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THE HISTORY OF STUDENT RADIO BROADCASTING IN SLOVAKIA AS PART OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE COUNTRY

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Abstract

Slovakia has a rich history of student radio broadcasting. Its origins date back to the 1970s, when radio studios were mainly located in university dormitories. Presenters who have worked or are working in the media environment nowadays in Slovakia have often emerged from these communities. The dormitory radio studios has enriched the culture of academic soil for decades and continues till today. This paper is dedicated to this important topic connected with education but also free time activities, within selected decades, the history of individual student radio studios in Slovakia and describes their activities. It is devoted to mapping of this sphere of culture and cultural heritage of student radio broadcasting in Slovakia. The paper is also based on the analysis of secondary sources and the available recollections of committed individuals, and therefore has particular value within the topic of student broadcasting in Slovakia, as it provides a comprehensive overview of the history of this part of the culture of the selected country.

Key words: radio, students, broadcasting, slovakia.

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The History of Student Broadcasting in Slovakia

Student broadcasting in Slovakia was slow to emerge, starting in the late 1970s. It is closely linked mainly to university dormitory life and volunteering. However, it had its heyday in the 1980s, when it can be assumed that every major university dormitory – student house in Slovakia had a student radio. In the past, small loudspeakers were placed on the walls of each dormitory room to announce important student announcements (this is still the case in some dormitories today). And it was this speaker network that was used by students who came up with the idea of playing music on them to make other students' time more enjoyable (at the time, television was just starting out and small portable radios were rare). *“All you had to do was turn the wheel on the booth, which wasn't missing in any of the rooms, and the fun could begin”* (*Inro – o nás a naša história*). Initially irregular musical blocks, the students began to add the spoken word. Precisely here, we can already speak of a simple radio broadcast. The so-called “IRŠ⁴”, the Dormitory Radio Studios, were born. Of course, there was no such thing as sound graphics or the production of journalistic genres for broadcasting at that time.

The students played the songs from records or tapes and occasionally entered with short spoken words. The listenership of the first dormitory radio studios was high in the early days, within the confines of the dormitory, as it was the first “competitive” media against the state-controlled mass media. *“Even in the pre-revolutionary era, student radio tried to promote freedom of expression through controversial humour and satire.”* (Polačková, 2019)

However, a form of self-censorship was also at work here; no student wanted to lose his place at university. It often happened that the playlist included songs that you wouldn't hear on state radio. The students were a part of the IRŠ because of the friendship, collective and the experiences they gained. They didn't get any money or grades in school for it. The “power” of the IRŠ was soon realised by the Communist Party. Through the SZM⁵, it initiated the creation of the so-called “Radio Centre”, a body linked to the editorial office, which produced an ideological programme

4 From Slovakian – IRŠ – Internátne rozhlasové štúdio.

5 Note: Abbreviation of Socialistický zväz mládeže or in English Soviet Youth Union.

distributed to all student radios. According to their basic idea, they were to broadcast for the inhabitants of student homes in all Slovak university cities. The archival documents mention the establishment of the Radio Centre as follows: *“The unionists count on IRŠ as a non-violent but impressive weapon of their ideological and educational influence on university students. In practice, this means a unified concept and close cooperation of student radio studios scattered all over Slovakia. Not an easy task indeed, but... In order to fulfil it, in November 1971 the Radio Studio of the Municipal Higher Education Council of the SZM in Bratislava was formed into the Radio Centre, a methodological advisor and coordinator of the activities of young “radio students”. Or rather a guide on how to inform and entertain, agitate and educate, how to do better and more interesting things today than yesterday”* (Garayová, 1980, 5-6).

Not all IRŠs had their own premises. Mostly in the early days of the IRŠ, broadcasts were made from dining rooms or even porters’ lodges, where there was access to connect to the so-called “booths” in the rooms. It was only later in the 1980s that the IRŠs began to move into premises converted for broadcasting purposes, within the dormitories, where they were given modern technical equipment at that time. The equipment came mostly from the decommissioned but still modern MONO equipment of the state radio, which was technically transitioning to STEREO broadcasting (*Vysielanie Rádio Slovensko, Nočná pyramída*, 2014). In addition to the usual strict names “IRŠ”, to which was usually added the name of the dormitory, gradually began to create original radio names such as INRO, TLIS, EVA, ŠTUDER, etc. At this time, almost all large dormitories and student homes across Slovakia had their own IRŠ. After the fall of communism, IRŠs often disappeared because the dual broadcasting system brought new, free professional radios (often staffed by former graduates from IRŠs). Also, music was more accessible on MC tapes. Dorms and schools didn’t have the money to upgrade outdated equipment.

However, student radios experienced their renaissance with the advent of the Internet. At the beginning of the millennium, new student radios gradually emerged. However, the word “IRŠ – Internátne Rozhlasové Štúdio” changed its meaning to “Internet Radio of Students” and the word “Radio” started to be used more and more. Some schools have revived their old radios others have emerged as brand new ones in young, newly founded universities. It must be said that the current times are greatly

favoring student radios. Broadcasting technology is much more accessible than it ever was. Even the so-called “booths” – speakers on the walls – are not needed for broadcasting today (many dormitories have removed them as part of renovations). All you need is a computer or a mobile phone. Thanks to the Internet, broadcasting today is not limited to the dormitory area, but can be listened almost anywhere. That is why today we can already talk about Student Radio, because the maturity and content of the broadcast (if the radio has a good organisation of work) is at a high level, comparable to small commercial or regional radio. Some radios were created as a response to spend their free time, others to provide students with a link between theory and practice within the field of mass media.

Student radios are mostly tied to their active students. Therefore, those that have sustained their activities for many years have also built up a good background and programme to pass on their experience. However, even though student broadcasting is about the students, there is always a need for the support of the university in order to be able to function in a dignified and representative manner. The university must support student radio financially. If both these ingredients work – generational exchange of students and support from the University, an university radio can broadcast continuously for many years.

More than 50 years have passed from the first on-campus radio studios to today’s online student radios, and many student radios have been created or disappeared. Although we have analyzed a large number of documents and reached out to several memoirists, new knowledge related to IRŠ continues to emerge. However, we can say with certainty that we have mapped almost all IRŠs operating in Slovakia. In the following timeline we will try to accurately characterize each radio according to their origin and we will also indicate the date of their demise or whether they are still broadcasting today:

Years 1960-1969

- **1967 IRŠ MG** – The student radio had its headquarters in the Mladá Garda dormitories in Bratislava. It started broadcasting on 22 August 1967 (*Rádio TLIS*). We can say that it was one of the first IRŠ in Slovakia. It is not possible to date its end exactly but

it was sometime at the beginning of the millennium. The end of the radio may have also come with the beginning of the big reconstruction of the dormitory, which started in 2003, where they no longer had to count on the possibility of radio broadcasting and removed the necessary cabling. (*The radio no longer exists today*).

- **1968 – IRŠ PU “Ičko”** (University of Prešov) – broadcast initially from the premises of the Student House and Canteen on the street of 17th November 13 (the so-called old dormitory). Later, the broadcasting was moved within the building to other premises, which are still used by the radio today. In 1993, IRŠ PU changed its name to PaF⁶ radio – Radio of Pedagogues and Philosophers. At the turn of the millennium, another change came in the form of digital broadcasting via computer. (Polačková, 2019) (*The radio is still broadcasting today*).
- **1968** – Around the same time in Central Slovakia, at the then University of Forestry and Woodworking in Zvolen (today the Technical University of Zvolen), the IRŠ INRO was founded (the name was created by combining the first syllables of the words: dormitory and radio⁷). It was established in the premises of the former showers on the 3rd floor, today the Old Boarding House of Ľudovít Štúr. At that time, the new radio studio also received new, modern technology. Initially, it was broadcast from “tapes” and LPs, later from cassette tapes, gradually CDs and mp3s came. Over time, the programmes and their content changed, but some of them have remained essentially the same, along with their names, to this day (*O nás, naša história*). (*The radio is still broadcasting today*).
- **1969 IRŠ MD-1** – After the construction of new dormitories in Mlynská dolina, a new IRŠ was added, hence its name MD – Mlynská dolina. The number was added to the name after the individual components of the radio studio were formally separated into MD-1 (the broadcasting studio), MD-2 (the music section) and MD-3 (the recording studio). The IRŠ was located in the dormitory of the Ľudovít Štúr School in Bratislava. In 1981, another,

6 From Slovakian – Rádio Pedagógov a Filozofov, in English Radio of Educators and Philosophers.

7 INRO – intertát, in English dormitory and rozhlas, in English radio.

new radio station, called TLIS, was split off from the radio station. The radio studio operated for 33 years until it closed in 2002 (*News*). (*The radio no longer exists today*).

- **1969** – The first IRŠ, Karavana, is established in Trnava. Although it belonged to STU Bratislava, it was broadcast in the dormitories in Trnava, where the university had a detached Faculty of Materials Technology. *“The beginnings of this radio have been traced thanks to former members, at least since 1969. What we know about the radio is that it went silent several times and then was revived again. However, the last time it was heard from was in 2016. Since then, the radio has not worked.”* (Harnusek, 2020). (*The radio no longer exists today*).

Years 1970-1979

We have not been able to date all of the IRS. Also from the stories of their former members we assume that at this time radios were created in the accommodation facilities of the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, such as the dormitory radio studio **“Šoltéska”** a now defunct dormitory, **“Suvorák”** – now the Dobrovičova dormitory, **“Nešporák”** – now the Svoradov dormitory, **“Rádio Eva”** – at the Nika Beloyanis dormitory. None of the mentioned IRŠs are functioning anymore and do not continue the tradition (MarTa, 2020). In Nitra, the IRŠ Pod Zoborom was established in the dormitory of the Pedagogical Institute, which disappeared in 2014 due to the creation of Rádio Plus, where the commercial sector and student broadcasting were merged.

In 1976 the Družba dormitory was put into use and comprehensively completed in 1981 (Grófová, 2016, 30). We can therefore assume that around this time IRŠ Družba, an amateur university radio at the Družba dormitory of Comenius University, also began broadcasting. Although they had no assigned frequency, their defining characteristic was the invented 13,13 MHz, which was nonsense, but it also appeared in their jingles (IRŠ Družba). The most famous show was *“Stand up, Please”*. Various famous Slovak personalities, stars and starlets of show business, or quickly fermented political leaders appeared in the show at regular intervals. The radio ceased broadcasting in 2003 (Ondrejka, 2007).

- **1971 – Establishment of the Radio Centre.** It was an activity of the Slovak Youth Union. Although it broadcast from the dormitory of the University of Economics, initially this organisation also brought together and methodically coordinated all the IRŠs that were in the four dormitories of Comenius University. The studio, had a Radio Centre at the Horský Park dormitory. They produced shows such as: ALL-ECO-FORUM, STUDIO UNIVERSITY, INTERVIEWS and DIALOGUES. Later, as part of the effort to unite all the IRŠs under the SZM organisation, the show STUDIO UNIVERSITY was distributed by mail on cassettes to all IRŠs all over Slovakia: *“once every two weeks, the show was reproduced on 15 cassette tapes and was broadcast not only in Trnava, Nitra and Martin, but also in Zvolen, Košice and Prešov.”* (Soukup, 1975, 8). We assume that the end for Radiocentre came after the coup, when it lost its justification, in 1989. *(The radio no longer exists today).*
- **1971 –** This year, a student radio station is also being established in the capital of the Eastern part of Slovakia, in Košice. The original IRŠ broadcast from the premises of the Božena Němcová dormitories. In 1985, the radio moved to new premises at dormitories Jedlíkova 9, where it is still located today. The change was not only spatial, but from that year onwards the name **ŠTUDER** was used (partly as an abbreviation of the student radio, but it was based on the fact that the radio had all the equipment of the STUDER brand). Radio “ŠTUDER” was at a high level also technically, thanks to the Radio Studio Košice, which provided the necessary equipment. The situation improved after 1989, when the period of censorship and pressure ended. In 1999 the name was changed again and the radio “ŠTUDER” became **“Rádio 9”**. The radio premises underwent a gradual renovation, which created a professional radio environment (Lučanská, 2016, 16). *(The radio is still broadcasting today).*
- **1972 –** From this year we obtained the first documented mention of the **IRŠ Bernolák**, which was established in the dormitory of Juraj Hronec at Bernolákova Street no. 1. The radio originally broadcast from the telephone exchange of the boarding school. Later, the students themselves built a new studio, which was

equipped with modern technology. Initially, they also cooperated with the MJF (small stage forms) theatre at the boarding school.⁸ The radio, like others, probably disappeared after the revolution in 1989.

- **1974** – In Žilina, at today’s University of Žilina, the **RAPEŠ** radio studio is established, which starts broadcasting in the student dormitory – ŠD Na hlinách. The first call was made on 18th February 1974. It was named after its founder, the Czech student Milan Pešava – Radio Pešava – RAPEŠ. Later on, Radio RAPEŠ had its own second circuit at another dormitory (the second independent radio under the name RAPEŠ, which broadcast in student dormitory – ŠD Veľký diel in Žilina since 1987). Its studios have undergone several reconstructions. (*The radio is still broadcasting today*).
- **1975** – From this year comes the first mention of radios, for which we did not get further information. These IRŠ, however, from the context of the quoted article, were certainly operating before 1975. These include: the IRŠ at the student dorms – ŠD of the Jessenius Medical Faculty in Martin, at the ŠD of Lafranconi, at the ŠD of Suvorovova (now Dobrovičova) (Soukup, 1975, 8).
- **1977** – **IRŠ Mladosť** began its regular broadcasts as early as 1977. With music and the spoken word, it made the evenings of the residents of the student residences more pleasant. IRŠ Mladosť was a radio studio at the SPU Youth dormitory in Nitra. “*The radio also ceased to exist due to lack of interest from students and the school in 2017.*” (Siman, 2020). (*The radio no longer exists today*).

Years 1980-1989

- **1981** – In that year, exactly on 1st September, 1981, a new radio station was split off from MD-1 Rádio and broadcast at the Mladosť dormitory under the name **TLIS**. As the radio operated in Mlynská dolina, the largest dormitory town in Slovakia, the name simply means “*Thousand Bed Dormitory Building*”.⁹ By

8 Note: Club of the All-School Committee of the SZM SVŠT. 1972, J. Hroncu Dormitory, Bratislava.

9 Note of the authors: From Slovakian – Tisíc lôžková internátna stavba – TLIS.

broadcasting banned Western music and presenting a relaxed culture, the young radio quickly found supporters among the students and, conversely, enemies on the side of the incumbent communist regime. With the advent of new technologies, however, TLIS switched to Internet technology in 2000 and began streaming its broadcasts on the Internet. From TLIS came the people who were involved in the creation of Fun Rádio, Rádio Ragtime, Rádio Expres and Rádio Twist. Others have had successful careers as presenters and announcers. In addition, one of the first independent alternative music labels in the then Czechoslovakia, Zoon Records, was based in the premises of TLIS in 1991-1993 (*Rádio TLIS*). (*The radio is still broadcasting today*).

- **1989 – Rádio Univerzita** was created at the opening of the new dormitory on Medická Street. Several alumni who were no longer studying came up with the idea to create a radio for students. They bought the equipment with their own money and operated under the banner of the dormitory. In 2000, however, there were several conflicts between the management of the dormitory and the members of the radio due to non-compliance with the accommodation regulations. As a result of the fact that the radio members were no longer students, they were banned from continuing by the dormitory management. There remained a long 5 year silence because the original owners of the equipment were stubborn and did not want to sell it to the school. Later there was even a cleaners warehouse on the radio area. In 2004, there were new students who came up with the idea to rebuild the radio. The boarding school bought them new equipment and this time the radio really belonged to the school. The new radio ŠtuRKO was created (Kolárová, 2020). (*The radio no longer exists today*).

Years 1990-1999

- **1990** – It is also worth mentioning **Fun rádio**, which is not a typical student radio, but it was born by people working in the IRŠ and academic environment. ‘Funko’ was created as a small post-communist miracle. It was born by students, people like

Zuzana Mistríková, one of the leaders of the student movement, and her French teacher at the time, Milan Králik, who is still working in the radio today. Thanks to contacts at the French Embassy and great enthusiasm, the radio was able to start broadcasting shortly after the Velvet Revolution. It first came on the air on 10 June 1990 and the first voices belonged to students Dáša Čuríková and Ludovít Jakubove, alias Mravec. In the early days, Fun rádio could only be listened to in Bratislava and parts of western Slovakia from the 94,3 MHz frequency. Most of the day, the airwaves were in French. Only four hours a day were broadcast from Bratislava. Gradually, however, the proportion of Slovak on the air rose. In 1994, Fun rádio extended its coverage to Banská Bystrica (104,0 MHz) and Košice (102,9 MHz). Three years later, 'Funko' acquired the 99,2 MHz frequencies at Križava for northern Slovakia and 87,7 MHz from Dubník for eastern Slovakia (*Fun Rádio – priekopník súkromného vysielania na Slovensku*). (*The radio is still broadcasting today*).

Years 2000-2009

- **2006** – Radio **ŠtuRKO** starts its broadcasting. It is a student radio operating at the Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice, which was founded on the basis of Rádio Univerzita. It has been broadcasting in its current form since 2006. The broadcasting and recording studio is located in the university dormitories at Medická 6. ŠtuRKO's mission is to develop the linguistic, communication, technical and creative skills of the university students and has already educated the most energetic professional. There are currently 22 members of the radio, but this number changes frequently, as Student Rádio Košice organises a casting at the beginning of each semester. It is open to students from all faculties, regardless of their major (*Študentský rozhlas Košice (ŠtuRKO)*). (*The radio is still broadcasting today*).

Years 2010-2019

- **2010** – The creation of the new student radio in Žilina is related to the IRŠ RAPEŠ. In 2009, IRŠ RAPEŠ Veľký diel separated from IRŠ RAPEŠ Hliny and started to perform under the new brand **Rádio X**. The official launch of Rádio X was on 5th October 2010. Rádio X is a dormitory radio studio (IRŠ), it is a medium operating on the premises of the University of Žilina in Žilina, located in the Veľký diel dormitories, in the basement of Block E. In the first year of its operation, Rádio X has grown to a total of eight broadcasting circuits. In addition to the main broadcasting circuit, there are also 7 genre-oriented circuits: Dance X, Alternative X, Metal X, DNB X, Chillout, Folklore X and Oldies X (*O rádiu X*). (*The radio is still broadcasting today*).
- **2011 – PULZ rádio** is a radio studio of the Catholic University in Ružomberok, which is an independent, non-political, voluntary, non-profit and informational-cultural facility of the University, contributing through its activities to the information and satisfaction of the cultural needs of its students.¹⁰ The radio is housed in a modern library building. For almost 10 years it had a period when it was not broadcasting but now it is coming back to life. It is mainly staffed by students from the Department of Journalism. (*The radio is still broadcasting today*).
- **2011** – At the Faculty of Mass Media Communication of the University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava, a new student radio, **Rádio Aetter**, is being created. The project is unique in that it was founded by the students themselves. The school supported this idea and came out to meet us with everything. And so, on 28th February 2011, another student internet radio was launched. The radio now has two fully digital studios and a sophisticated broadcasting technology system. The advantage is that it operates at the Faculty of Mass Media, where students come who are also interested in real, outside school work in the media and therefore encounter theoretical knowledge at school, which they can later apply, for example, in radio broadcasting. In 2019, the radio

¹⁰ Pulz Rádio. URL: <http://pulzradio.ku.sk> <https://aetter.sk/o-nas/> [accessed: 27th May 20220]

acquired its own frequency 107,2 FM for the city of Trnava and the surrounding area.¹¹ (*The radio is still broadcasting today*).

- **2014** – University **Rádio Plus** is a part of the Media Centre of the Faculty of Arts, University of Constantine the Philosopher in Nitra. It has been broadcasting since 1st July 2014 on 105,9 FM frequency in addition to the Internet and its preparation is mainly done by students of journalism, marketing communication, but also other fields of study under the guidance of teachers and people from practice. The project has been developed with significant private sector assistance and applies systems that are used in most opinion-forming media, including public service media. Rádio Plus is the first local radio station for Nitra with a regional outreach that focuses on the city and provides its listeners with mainly up-to-date information.¹² It was not purely student radio. It was a mix of private business with the possibility of gaining work experience for students on a contract basis. (*The radio stopped broadcasting in 2021* (Cunevová, 2021)).
- **2014** – **Rádio Like** was the radio of the Pan-European College. It didn't work like a regular student radio on the online stream, but it prepared its broadcasts in a block, today we could define it – in the form of a podcast. Here again it was showed how fragile student radios can be in relation to enthusiastic students. The radio produced its programme for only 3 academic years (MediaHub, 2016). The last broadcast was available on 16th June 2017. Since that date, no further transmissions have been received. (*The radio no longer exists*).
- **2015** – Student **Rádio TrenchTown** was an internet student radio of the University of Trenčín. It was active on the campus of the university only for a very short time from 5th May 2015 until the end of the academic year 2018. It was an independent medium that contributed to the information and education function, mainly for students and staff during the winter and summer semesters of the academic year. The members of the student radio

11 Rádio Aetter. O nás. URL: <https://aetter.sk/o-nas/> <https://aetter.sk/o-nas/> [accessed: 29th May 2022]

12 Note of the authors: The original page of the Rádio Plus has changed. URL: <http://www.radioplus.sk> [accessed: 7th May 2020]

could be students of the University of Trenčín Alexander Dubček, who could develop their personal and professional growth prerequisites through their activity in the radio and provide the preparation and moderation of the programmes, the technical aspect of the broadcast itself and the music dramaturgy (*Radio, TN UNI*). Even though the radio is no longer broadcasting today it had a quality studio, which may in time attract new enthusiasts and revive its broadcasts again. (*The radio no longer exists today*).

Summary of Student Radios

The search for all, especially the defunct IRŠ radios, has been difficult. Much of the material has not survived. Nevertheless, mainly by contacting former members, we have also compiled a table of all the IRŠs we have found. In the table we can find, besides the name, the location of the IRŠ, under which university it belonged and also its current state of activity.

Figure 1. Timeline of the emergence of student radios.

NAME OF IRŠ	HEADQUARTERS	UNIVERSITY	STATUS
BRATISLAVA			
Družba	Student dormitory – ŠD Družba, Bratislava	Comenius University in Bratislava	<i>Not broadcasting</i>
IRŠ MD-1	Student dormitory – ŠD Mlynská dolina, Bratislava	Comenius University in Bratislava	<i>Not broadcasting</i>
Lafranconi	Student dormitory – ŠD Lafranconi, Bratislava	Comenius University in Bratislava	<i>Not broadcasting</i>
TLIS	Student dormitory – ŠD Mladost', Blok B4, Staré Grunty 53, Bratislava	Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava	<i>Broadcasts online</i>
Bernolák	Student dormitory – ŠD Juraja Hronca, na Bernolákovej ulici 1, Bratislava	Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava	<i>Not broadcasting</i>
MG	Dormitory – Internát Mladá Garda, Bratislava	Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava	<i>Not broadcasting</i>

Suvorovova	Student dormitory – ŠD Dobrovičova, Bratislava	Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava	<i>Not broadcasting</i>
Nešporák	Today Student dormitory – ŠD Svoradov, Bratislava	Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava	<i>Not broadcasting</i>
Šoltéska	Student dormitory – ŠD na Šoltésovej ulici (does not exist anymore)	Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava	<i>Not broadcasting</i>
Rádio Eva	Student dormitory – ŠD Nikosa Belojanisa, Bratislava	Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava	<i>Not broadcasting</i>
Rádiocentrum	Student dormitory – ŠD Horský park, Bratislava	University of Economics in Bratislava	<i>Not broadcasting</i>
Rádio Like	Building of the faculty – Tomášikova 150, Bratislava	Pan-European College in Bratislava	Not broadcasting
TRNAVA			
Rádio Aetter	Building of the faculty – Skladová 4, Trnava	Faculty of Mass Media Communication, University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava	<i>Broadcasts online and on the frequency 107,2 FM for the city of Trnava and the surrounding area</i>
Karavana	Student dormitory – ŠD Milana Uhra, Jána Bottu 7455, Trnava	Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Faculty of Materials and Technology	<i>Not broadcasting</i>
NITRA			
Rádio Plus	Boženy Slančíkovej 1, Nitra	University of Constantine the Philosopher in Nitra	<i>Not broadcasting</i>
Pod Zoborom	Student dormitory – ŠD Zobor, Nitra	University of Constantine the Philosopher in Nitra	<i>Not broadcasting</i>
Mladost'	Student dormitory – ŠD Mladost', Štúrova ulica 3, room no. 503, Nitra	Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra	<i>Not broadcasting</i>
TRENČÍN			
TrenchTown	Building of the university – Študentská 2, Trenčín	Trenčín Alexander Dubček University in Trenčín	<i>Not broadcasting</i>
MARTIN			
IRŠ Lekárov	Student dormitory – ŠD Jesseniovej lekárskej fakulty, Martin	Comenius University in Bratislava	<i>Not broadcasting</i>

ZVOLEN			
INRO	Old dormitory – Ľudovíta Štúra, Block C, 3rd floor, Zvolen	Technical University of Zvolen	<i>Broadcasts online</i>
ŽILINA			
Rapeš	Dormitories Na Hlinách, Block X, Hlinská street, Žilina	University of Žilina in Žilina	<i>Broadcasts online and on campus</i>
Rádio X	Dormitories Veľký Diel, basement, Block E, Vysokoškolákov 20, Žilina	University of Žilina in Žilina	<i>Broadcasts online and on campus</i>
RUŽOMBEROK			
PULZ rádio	Library of Catholic University, Faculty of Arts, Hrabovská cesta 1, Ružomberok	Catholic University of Ružomberok	<i>Broadcasts online</i>
PREŠOV			
Ičko (PaF)	Student dormitory – ŠD on the street 17th November, Prešov	University of Prešov in Prešov	<i>Broadcasts online and on campus</i>
KOŠICE			
Rádio Univerzita	Student dormitory – ŠD Medická 6, Medická 6, Košice	Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice	<i>Not broadcasting</i>
ŠtuRko	Student dormitory – ŠD Medická 6, Blok B, door no. 48, Medická 6, Košice	Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice	<i>Broadcasts online and on campus</i>
Rádio 9	Student dormitory – ŠD Jedlíková 9, Block A, Košice	Technical University of Košice	<i>Broadcasts online and on campus</i>

Source: own processing, 2021.

Currently (in 2022), only 9 student radios are active. Although Bratislava was initially the main centre of the IRŠs and still has the largest number of dormitories and students, today only one student radio – TLIS – broadcasts from Bratislava. The strong cities with student radios are currently Žilina (2 radios) and Košice (2 radios). In addition, there are also radio stations in Prešov, Ružomberok, Trnava and Zvolen. The students who

create content in the student radios meet at least once a year at a show and competition of university radios, *Rádio Rallye*.

Student Radio Competition

In the 1980s, with the rapid development of non-professional art and amateur radio, the Outreach Institute also took over the care of disc jockeys and phonographers (so-called sound hunters) and became the organizer of the nationwide competitions Diskorama, Štúdiorama and Fonorallye, which gradually became the *Amateur Sound Recording Competition (Noc tvorivosti)*. The contest ended in the 1990s after the massive demise of student radio.

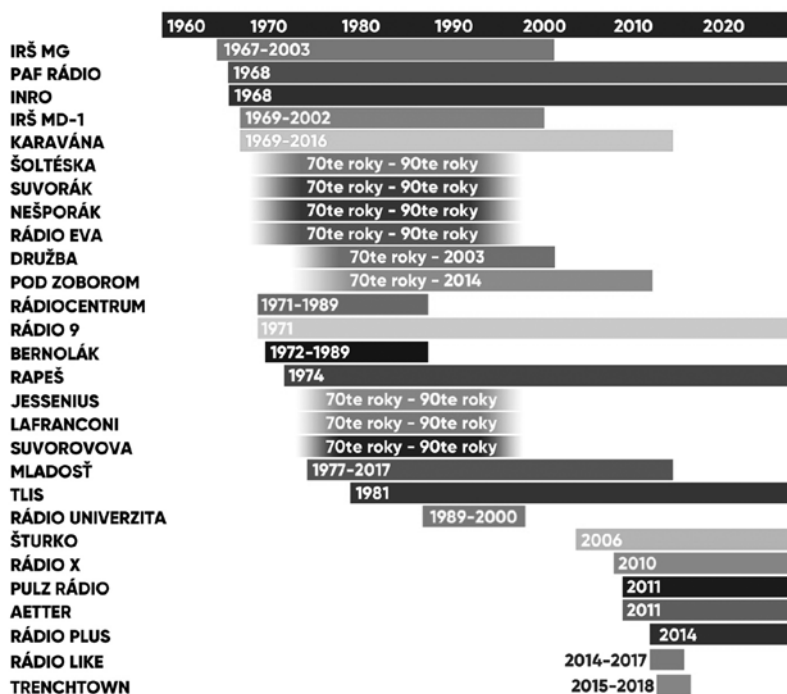


Image 1. Timeline of the emergence of student radios.

Source: own processing, 2021.

In 2005 it was revived. Luboš Kasala¹³ got the idea to revive the competition of IRŠ. He found some radios on the Internet, phoned others and they met in Žilina, where they said they were going to organize a competition, which was named *Rádiorallye*¹⁴. The first edition of this contest was hosted by Rádio 9 from Košice. Every year the contest is organized by a different radio. The *Rádiorallye* competition thus followed the former nationwide meetings of residential radios under the name Amateur Sound Recording, which in the eighties and nineties were organised by the former Slovak Audiovisual Club under the auspices of the *National Enlightenment Centre and the Slovak Radio in Bratislava* (Jurčo, 2014, 31).

Conclusion

Student radio is mainly about education and students should try everything in it to know what their strengths and weaknesses are. Every student radio should try to give sufficient feedback to the student. A student is best improved by his own practice, in practical activities he or she acquires and improves his or her skills. The technical side of the student radio studio also plays an important role in the learning process. Every student radio should work with modern technology, which students may also come into contact with in commercial or public service radio. Nowadays, the working model or the position of presenter = technician is preferred in radios. In the past, a technician was also present in the studio to mix the music and other musical components in the broadcasting. The presenter just read the pre-prepared text for the broadcast. Today, however, these functions have been merged into one and the presenter is also the technician. Such demands of the practice thus place higher demands on the presenter and on his or her ability to multitask, as he or she has to deal with the mixing desk, music and sound in parallel, in addition to reading the text. Even in today's university system, it is a good idea to build student radio stations that act as a community medium in the environment in which they exist and also serve as a means of improving students' preparedness for the demands of practice. Student broadcasting has had its own character,

13 Note: Luboš Kasala was a former member of IRŠ Rapeš.

14 Note of the authors: In 2017, 150 radio amateurs participated in the contest, with 198 contest entries and 10 hours of radio production.

characteristics and significance since the 1950s, since when it has formed the colour of radio broadcasting in Slovakia and the experience has been passed on to generations of students, and for this reason in particular it is part of the national cultural heritage. A strong generation of student radio presenters remains in the media space in Slovakia to this day. In 1987, Slovak presenter Julo Viršík started broadcasting in IRŠ Mlynská dolina. He remembered that period as that there were more student radios in those times. There was a large group of people coming together from that period when he was doing it and who are still working in radio today or have left a significant mark on it (Hudec, 2021). Although the dormitory radio studios focused primarily on radio production and broadcasting, their public activities within the framework of university life in the student house took other forms over time, which eventually resulted in inherent traditions. One of these was the sounding of various public events on the campus (Sámelová, 2019, 61). Student radio broadcasting both educates and provides for future generations of media and radio workers who are the bearers of the idea and culture of words, music or traditions. It is proof that students also have the opportunity to activate and realize themselves in leisure activities that are linked to the cultivation of their generation. And this is the reason why we can consider the Dormitory Radio Studios as part of the national cultural heritage.

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