

Universities of the 3rd Age in the Czech Republic

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1. Introduction

Basic intent:

UTA is not just an educational process. It is also a tool for making life better and easier at an advanced age.

Specific conditions in the Czech Republic:

1. Our seniors have spent the greater part of life under a totalitarian regime.
2. UTA's are provided by institutions financed by the state.

2. The situation today

The first UTA's (usually in the form of separate lectures) began in the nineteen eighties at humanities faculties (at Charles University in Prague and Masaryk University in Brno).

The Association of UTA's was founded in 1993.

We now have 47 members. Special educational activities for seniors are now offered at 19 universities. Over 12,000 people are estimated to attend UTA's in the Czech Republic.

The Association of UTA's (AU3V) is trying to inform, spread experience and create a platform for further plans, projects and discussions.

AU3V is based at the Brno University of Technology (BUT); its Secretary General is L. Shromazdilova.

Since 2004 we have received support from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs for building an infrastructure for senior education. This amounts to around 500,000 Euros per year.

3. UTA at BUT

The main idea of UTA at BUT is to give older people the chance to use modern technology, understand new systems and participate in all the benefits of modern life.

We offer 3 different types of courses:

1. Basic course (general overview, 2 years, presenting the most interesting results of research at 8 faculties at Brno University of Technology)
2. Courses about using PCs (7 levels, starting from the beginning, advanced methods, internet)
3. Special courses (chemistry at home, building an audiovisual centre at home, digital photography etc.)

4. The future

We try to offer new courses in every academic year on scientific areas researched at our university. in the year 2020 the seniors are expected to represent 30 % of the population.