

## DISTANCE LEARNING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

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City University Bratislava was created in 1990 to solve the acute problems of society. Its first task was to carry out an in-depth analysis of its current state. The identification of problems created a list of priorities which had to be solved within the next few years. The greatest damage had been done to personality structure, mainly in the area of courage. A tool with which to give continuing support to the growth of courage, in terms of the personality, was needed.

The largest group which needed support was that of decision-makers in different organisations and structures, i.e. in public administration, all mayors, directors of offices and lower managers. A similar situation exists in business, but special care was needed to support members of parliament and government. This huge task was important, to identify a genuine strategy for approaching different levels of society and achieving the fulfilment of different goals.

One bio-dimension of a complex view of society is some kind of feedback, to understand the sense and goals of our activities. Bringing the bio-dimension into education means not wanting to lose sight of the clear boundaries between different priorities, while at the same time, not wanting to give further support to instruments working against the deep sense of co-existence.

To do this, it is important to disassemble the above problem. This meant setting up clear stages in the everyday fulfilment of tasks. The structure of education focused first on the area of management education but, in parallel, another dimension of life needed attention, and that is the environmental dimension. The third dimension, informatics for our present and future, will be the next stage to be developed.

Much more important is the synergy, resulting from these three points of view, because of the important role of decision-makers in the everyday procedures previously mentioned. These three dimensions run concurrently. In practice, some kind of harmony is needed which would create a unique and total balancing of the different dimensions of the personality.

This presentation is merely the start of a search for other options, where bio-dimensions will enrich all groups of tutors and teachers, students and decision makers, in their different roles. Life in the future, which we are currently living, will demand a new philosophy of life and a completely new terminology, which will be needed in the new "informatics century," if we are to be more honest in our everyday communication. The gap between people and environment should become much smaller.

After centuries of searching for our identity, we are witnesses to the "miracle" which will be that of the development of humankind within a very short time-period. It is extremely important not to make the same mistakes which, in different cultures, have been made in the past. If humanity is to understand all these things, as elements of a harmonious approach to the bio-environment, or as procedures in bio-diplomacy, then it needs to grow into a more adult society.

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**Jan Morovic** is President of City University Bratislava and Vice Chairman of the Slovak Agricultural Commission. He is also member of the Committee for Planning and Budgeting, the Presidium of the Interparliamentary Union of the Chamber of Peoples and Nations, and the Federal Assembly of the Czech and Slovak Republic. His research focuses on applied cybernetics, computer networking and agricultural modelling. His many publications include Growing Interdependence of the World Food Economy: A 20 Year Perspective, presented at the XIX International Conference of Agricultural Economists, in 1985.

