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## **Programme uncovers Czech university teachers' plagiarism - press**

Prague, July 28 (CTK) - Masaryk University in Brno is developing a computer programme that will uncover plagiarism among university teachers who have copied their publications or habilitation theses from someone else, daily Hospodarske noviny (HN) writes today.

If uncovered, the teachers would be brought to the ethical commission. In the extreme case they might be forced to leave the school as those who spoil its good name, HN writes.

"We want the works of teachers to whom the same rules apply as to students to be controlled. The system compares particular quotations and passages and it can say to what extent the work is identical with another one," HN quotes Jitka Brandejsova, from the university's research team, as saying.

The teachers do not have to be afraid of losing their degree, however, HN writes.

"Titles are not returned in this country, extreme cases are dealt with by court. The school cannot strip the teacher of the title even though it should have the right," Vaclav Paces, Czech Academy of Sciences chairman, is quoted as saying.

Several cases of university teachers copying from foreign literature without mentioning the source have been uncovered in the Czech Republic.

In one of the famous cases, West Bohemian University Professor Ivo Budil was accused last year of copying from Canadian Professor David Scheffel.

Masaryk University has also prepared a similar programme that uncovers plagiarism among students, HN writes.

It says it has been applied for more than two months at 17 public universities, and two private schools have just started to use it.

More than one million documents, such as bachelor works and dissertations as well as various papers and other expert publications are stored in the electronic system now, HN writes.

The virtual archive to which the Education Ministry has contributed ten million crowns, compares texts in Czech, English, Slovak, German and French, but it is not capable of comparing foreign student works with the Czech ones, HN writes.

It says it is easier to uncover cheating in the humanities.

The number of students punished for plagiarism has been rising. Recently, the university in Zlin, south Moravia, expelled two students who copied their dissertations, HN writes.