dissertations. The most important achievement of that period were the first post-doctoral degrees of the Faculty graduates. A considerable increase in the number of tenured professors strengthened stability and intensified teaching and research. The restructuring of Polish economy enhanced the demand for highly specialized economists, trained according to updated syllabuses suited to the requirements of the economy under reform. This broadened and deepened the scope of investigations oriented more towards solving practical economic problems, largely at the regional level, which was reflected in a number of monographs and articles. Considerable attention was devoted to university teaching, starting with a thoroughgoing reform of the syllabuses while modern specialist labs were

opened alongside with remarkable achievements in this field. Organizational measures were also taken to improve the structure of the Faculty's administration. The teaching staff had a clear contribution to the socio-economic life of the country and the region. They took part in numerous conferences both at home and abroad.

The Faculty currently employs 110 teaching staff, including 18 professors, four post-doctoral Ph.D.'s and 52 Ph.D.'s. The administrative staff numbers 15 people. The Faculty has so far conferred 129 Ph.D.'s in economics, most of which in 1967—1975 (34) and 1976—1986 (76). 74 doctors continue to work at the Faculty. Five doctorates were conferred on foreigners. 13 post-doctoral degrees have been conferred, 12 of which upon the Faculty members.

After restructuring there are three institutes at the Faculty: Institute of Economics with 5 departments, Institute of Theory of Socio-Economic Development with 5 departments and Institute of Economics of Production, Organization and Management with 7 departments. The Faculty of Economics at the University's Branch in Rzeszów has a different structure, suited to the number of the teaching staff.

Changes in the courses offered took place after 1990. There is a shift from narrow specializations to a more functional training. Two main courses are offered: economics (30% students) and management and marketing (70% students). Alongside resident studies there are also extra-mural studies: stage 1, three years, leading to licentiate and stage 2, one year and a half, culminating with a master's degree. In the academic year 1993/94 there were altogether 2,146 students (1,403 resident students and 743 extra-mural students). Post graduate studies in banking, in management of international business and in labour market management were attended by 108 students.

The Faculty has greatly expanded cooperation with university centres both at home and abroad. The foreign centres, apart from those mentioned earlier, include: De Paul University, Chicago, Catholic University in Nijmegen (The Netherlands), Formation au Commerce Interieur at Boubaïse and University of Lille (France), Lviv Institute Management in Lvov, Lake Erie College and Architectus, Minnesota, USA. Mutual exchange of teaching staff and specialist literature is going on all the time. It will be even more enhanced by the practice of publishing in 3 congress languages in the *Annales UMCS*, which is exemplified by the present jubilee volume that commemorates thirty years of dedicated and efficient work of the Faculty.

Ryszard Orłowski

