



Providing qualified professionals in the fields of engineering and management, especially in the conditions of the market economy is a difficult task, which can be achieved only by continuing education of the staff or, if necessary, by professional retraining.

A specialized Center for Continuing Education was set up at the Technical University of Moldova in 1994 by the Decision of the Government, its main aims being continuing education of the engineering and academic staff. In 2003 a Moldo-British Military Resettlement Center was set up within TUM. As a result of these, as well as due to the relationships with universities and similar centers from France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, other EU countries, USA, Canada and Russia, Technical University of Moldova has become the leading

• continuing education and retraining of the unemployed.

During the last 10 years TUM has offered C.E. courses to over 10.000 people, including 7.000 specialists from the national economy, 2.000 didactic staff from technical colleges and vocational schools, and about 1000 unemployed. During the last year over 100 military from the National Army have been retrained and eventually actively involved in various branches of the national economy. The duration of C.E. courses for various programmes in 2003-2004 was of 144 hours – 3 years. (Fig. 1)

The Center for Continuing Education of the TUM offers several forms of studies: full-time, part-time studies, as well as mid-term sessions. At the moment, TUM is developing a program of distance education for continuing studies. Some of the C.E. courses are organized on demand directly within enterprises, thus connecting the training and production processes.

In collaboration with universities from France, Germany, Great Britain, Spain and other EU countries within some TEMPUS projects there were organized European Master's studies at specialties "Business Management in Food Industry", "Quality and Safety of Food Products", "Networks. Digital Communications and Management", "Information Systems. Software and

for various economical environments and the creation of national information network for distance education.

The trainers within this project were selected among the young teachers of education institutions (TUM, State University from Cahul, Polytechnic College from Bălți, College of Constructions from Hîncești), employees of the enter-

TUM's Center for Continuing Education;

• computer networks, Web-cams and more equipment for distance education.

All this equipment is located at TUM and three local centers, the Polytechnic College from Balti, College of Constructions from Hincesti (both colleges being members of the Polytechnic

med in organizing distance education continuing studies. A special attention will be paid to the development of necessary pedagogical resources and their eventual adaptation to the distance education study process. The RENFOCOM network together with all its existing regional centers and the future ones, will facilitate the use of new information

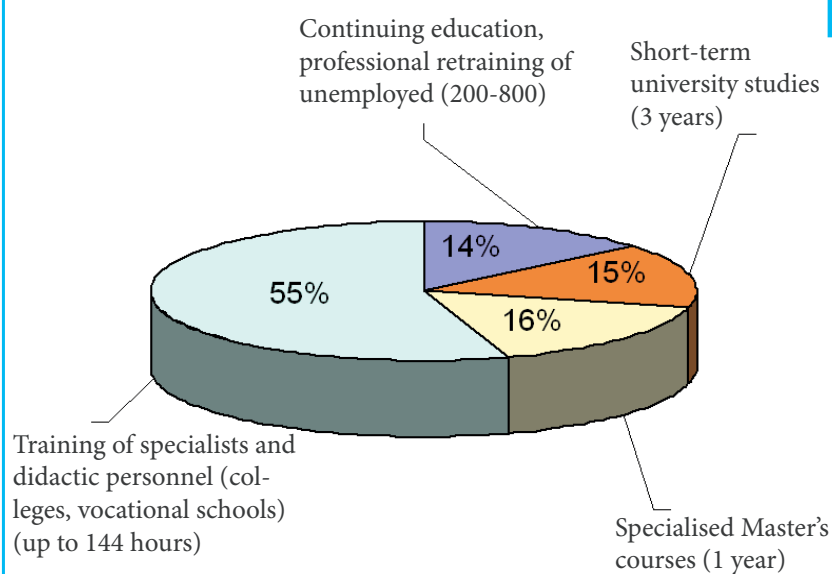


Fig. 1 Continuing education and duration of studies in 2003-2004

country institution in the field of continuing education.

TUM's main directions of activity in the field of C.E. are:

- continuing education of the didactic staff from secondary education institutions and colleges according to TUM's engineering specialties;
- continuing education and professional retraining of the personnel involved in national economy and other willing individuals;
- short-term university studies for a second Diploma;
- specialized Master's programs;
- military resettlement;

Management", "Engineering and Environmental Protection".

During 2002-2004 the project IB_JEP 22080-2001 entitled "Creation of the multidisciplinary continuing education national network" was implemented in the framework of the TEMPUS/TACIS programme jointly with the Centre for Superior Studies in Mechanics (C.E.S.MECA), Paris, Superior Engineering School ENISE, Saint-Etienne, University Henri Poincare, Nancy from France and the Portsmouth University from Great Britain. The main goals of this project were: the development of a national continuing education system

prises (ARTIMA S.A., MOLDOVAHIDROMAŞ S.A.; S.A. ALIMENTARMAŞ; S.A. AROMA; S.A. VITIŞ Hînceşti; S.A. ORIZONTUL-GHIADA Ltd.; VLA-DRA-COM Ltd.) as well as Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Moldova.

The trainers have won three-week professional scholarships in Saint-Etienne, France (July 2003) which offered the opportunity to study the experience of similar specialized C.E. centers, C.E. marketing, development of modules according to the needs of enterprises and beneficiaries, development of pedagogical resources used for traditional methods and for distance education, use of specialized logistic platforms for distance education, etc.

At this moment the Multidisciplinary Continuing Education National Network (Rom. RENFOCOM) is endowed with:

- modern IT equipment for the preparation and multiplication of the course supporting materials for traditional and distance education methods, for the development of pedagogical materials (printed, audio, video);
- server, located at the

Community) and the State University from Cahul.

For the development of pedagogical resources and distance education course, based on the proposal of Regional Bureau of Central and Eastern Europe, and the Francophone University Agency (AUF), RENFOCOM uses the logistical platform PHEDRE, developed within the Framework Programme IV "Information Technologies" by the French Consortium LUNO – Lorraine Ouverte University.

According to the program of distance education implementation adopted by the TUM's Senate on 23.11.2004, some important steps have been per-

technologies in continuing education as vital part of the lifelong learning.

The reform of higher education in the context of the Bologna process will contribute to the development of continuing education, taking into account the demands of modern society based on new skills and knowledge.

*Assoc. prof.
Dr. Valentin Amariei,
Vice-rector TUM for
continuing education
and international relations*



Mobility – a criterion of the Bologna Process At Hamburg University

As a result of winning an Individual Mobility Grant I visited Hamburg University, Germany.

Being employed at the faculty of Computer science, Informatics and Microelectronics, Informatics and Applied Modern Languages Department, I was especially interested in what teaching staff of a similar department with ours does. This way I made a 2-week long visit to the Faculty of Informatics, Natural Language Systems Division.

During this visit I concentrated mainly on the way they organize work with students, types of projects given as laboratory tasks, annual projects, etc. I discussed with teaching staff about the contents of the courses they teach, literature they use, methods of teaching and evaluation, as well as problems encountered during the teaching process. I also assisted some of the practical classes, workshops and consulted specialist literature.

As a result of this visit, I learned many new things in the area of Computational Linguistics, a new area, which needs thorough research and attention, an area which

our specialty is concentrated on. I came back from Germany with new ideas on the way I can organize my work with students, make it more effective, with some drafts on changes of the course I am teaching Theory and Techniques of Translation, with ideas of cooperation between our departments. As soon as I came back I disseminated the experience I got with my colleagues, we discussed similarities and differences between our departments and planned several changes in the work with students. We'll try to teach students work in teams, a skill which lacks in our students, but necessary when they graduate and employ somewhere. We will draw more attention to the way the students present their projects, because often, our students make presentations just when they present their diploma projects. We also discussed the necessity and the ways we could involve students in research.

This way, I consider that this grant gave me possibility to see how the things are organized at another institution, observe and aspire to new achievements.

*Natalia Elita, Senior lecturer
Informatics and Applied Modern Languages Department.*

