

**EUROPEAN UNION GRANTS ADVISOR****Czech University Uses Funds to Improve its Academic Senate**

The academic senate within Brno University of Technology have been able to increase their skills and knowledge of their role, using funds gained from the ESF Enhancing the Education grant.

## **FAST FACTS >>**

---

### **Situation**

Brno University of Technology, in the Czech Republic, has more than 15,000 students and eight faculties. It wanted to define and systematically reinforce the importance of the university's academic senate.

The university conducted a number of surveys to find out the main obstacles hindering the academic senators' growth and potential. Based on the results, it established that a basic skills and knowledge course was needed to educate new members in their roles and responsibilities.

### **Solution**

Following the advice of the local European Union Grants Advisor (EUGA) consultant, a voluntary student organisation at the university prepared and submitted an application to the European Social Fund (ESF).

In June 2006, it was awarded 100 per cent funding from the ESF Enhancing the Education grant. The total cost of the project was €40,000 (U.S.\$51,000). Using the funds, the university is able to rent learning premises, hire internal and external learning specialists, and cover the cost of book and course production. Some of the courses included in the programme are conducted by Microsoft® and Microsoft partners, and if capacity allows, they will be open to the academic public.

### **Benefits**

- Academic senators increase skills and knowledge of role.
- University improves quality of academic autonomy.
- Czech citizens given the opportunity to increase their ICT skills and knowledge.

>> For more information: [www.microsoft.com/emea/euga](http://www.microsoft.com/emea/euga)