

2021 Annual Report

Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem

UJEP
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**University
management**

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Annual Report of Jan Evangelista Purkyně University

Introduction

Introducing UJEP

Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem (UJEP) is a public university established in 1991 and continuing the tradition of higher education in the Northwest Czechia. The university bears the name of the world-famous scientist Jan Evangelista Purkyně (1787–1869), and further develops his legacy. At present, the university has eight faculties covering a wide range of fields of research, creative activity and education.

Our 2030 vision is defined by the Strategic Plan of UJEP: Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem comprises a diverse community of students and employees, a strong, constructive and respected institution, creating stable international ties, with clearly defined excellent interdisciplinary scientific research and artistic directions.

Our mission is to fulfil the role of the central scientific, research, artistic, and educational institution of the Ústí Region and the role of an important actor and partner for other entities in socio-economic relations at the regional, national, and international levels. In achieving its strategic development goals, we honour our social mission – to be an active carrier and promoter of education, and of moral and social values.

Our values are:

- **Freedom of research, creativity, and expression**
- **Integrity and credibility**
- **Inclusivity and social relevance**
- **Sustainability and social responsibility**



Opening words

Dear friends of UJEP,

The year 2021 was a period of resilience, transformation, and growth for our university. Despite the ongoing challenges posed by the pandemic, the university successfully maintained its commitment to excellence in education, research, and community engagement. With nearly 8,000 students enrolled across eight faculties, UJEP continued to foster an inclusive and dynamic academic environment, supporting both Czech and international students. The expansion of accredited study programs, including new opportunities for international collaboration, underscored our dedication to academic innovation. In research and development, UJEP secured significant funding for projects, including 130 million CZK for scientific research and 638 million CZK from the European Union, further solidifying its role as a hub for cutting-edge knowledge creation.

Beyond academic achievements, 2021 saw UJEP strengthen its commitment to social responsibility and sustainability. The university advanced its participation in the Just Transition Fund, prepared new strategies for energy efficiency in response to the global energy crisis, and reinforced its role as a key regional partner in sustainable development. Student and staff mobility programs resumed, enriching the university's international footprint. The university also expanded its support for students with specific needs, mental health services, and career counseling, ensuring a well-rounded and supportive learning environment. These milestones, along with ongoing infrastructure modernization and financial stability, reflect UJEP's unwavering mission: to be a forward-looking institution that fosters knowledge, innovation, and social responsibility in the Ústí Region and beyond.

Author

Martin Balej – Rector of UJEP

Year 2021 in figures

7 887 students

	Bachelor's	Master's	Ph.D.
M	2 069	440	147
F	3 591	945	133

International students

268	International students
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Full-time study programmes

	Number
Bachelor's	85
Long Master's	3
Master's	69
Ph.D.	27

Foreign language study programmes

5	Full-time programmes	3	Part-time programmes
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Graduates

1150	Graduates	27/73	M/F ratio
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Lifelong learning programmes:

161	Lifelong learning programmes
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Academic staff (normalised numbers)

	Number
M	413
F	260
Sum	673

Students and staff in international mobility programmes

178	Student mobilities	130	Staff mobilities
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Budget balance sheet

	Contributions and subsidies	Own revenue
2017	627	169
2018	765	231
2019	839	283
2020	817	203
2021	850	229

Research & development funding:

130 mil. CZK

European Union funding:

638 mil. CZK



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Key activities & achievements

Study

The entrance exams, their course and the way of admission were affected by the difficult epidemic situation. They were held only at five faculties (FSI, FUD, FF, PF, PŘF), other faculties did not hold entrance examinations (FSE, FZS, FŽP). The entrance examinations were mainly provided from own sources, in the form of subject tests, at three faculties (in selected study programmes) supplemented by a talent entrance examination (FUD, PF, PŘF) or in the form of an oral motivational interview (FUD, FF, PF, PŘF) or a letter in the form of a structured portfolio (FUD, PF, PŘF). Applicants were admitted to some study programmes on the basis of the ranking determined by the average of their matriculation marks or marks in selected subjects, or by their results in the state final examination (FSI, FZS, FŽP, PF). One faculty (PF) used an external supplier (SCIO). The entrance exam here consisted of the General Aptitude Test (basic version). In 2021, the online environment has become an important tool for communication with secondary schools.

As of 31 December 2021, UJEP had a total of 308 study programmes accredited or approved on the basis of institutional accreditation, including 8 study programmes in a foreign language. As a double degree study programme, the follow-up Master's programme in Philology with the field of study German Philology in the Czech-German Intercultural Context and the follow-up Master's programme Intercultural German Studies in the Czech-German Context were implemented. Both of these programmes are accredited by the Faculty of Arts and are implemented on the basis of an inter-university agreement with the University of Bayreuth.

The learning outcomes methodology was used to describe all bachelor's and master's degree programmes, with the exception of programmes accredited for completion only. In total, there were 221 study programmes at UJEP, of which 32 were accredited or approved on the basis of institutional accreditation in 2021.

Contact with alumni takes place at the university level through the Association of Alumni and Friends of UJEP in Ústí nad Labem (further intensively developed in 2021, alumni are invited to events organised by the university) and through various alumni networks operating at individual faculties or departments. The main aim of the associations is to stay in contact with the university alumni, to keep them in touch by offering them participation in various cultural, sporting or scientific events within the university, and on the other hand to use their professional and social potential in their further development. Due to the pandemic of the covid-19 disease, a joint alumni meeting could not take place in 2021. This year, the professional social network LinkedIn and the UJEP website <https://klubabsolventu.cz/> were also used. Successful alumni were used as the faces of the publication #myjsmeujep and the website pribehuujep.cz.

A specific contact platform is the scientific societies whose branches operate at some of the University's departments, and some graduates are thus associated with the University (the Union of Czech Mathematicians and Physicists, the Czech Geographical Society, the Czech Association of Educational Research, etc.).

Support to students

In 2021, the UJEP Counseling Centre provided services through four specialised counseling centres: The University Support Centre for Students with Special Needs, which provided various forms of assistance and support to disabled students; the Special Education Counseling Centre, which carried out diagnostics and prepared assessments for modification of study conditions; the Psychological Counseling Centre, which addressed students' adaptation and personal problems (with a significant increase in demand during the covid-19 pandemic); and the Career Counseling Centre, which facilitated job opportunities, but due to low unemployment experienced little interest from students.

UJEP has its own methodology for supporting applicants and students with specific needs, and the identification of these students begins when filling out the application form, where applicants can request that their needs be taken into account. The UJEP Counseling Centre will then contact these applicants and offer them specific support during the admission procedure and during their studies. Students with sensory disabilities are provided with standardised service arrangements from both professional service providers and fellow students. The University also provides disabled access to buildings and classrooms, with a map of disabled access available on the Centre's website. In 2021, training for UJEP staff in working with students with specific needs was ongoing, including courses in sign language and practical special education. To raise awareness, the promotion of the Centre's activities was also strengthened, including the production of a promotional video and the publication of an information leaflet also in Braille.

In 2021, gifted students were supported at the university level through the Rector's Awards and student grants under the supervision of the UJEP Grant Board. The faculties then implemented their own support activities in the form of Dean's Awards, faculty student grants and involvement of students in research projects. Students were also sent to foreign internships or domestic or foreign competitions and participated in scientific conferences. Selected final theses of students were published or entered into national competitions.

Additional support was provided to students with socio-economic disadvantages in the form of scholarships. In order to support student-parents, the University applied measures such as extending deadlines for the fulfilment of study obligations, interrupting studies during parenthood, prorating fees for extended periods of study or applying an individual approach.

International community

UJEP actively promotes student participation in international mobility through its website, social media platforms, and other communication channels. Information about study abroad opportunities is provided via motivational videos, events, and publications, with each faculty having a dedicated foreign mobility coordinator. To facilitate mobility, UJEP has developed an electronic application system that helps students select partner universities abroad. Partner institutions are chosen based not only on geographical diversity but also on disciplinary alignment, ensuring that academic credits earned abroad are recognized to the fullest extent possible. The recognition of study and internship outcomes is governed by the Rector's Directive.

Since 2019, UJEP has offered intensive language courses in English, German, and Spanish to students selected for international mobility, helping them improve their language skills before departure. Additionally, the university provides a course on resilience building and crisis communication to prepare students for cultural adaptation and integration abroad. To further encourage student participation in mobility programs, some faculties offer incentive scholarships for study abroad.

UJEP also supports the international mobility of academic and administrative staff. Information about available mobility programs is disseminated via mass email communication and promotional events at both the university and faculty levels. The university offers English language courses for staff members to enhance their language proficiency. Other forms of support include funding for international travel to establish and implement joint study programs, develop and strengthen institutional partnerships, represent the university at study fairs and conferences, and engage in artistic or sports-related activities abroad. Academic staff mobility is recognized in annual performance evaluations, career development plans, and, in some cases, financial rewards or informal acknowledgment by department and faculty leadership.

The integration of international students is primarily facilitated by the Erasmus Student Network Ústí nad Labem (ESN), a volunteer organization composed mainly of UJEP students. ESN provides administrative assistance and social support to help international students adapt to their new environment. It also organizes cultural, sports, and social events to foster integration. UJEP further supports foreign students by offering Czech language courses before and during the semester. International students also have the opportunity to participate in faculty research projects, and foreign academics are fully integrated into the UJEP academic community. They contribute to teaching, research collaborations, conferences, and joint publications. Faculties actively involve international staff in key academic activities and decision-making processes while respecting their cultural backgrounds and social customs.

International cooperation and mobility are key priorities in the UJEP Strategic Plan, which has been updated for the 2020–2023 period. The strategic measures aim to strengthen the university's international dimension in education and research. The Erasmus+ program is the primary framework for international mobility at UJEP, with the university participating since 1999. UJEP utilizes all types of Erasmus+ mobility opportunities, including student study exchanges, student and graduate internships, academic teaching stays, and staff training. Since 2015, UJEP has been engaged in its fifth international credit mobility project. Through Erasmus+, the university collaborates with over 280 foreign institutions across 26 European and five non-European countries.

Beyond Erasmus+, UJEP has established cooperation agreements with 43 foreign universities in 17 countries and participates in additional programs that support international collaboration in education. The university and its faculties are active members of various international organizations, and UJEP's academic staff contribute to scientific councils and advisory bodies at foreign universities and research institutions.

**Celebrating
30 years of
UJEP**
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Research, development, and arts

Rector's Awards

The unfavourable epidemic situation did not allow the presentation of the Rector's Awards for 2021 in December 2021 at the traditional ceremony. Thus, the awards were presented only in May 2022, during personal meetings, when the Rector of UJEP, doc. Martin Balej, had the opportunity to speak privately with the laureates and thank them for their outstanding work

Award	Name
Rector's Award for Excellence in Engineering and Natural Sciences	Valentyna Pidlisniuk
Rector's Award for Excellence and Excellence in Engineering and Natural Sciences for an employee under 35 years of age	Karim Al Souki
Rector's Award for Excellence in the Humanities and Social Sciences	Patrik Christian Cmorej
Rector's Award for excellence in the humanities and social sciences for an employee under 35 years of age	Michal Vostrý
Rector's Award for Outstanding Artistic Achievement	Jiří Thýn
The Rector's Award for Outstanding Artistic Achievement for an Employee Under 35 years	Štěpán Smetana
Rector's Award for Applied Research	Michal Lattner
Rector's Award for the Book of the Year in the field of technical, natural science and economics	Richard Pokorný
Rector's Award for the Book of the Year in the Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts	Lenka Stolarová
Rector's Award for Students for Outstanding Achievements in Creative Activities	Vlasta Kordová
Rector's Award for the best sports results (1st place)	Kristýna Horská

Faculty of Social and Economic Studies

Research and education are closely linked, with academic staff incorporating their research into teaching and guiding students in thesis topics that support creative activities. Experts also contribute through workshops and guest lectures.

Faculty of Mechanical Engineering

The faculty emphasizes research and innovation, involving students in projects in collaboration with industry. It operates a Science and Technology Park, partners with institutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences (CAS), and publishes professional journals. In 2021, it expanded its laboratories, particularly in 3D printing, nanotechnology, energy, and advanced chemical technologies.

Faculty of Art and Design

Despite pandemic-related restrictions, the faculty completed the renovation of the Ústí nad Labem House of Art, hosted the 7th Congress of Art Historians, and maintained its strong editorial program, with publications featured at major book fairs.

Faculty of Health Studies

The faculty integrates education and research through specialized laboratories for movement analysis and health promotion. In 2021, it continued developing teaching facilities, including three new simulation centres, and worked on accrediting and upgrading degree programs.

Faculty of Environment

Research findings are actively integrated into teaching, with students engaged in projects in collaboration with research institutes. The faculty supports young researchers through grants and organizes professional seminars and lectures.

Faculty of Arts

The faculty led multiple research projects in 2021, including studies on democracy in V4 countries and Czech–German relations. It secured funding for postdoctoral researchers and faculty-led grant projects.

Faculty of Education

Research focused on school education, kinanthropology, and science education, with an emphasis on pedagogy, psychology, and art. Findings contributed to innovations in teaching methodologies.

Faculty of Science

The faculty conducts basic and applied research in partnership with industry, continuously innovating teaching and involving students in research. The Student Grant Competition plays a key role in supporting research initiatives.

Faculty of Social and Economic Studies

The faculty maintains long-term partnerships with companies, particularly in Social Work and Regional Development, where students gain hands-on experience through professional practice. It also collaborates with major firms such as Spolchemie, Mondi, ČSOB, and Allianz, which provide internships and contribute to thesis topics for bachelor's and master's students.

Faculty of Mechanical Engineering

All departments actively engage in contract research, offering expertise in advanced technologies, materials development, and production optimization. The faculty's Science and Technology Park plays a key role in these collaborations. Intellectual property is a priority, with six patents filed in 2021 (four domestic, two foreign) and one foreign patent granted.

Faculty of Art and Design

Rather than traditional applied research, the faculty emphasizes knowledge exchange and innovation through student internships in creative industries. The Ceramics Centre serves as a bridge between academia and industry, working closely with Český porcelán, a.s., to facilitate direct knowledge transfer.

Faculty of Health Studies

FZS collaborates with the Research Institute of Balneology and participates in an open platform for micro – and nanobubble technologies aimed at advancing balneology applications. It also maintains strong ties with Regional Health, a.s., and Masaryk Hospital in Ústí nad Labem, co-leading joint research projects.

Faculty of Environment

The faculty focuses on applied research, partnering with companies on joint projects and contract research. It continues to work closely with the Institute of Health in Ústí nad Labem and actively contributes to the development of the university's technology transfer centre.

Faculty of Arts

The Department of German Studies facilitates student internships in Czech-German companies, while the Department of History collaborates on cultural heritage documentation and digitization. It also offers services in 3D scanning, building-historical surveys, and photogrammetric measurements.

Faculty of Education

Through the Centre for Lifelong Learning, the faculty offers Czech language courses for foreigners and pedagogical training. Its Functional Diagnostics and Sports Motor Laboratory supports professional and amateur athletes by conducting performance testing and training effectiveness assessments.

Faculty of Science

The faculty's research focuses on nanomaterials, biomedicine, and environmental protection. It collaborates with both academic institutions and industry, organizes innovation exchanges, and partners with the Innovation Centre of the Ústí nad Labem Region.

Highlights

A five-year Faculty of Arts project documenting historic hop processing buildings culminated in a comprehensive exhibition

Faculty of Social and Economic Studies organised the fifth edition of Digital Marketing

Faculty of Science established new online platform 'Science UJEP'

Faculty of Environment received a NATO project on restoration of military sites using phytoremediation

UJEP interdisciplinary team started the SMART Rural project aimed at the development and implementation of smart solutions in rural areas

Faculty of Environment was awarded a GreenWaterTech grant under the ERA-NET cofund AquaticPollutants 2020 call

Children born of war – colleagues from the Faculty of Arts contributed to a comprehensive monograph from a completed international project

CEMMTECH Building



Social and environmental responsibility

Social security, care and gender

In 2021, the Strategic Plan of UJEP for the period 2021+ was approved, in which ensuring the principles of gender equality is considered an integral part of the further development of human resources at the University. In this document, the UJEP committed to continue to ensure that it fulfils the commitment of the HR Award and to implement HR policies in accordance with the principles of the European Charter for Researchers, the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers and the UJEP Code of Ethics.

The University was also involved in the preparation of a centralized development project focused on gender audit and preparation of documents for the Gender Equality Plan (GEP). The application for support for this project was successful and the project was selected by the Programme Council for implementation in 2022.

Despite the absence of the GEP, gender equality principles continued to be implemented through internal regulations and standards. In 2021, a new UJEP Selection Procedure Code was adopted to ensure compliance with the principles of transparency and equal treatment in selection procedures, as well as the Methodology for the Implementation of the Principles of the Charter, the Code and the OTM-R Policy. The UJEP Tender Procedure Regulations were approved in March 2021 and came into force in April 2021. The Methodology for filling academic and research posts, senior staff and other posts at UJEP, which follows on from the Regulations, is effective from May 2021.

In relation to employees, the key document remains the Labour Code, which continues to prohibit any discrimination and stipulates the obligation of the UJEP to ensure equal treatment of all employees, as well as the Career Code of the UJEP, which specifies the reasons for adjusting the working conditions of employed parents with children. On the basis of these, the University has supported the reconciliation of family and professional life, in particular by allowing part-time work or working from home, adjusting working hours or supporting childcare for employees.

UJEP's regional role

Within the framework of the adopted Strategic Plan UJEP 2021+, the University continued to build a network of actively cooperating companies, companies and institutions in the region. This network is gradually and long-term created on the basis of individual specific projects with the participation of "practice" (research, educational, artistic). Cooperation between UJEP and the Regional Office of the Ústí nad Labem Region continued. The aim of the framework agreement on regional cooperation between the UJEP and the Ústí nad Labem Region is to create conditions for the development of the UJEP as an important educational institution and to develop the knowledge, scientific, cultural and sports potential of the Ústí nad Labem Region, thus making the Ústí nad Labem Region an attractive place to study, work and live. Representatives of UJEP

were actively involved in the councils and conferences of the Regional Office of the Ústí nad Labem Region. In 2021, the University was also involved in the activities of the Innovation Centre of the Ústí nad Labem Region and, in the context of the epidemic of the covid-19 disease, UJEP became a centre for tutoring pupils and students after long-term online teaching and lockdowns.

University commitment to SDGs

The university is committed to contribute to the sustainability in all its domains defined by the UN and has been specifically addressing the following Sustainable Development Goals: 1 – No poverty, 4 – Quality education, 5 – Gender equality, 8 – Decent work and economic growth, 11 – Sustainable cities and communities, 13 – Climate action, and 17 – Partnerships for the goals. The main progress in 2023 can be aggregated in the following three domains.

Environmental Impact (SDGs 11, 13, and 17): The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continued to present challenges for managing campus life, particularly in maintaining social distancing and facilitating outdoor education. The university adapted by implementing measures to ensure a safe learning environment while sustaining academic continuity. Additionally, energy-saving strategies were introduced during lockdown periods to optimize resource use and reduce operational costs. UJEP also progressed with preparations for the Just Transition Fund project, which aims to establish an Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) manager position to oversee sustainability initiatives.

Social Impact (SDGs 1, 4, 5, and 8): Social equity and inclusion remained central to the university's governance during the COVID-19 crisis. To ensure equal access to education for students in diverse life circumstances, UJEP expanded flexible scheduling options, strengthened online learning platforms, and introduced individualized teaching arrangements. The university also continued implementing measures to enhance human resources management in line with the HR Award framework, focusing on improving working conditions, professional development opportunities, and institutional transparency.

Governance (SDG 17): While the pandemic temporarily disrupted some of UJEP's efforts to build partnerships for sustainable development, it also opened new avenues for collaboration, particularly in sustainable education. The crisis reinforced the university's third mission—its role in serving the broader community—through extensive support for medical and crisis management facilities. By strengthening its engagement in regional resilience initiatives, UJEP demonstrated its commitment to fostering long-term sustainability and social responsibility.



Infrastructure and finance

The annual management report is a standard tool leading to an increase in the level of management work of public higher education institutions and also serves to control economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of state budget funds, on budgetary rules and on amendments to certain related laws (hereinafter referred to as “budgetary rules”), as amended.

The management of the UJEP is regularly evaluated at all management levels of the UJEP, including the Academic Senate and the Board of Trustees. The quality of financial management is significantly supported by the centralisation of all financial operations both structurally and within the University’s IT tools.

In 2021, UJEP achieved a positive economic result of 7 137 thousand. CZK. The UJEP proposes to transfer this profit to the working capital fund and the capital asset reproduction fund. It will continue to be necessary to make every effort in 2022 to reduce operating costs and to use the University’s facilities efficiently in accordance with the relevant chapter of the UJEP Strategic Plan 2021+ and the UJEP Strategic Plan Implementation Plan for 2022.

Investment development was directed towards the completion of new or expansion of existing capacities for educational and creative activities, especially the continuation of constructions for the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Faculty of Health Studies. UJEP also worked on the reconstruction of existing buildings of the University and the modernisation of its instrumentation and other material equipment related to teaching and creative activities.



Publisher

Annual Report on the Activities of J. E. Purkyně University
in Ústí nad Labem for the Year 2021

Published by J. E. Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem

Based on documents provided by the Rector's Office and faculties.
Prepared by: Alena Chvátalová, Andrea Čebišová, and Jana Kasaničová

Graphic design, cover, and typesetting by Daniel Barek
Photos by: Josef Růžička, Daniel Augustin, and the UJEP archive

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2022

#myjsmeujep

Jan Evangelista Purkyně University
in Ústí nad Labem

We have been educating, inspiring
and transforming the Ústí nad
Labem region since 1991. We are
able to do this thanks to the people
who work at the University.

