

Education should never end

During June 2012, 25 professors from universities across Slovakia participated in the second year of AmCham's successful "Train the Trainer" program, which aims to train teachers in particular fields of study.

This year focused on topics relating to Human Resource Management. Guest lectures were provided by AmCham member companies and all lessons included interactive exercises, hands-on presentations, and role plays focusing on different HR-related topics. The main goal of "Train the Trainer" is to improve the skills of university professors, fostering both learning and a fun environment in the classroom, and to enable professors to better prepare young graduates to match the needs of the market.

Guest speakers included: Martin Kardoš of CSI Leasing as the idea owner of the project; Alena Bušíková of City University of Seattle; Vanda Šinková of PwC; Ján Uriga of Deloitte; Peter Benkovič of Maxman Consultants; Tomáš Jurkovič of Soiron; Mirka Sisková and Lenka Schenk Mayerová of Slovak Telecom; and Maxim Strashun of Lenovo. Natália Poliaková of AmCham coordinated the project.

The month-long course consisted of eight meetings held at the premises of presenting AmCham

members. The first three lectures started with an introduction to general presentation skills, different ways of leading a lecture, student-teacher relations, adult learning principles, and tools to get students to pay attention and retain information. Results from research regarding the condition of the Slovak higher education were also presented. The course content then covered topics including educational programs for organizations, the role of the HR manager in the education processes within companies, experiential learning with a focus on pedagogical work, and communication in a modern company in relation to Generation Y. The last two meetings focused on change management, talent development, training effectiveness and the development of people in a global organization.

In summary, the program included ten lecturers, three dozen professors, eight locations, and many interesting topics. The result was an enriching and inspiring workshop where everyone profited from

participation. Subject matter experts from different business backgrounds spoke about the real business environment, the expectations of the HR market, and the best practices used by companies to manage talent. Based on their feedback, it is clear that the participating professors enjoyed the program. Many liked the diversity of topics, the interactivity of each meeting, and the insightful discussions. Most importantly, they appreciated the sincere effort of each lecturer to share their experience and said they would definitely recommend the program to colleagues in the future.

Many of the professors plan to implement the techniques they learned into their lectures. AmCham and CSI Leasing are grateful to all the participants. Everyone involved is already looking forward to Training the Trainers again next year!

 *Martin Kardoš
Managing Director
CSI Leasing*



I was particularly surprised by the diversity of topics addressed at the individual meetings. They were complex, included both theory and practice, and demanded interpretation and involvement of participants. The program enriched me mainly in terms of my personal development. The input from my fellow colleagues as well as lecturers was extremely useful.

Feedback provided by one of the teachers

I am glad that AmCham prepared this program and that I had the opportunity to contribute. The program showed me that there is great interest in learning new things and also that there is a lot of work in this area. The key benefit for participating teachers is the personal consultation, which helps them to implement the various topics discussed at the lectures. However, doing this requires initiative, particularly from the participants themselves.

Peter Benkovič, Maxman Consultants

