

The background of the slide features a vibrant, multi-colored powder explosion against a black background. The colors include shades of purple, magenta, green, and yellow, creating a dynamic and energetic visual effect.

# Building Research Support at a Private University in Slovakia - Challenges and Opportunities

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# Slovak Universities – Brief Overview

- 20 public universities – approximately 111 thousand students in 2021
  - Comenius University in Bratislava – 16 262 student
- 3 state universities – 3689 students in 2021
- 10 private universities – approximately 15 thousand students in 2021
  - Pan-European University – 1881 students in 2021 (second largest private university)

# Faculty of Economics and Entrepreneurship

- One of the five faculties of the Pan-European University
- Established in 2004
  - Accredited study programmes in all three levels of university education
- Small faculty
  - 14 full time faculty members and up to 15 part-time collaboratory

# The Publish or perish imperative is valid also in Slovakia

The evaluation of the scientific publications of the faculty members together with the evaluation of the research projects conducted by them plays a key role in the accreditation process

# Available research grant schemes

- National schemes
  - VEGA and KEGA schemes are open to private universities, but the Ministry of Education does not award financial funds to them
  - APVV schemes - open to private universities, but there is a bias against them in the evaluation process of proposed projects
- International schemes
  - GAAA scheme - funding primarily available for the universities of the Prosperita holding (small scale)
  - Erasmus+ scheme - the faculty takes part in several (but primarily not scientific projects)
  - Visegrad Fund - several past successes
  - Horizon Europe - out of reach for the faculty

# Key challenges for building research support

- Size of the faculty
  - Difficult to compose coherent project teams due to the limited number of faculty members with diverse fields of research
- Very limited administrative support
  - Faculty members have to tackle project proposals and project management largely themselves
- Difficulty to find project partners
  - Partial bias against private universities

# Possibilities for improvement of research support

- Establishing a project office on university level
  - Alleviate the administrative pressure on faculty members
  - Administration of ESF projects already on university level
- Improving project cooperation with other faculties at the Pan-European University
  - Faculty of Informatics, Law Faculty, Faculty of Psychology, Faculty of Media
  - First project cooperation with Faculty of Informatics
- Strengthening project cooperation with partner universities in the Prosperita holding
  - Vysoká škola podnikání a práva and Vysoká škola obchodní in Czechia
  - Partnership in Erasmus+ project "Research and teaching case studies as a tool for the transfer of current knowledge from business practice into the academic sphere"
- Expanding the number of full-time faculty members
  - This would improve the chances of meaningful research team building

Thank you for your attention!