



IGYS

REPORT 2003-4

SUBJECT: 3rd National Seminar for Lithuanian Doctoral Students of Management and Administration (03S)

GOAL: This year marks the start of a new initiative in Lithuania, aimed at improving collaboration among young scholars in the fields of management and business administration.

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— 2002 m. —
LIETUVOS
VADYBOS
STUDIJŲ
KRYPTIES
DOKTORANTŲ
MOKSLINIAI
DARBAI:
*disertacijos, tyrimai,
projektai*

Vilnius, 2002

For most PhD students, the hurdles one must surmount from the very beginning of the PhD program are enough to scare them away. However, even for those that stick with it, the sleepless months spent hunched over stacks of literature, difficulties in data collection, the perpetually frazzled state that one endures when writing and rewriting the dissertation, and the actual thesis defense are remembered by all PhD students the world over as both a nightmarish and rewarding experience. Although most doctoral students share similar stories about review committees, publishing mayhem and deadlines, I would say that the situation for Lithuanian (and other CEEC) PhD students is a bit different. For one, access to the latest literature is limited, to put it mildly. Whereas the typical PhD student in the west can easily move into the university library for a few months and find almost everything one needs, here the student has the additional worry of finding funding and permission to visit foreign universities just to access literature. And once it is found, the student has only limited time to collect and copy all the literature one can before the grant runs out. However, lack of resources is not the only difficulty. In many cases doctoral students do not know who their peers are. The need to work elsewhere while conducting one's studies in most cases limits exposure and presence at the university. The limited involvement in the university and lack of resources place an additional heavy burden on the PhD candidate.

This year marks the start of a new initiative in Lithuania, aimed at improving collaboration among young scholars in the fields of management and business administration. Bearing the above-mentioned (and other) difficulties in mind, a PhD network has been created, which currently has over 90 members. Students receive information about conferences in Lithuania and abroad and other various opportunities. Three times per year Vilnius University, Kaunas Faculty of Humanities, Vilnius University, and Kaunas University of Technology will host doctoral seminars, with the following goals in mind:

- To bring together and acquaint all

Turinys

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management and business administration PhD students throughout Lithuania.

- To create an environment for the exchange of the newest theoretical and practical information and experiences.
- To acquaint PhD students with latest research in management-related fields in Lithuania and abroad.
- To create an ongoing database of information on research projects, publications, dissertations, and to create access to all members to this information.
- To create more opportunities for young scholars to interact with specialist in their field, both in Lithuania and abroad.

Active discussion took place following 7 PhD presentations, where participants exchanged ideas and suggestions. Prof. Vytautas Pranulis, Head of the Vilnius University Department of Marketing, led the seminar on the topic *Practical Advice for Writing Your Dissertation*, during which participants received valuable information and insight not only on the technical matters of writing the dissertation (format, style, structure), but also useful advice regarding methodological nuances, literature reviews and first-hand tips for preparing for the final defense. In all 45 doctoral students attended the first seminar.

The third PhD seminar for PhD students of Management and Administration took place on April 09, 2003, at Kaunas Faculty of Humanities, Vilnius University, Lithuania. Since this was the third seminar (the second took place at the Faculty of Management, Kaunas University of Technology) the participants were acquainted with the general programme of the day, which consisted of the following parts:

- **Key-note speaker doc.dr. Virginijus Tamševičius**, Department of Business Economics and Management, Kaunas Faculty of Humanities, Vilnius University delivered a structured outline of a successful PhD dissertation research and writing techniques in this presentation *Methodology of Scientific Research and Report Writing*.
- **Key-note speaker prof.habil.dr. Borisas Melnikas**, Department of International Economics and Management, Faculty of Management, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, pondered upon associations on science transformations with references to theoretical and practical issues of PhD thesis preparation. His presentation on *The Transformations Processes in Business: The EU Context and Lithuania* mainly focused upon the perception of the international business, globalisation processes, monopolisation threat of international businesses and knowledge

management peculiarities on the European scale.

The discussions were followed by a first-hand experience of participating in the public defence of a PhD dissertation, presented by Raminta Andrėja Ligeikienė, a doctoral student of Department of Commerce, Kaunas Faculty of Humanities, Vilnius University. The title of the PhD thesis was *Development and Management of Tourism*, envisaging an institutional viewpoint of this issue world-wide and in Lithuania (Scientific Adviser assoc. prof. dr. Rūta Urbanskienė).

The seminar was attended by 35 doctoral students, representing Vilnius University, Kaunas University of Technology, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Šiauliai University and others.

We encourage all Lithuanian and foreign academics interested in assisting our PhD students and giving lectures on special topics, to contact the organizational committee at igys@vukhf.lt.