WORLD-CLASS SCIENCE WITH CZECH ROOTS
Hundreds of talented Czech scientists live abroad and leverage their knowledge and experience for innovative research.

However, living and working abroad tend to result in the loss of contact with the scientific community in the Czech Republic, loss of opportunities to share and collaborate with scientists in the Czech Republic and, last but not least, difficulties in returning to the Czech Republic. We are convinced that the current situation is disadvantageous for Czech science and scientists.

The initiative Czexpats in Science was founded in 2018 to connect Czech scientists abroad with scientists and institutions in the Czech Republic. We foster long-term partnerships and the exchange of information, aiming to support world-class science in the Czech Republic.
We aim to

• **create a network** of Czech scientist abroad and **connect** them with scientists and research institutions in the Czech Republic,

• **help** scientists working abroad in navigating the Czech scientific landscape and developing a career in the Czech Republic,

• **give the opportunity** to Czech scientists living abroad to influence and inspire science in the Czech Republic,

• **support** mobility of Czech scientists by sharing information and experience.
Christmas conference

A unique meeting of Czech scientific expats in Prague, just before Christmas. The Conference is open to anyone interested. The 2018 event focused on (re)building a scientific career in the Czech Republic. At this year's conference, we will discuss different career opportunities in Czech academia and industry.

Local Czexpats' meetings

We support the development of Czech scientific communities abroad. So far, Czexpats in Science organized meetings in Dresden, Seattle, Helsinki, and other places. We collaborate with Czech embassies.

Re-pats' meeting

We plan to launch meetings of scientists who have returned to the Czech Republic from abroad. A network of “re-pats“ will be helpful for others who would like to come back to CZ. Moreover, drawing on experience from other countries and sharing this can help to improve Czech science and the academic environment.
How to choose a doctoral or a postdoctoral position abroad? What should one expect and prepare for? How to write a CV and motivation letter? What does the interview look like?

These and similar questions are answered during our workshops for Masters’ and PhD students. The workshops are offered to Czech universities. The first postdoc workshop will take place in December 2019 at our Christmas Conference.
In collaboration with the Czech startup Mapotic we have developed an interactive map of Czech scientific expats. Currently the map contains over 270 scientists who work(ed) in a total of 38 different countries. The map is a unique source of information and contacts for Czech scientists planning to venture abroad, for those planning to return to the Czech Republic, or for others such as journalists and governmental institutions. For example, we were recently contacted by the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who were interested in the whereabouts of Czech scientific expats.
our projects

Blog
We publish blog entries about different aspects of the life of a scientist abroad and upon return to the Czech Republic. We try to catch a broad range of experience and points of view. Our blogs are re-published by the popular portal vedavyzkum.cz.

Networking
We inform about the issues of Czech scientific expats and advocate for them. We were invited to the National round table for science policy, to CZEDUCON (forum for the internalization of higher education institutions), and we presented to the Czech Senate delegation in Finland. We are in close contact with scientific institutions and universities.

communication

Science outreach
Many Czech scientists work at top-notch institutes and universities around the world and publish their work in the most prestigious scientific journals. Unfortunately, stories of their successes hardly ever reach the audience and media in the Czech Republic. We aim to improve this by publishing short articles about important discoveries of Czech scientists working abroad.

@Czexpats_papers
Our twitterbot @Czexpats_papers tweets the newest publications of senior Czech scientists working abroad.
Sociological research

Who are the Czech scientists abroad? Which fields do they work in and in which positions? What led them to pursue scientific careers abroad? What do they most appreciate about their current workplace? Do they wish to stay in contact with the Czech academic environment and to collaborate with scientists in the Czech Republic? If yes, how?

Are these scientists considering to come back to the Czech Republic? Which forces are pulling them back? What is preventing their return? What would make the return easier? What kind of issues are faced by those who managed to return to the Czech Republic? What advantages do they see compared to other places? What motivated their return?

Answers to these and similar questions are currently unknown. Therefore, we are planning sociological research among the Czech scientific diaspora and ‘repatriated’ scientists. The results of this research will serve as guidance not only for future activities of the Czexpats in Science initiative, but hopefully also for scientific and governmental institutions. The report could represent a unique source of information for setting up programs aiming to aid the return of talented Czech scientists, and in general for scientific policymaking and improving the Czech academic environment.
Vlaďka Petráková, Markéta Kubánková and Anna Stejskalová are alumni of Czech Technical University in Prague. All three of them decided to pursue a scientific career abroad. A few years later they started considering a return to the Czech Republic but found out that they had lost important contacts and insight into how things function in the Czech academic landscape. They realized that many of their colleagues face the same issue and that such an enclosed scientific environment is bound to negatively influence the quality of research in the Czech Republic.

Thus, in 2018, they founded the initiative Czexpats in Science. Together they lead the team of volunteers and determine the direction and main activities of the initiative, alongside their full-time scientific careers.
The major projects of Czexpats in Science are always the result of teamwork. On top of that, each member has a specific role and tasks within the team.
Prof. Jiří Friml, group leader, IST Austria, Austria
“I really like your initiative. Science is an international and collective endeavour to understand the world and has no borders. I know many Czech colleagues who do fantastic work abroad and thus do great publicity for our country. It is therefore important that people at home know about them. So thank you very much for what you are doing!”

Dr. Pavel Tomančák, group leader, Max Planck Institute, Dresden, Germany
“Czechs are a nation proud of their sportsmen, artists, and other personalities with international breakthroughs. It is little known that science works a lot like professional sports and that many important scientists with Czech roots "play" for world-leading science institutions. Instead of hat-tricks, they score publications in prestigious journals, and instead of millions, they are rewarded by unravelling the secrets of nature. The initiative Czexpats in Science is a great attempt to promote Czech scientific Jágrs and Čechs to the public. I have my fingers crossed for you. It will definitely contribute to the development of Czech science, because it is well known that both leading sportsmen and scientists like to come back home.”

Monika Vondráková, chair of the Board of directors, Neuron endowment fund, Czech Republic
“In the Neuron fund we try to support young scientists who decide to come back to the Czech Republic. We welcome the Czexpats initiative, it is becoming a well organised platform for our successful scientists abroad, and we thank them for that.”

Dr. Hana Dvořáková, University of Chemistry and Technology, benefactor of science, Experientia Foundation, Czech Republic
“The main mission of Czexpats in Science, connecting Czech scientists abroad with Czech institutions and facilitating their return, is in agreement with our values.”

Dr. Martin Bunček, director of the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic, Prague, Czech Republic
“I first noticed the activity of Czexpats on social networks and I was really enthused. I think that activities like this are very beneficial for the Czech academic environment, where the so-called “inbreeding” prevails. Fresh opinions of people with international experience have the potential to disrupt the often false mutual assertion of the excellence and exceptionality within the Czech environment. At the same time, these activities prove the global aspect of science, diverse Czech qualities, and also provide feedback on the functioning of the Czech academic environment.”

Embassy of the Czech Republic in Helsinki, Finland
“We consider the formation of the Czexpats initiative, and especially of the map of Czech scientists abroad, as very positive. One of the many tasks of the diplomatic missions is to help the development of the relations between Czech and Finnish entities and to keep in touch with compatriots. The initiative Czexpats in Science is greatly resourceful for both these missions.”
Czexpats in Science in the media

RESPEKT

VĚDA BEZ HRANIC

Mladí čeští vědci a vědčaté odchází velmi často po školu na zkušenou do zahraničí, někteří i natrvalo. Kolik jich ale je i jinde ponechali, nikdo přesně novi. „Tmavé strany měla změnit nové vrzky platforma Czexpats in Science,“ říká jedna ze zakladatelův a projektového manažerky.

HOSPODÁŘSKÉ NOVINY

Vydali se za výzkumem do světa, aby si rozšířili obzory a získali zkušenosti, které doma „za peči“ nenajdou. A někteří se vrací.

vesmír

Pomoc českým vědcům v zahraničí

Mladí čeští vědci a vědčate se často dostávají do situace, kdy se mají promítat nejen v zahraničí, ale i jako pracovníci nebo zaměstnanci. Czexpats in Science podporuje takové situace přesně.

GMO: Novim, že nic nevin

„VČE“ vtipnou směšnost se svědčí o zjevně nedostatečném povědomí mnoha českých obyvatel o tom, jaké jsou rizikové faktory příslušných technologií. Czexpats in Science má za cíl zvýšit takové povědomí v Česku.“
We are not alone!

Financial support

Cooperating institutions

Media partner

We are looking for new donors and partners. If you are interested in supporting the activities of Czexpats in Science, contact us!