

2023 Annual Report

Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem





**University
management
till 17 March
2023**

Martin Balej – Rector
Alena Chvátalová – Vice-Rector for Studies, statutory representative
Pavel Doulík – Vice-Rector for External Relations
Martin Novák – Vice-Rector for Science
Jaroslav Zukerstein – Vice-Rector for Development and Quality
Leoš Nergl – Bursar

**University
management
since 17 March
2023**

Jaroslav Koutský – Rector
Alena Chvátalová – Vice-Rector for Studies, statutory representative
Martin Balej – Vice-Rector for ESIF projects
Vlastimil Chytrý – Vice-Rector for Development and Digitalization
Pavel Raška – Vice-Rector for Internationalization
Jan Slavík – Vice-Rector for Science and Research
Leoš Nergl – Bursar

Content of the Annual Report

Introduction	1. Introducing UJEP	05
	2. Opening words	06
	3. Year 2023 in figures	07
Key activities & achievements	1. Study	10
	Prospective students	10
	Study programmes	10
	Alumni	10
	Support to students	10
	2. International community	12
	3. Research, development, and arts	14
	Rector's Awards	14
	Strategic support	15
	Transfer of innovation	15
	Highlights	15
	4. Social and environmental responsibility	17
	Social security, care and gender	17
	UJEP's regional role	17
	University commitment to SDGs	17
	5. Infrastructure and finance	19

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,

Thank you for taking the time to read our Annual Report on Activities for 2023. We have taken the liberty to present you with an updated concept of this report, where we try to combine necessary information and factual data with content that more clearly documents and brings closer the real life at the University and the key milestones of our activities in 2023.

From my personal perspective, I consider it most important that most faculties, and the university itself, have undergone successful leadership changes during 2023, including related other personnel changes. I am very pleased that in all cases this has been done in a very refined, dignified and, as far as I am aware, friendly manner, which I believe reflects the high internal culture and integrity of our institution.

We are now in the year 2024, so let me express my wish that this year will be at least as successful for our University as the one summarised in the following text.

Author

Jaroslav Koutský – Rector of UJEP

Rectorate
building

→



Year 2023 in figures

8 393 students

	Bachelor's	Master's	Ph.D.
M	2 366	487	144
F	3 690	1 016	133

International students

415	International students
------------	------------------------

Full-time study programmes

	Number
Bachelor's	89
Long Master's	4
Master's	75
Ph.D.	30

Foreign language study programmes

7	Full-time programmes	3	Part-time programmes
----------	----------------------	----------	----------------------

Graduates

1411	Graduates	30 / 70	M/F ratio
-------------	-----------	----------------	-----------

Lifelong learning programmes

153	Lifelong learning programmes
------------	------------------------------

Academic staff (normalised numbers)

	Number
M	382
F	229
Sum	611

Students and staff in international mobility programmes

316	Student mobilities	219	Staff mobilities
------------	--------------------	------------	------------------

Budget balance sheet

	Contributions and subsidies	Own revenue
2019	839	283
2020	817	203
2021	850	229
2022	896	303
2023	818	324

Research & development funding

120 mil. CZK

European Union funding

107 mil. CZK

UJEP graduates →



Annual Report of Jan Evangelista Purkyně University

Key activities & achievements

Study

The University collaborated with secondary schools primarily by inviting them to events at UJEP, such as the Night of Scientists, Open Day, and One Day as a College Student, specifically targeting prospective students. This cooperation was further supported through direct communication with educational advisors, who were regularly updated on current study programmes offered by individual faculties. Some faculties also provided guest lectures at schools or mentored high school students in their vocational work (e.g., the Faculty of Social and Economic Studies and the Faculty of Science).

For teachers in educational institutions, faculties organized educational lectures and seminars. A separate area of cooperation was the development of the faculty school network. By 2023, this network had been established across seven faculties, with the number of cooperating schools listed below.

As of 31 December 2023, UJEP offered 329 study programmes, either through direct accreditation or institutional approval. Of these, 10 study programmes were conducted in a foreign language. The following programmes were offered as double-degree study programmes: the Master's programme in Philology, specializing in German Philology in the Czech-German Intercultural Context, and the follow-up Master's programme in Intercultural German Studies in the Czech-German Context. Both programmes are accredited by the Faculty of Arts and implemented based on an inter-university agreement with the University of Bayreuth.

The University maintains connections with its alumni through the Alumni Club. Alumni are regularly informed about university-wide events through newsletters, alumni meetings, and updates on life at UJEP. They are also provided with information on opportunities for cooperation with the University, including sponsorship, mentoring, and contributing alumni stories in the form of podcasts or videos. Additionally, registered members of the UJEP Alumni Club can access discounts at selected university partners.

The University tracks graduate employment through the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic, which publishes statistics on unemployed graduates. As of September 2023, only 27 UJEP graduates were registered as unemployed. Despite this relatively favourable outcome, faculties continued implementing measures to support graduates' transition into the labour market, particularly by offering internships and vocational work placements in collaboration with external partners while enhancing their methodological and organizational support.

Four specialized counselling centres continued to serve the needs of students: the University Counselling Centre for students with specific needs, the Special Education Counselling Centre, the Psychological Counselling Centre, and the Career Counselling

Centre. At the end of the year, in accordance with the standards of university counselling, the University formulated the Rules for the Provision of Counselling Services at UJEP.

The workload of individual counselling centres varied. Demand for psychological counselling continued to grow, and the number of students with specific needs also increased. These students were provided with appropriate standardized measures—121 students in 2021 and 203 in 2023.

UJEP relied on a methodology designed to support and ensure equal conditions for applicants and students with specific needs. The University remained responsive to their needs throughout the admission process and during their studies.

Students with sensory impairments (visual or hearing disabilities) were provided with standardized support measures in accordance with the adopted methodology. These services were delivered both by professional service providers (such as Silent World and Tyflocentrum) and by classmates. The use of this support was entirely voluntary.

Students with physical disabilities received information about barrier-free access to UJEP buildings, including details on accessing individual floors, rooms, and classrooms. A barrier-free access map specifying the accessibility of individual buildings was made available on the Centre's website. Additionally, assistance maps were installed at campus entrances.

Gifted students were supported in 2023 through the Rector's Awards and student grants administered under the supervision of the UJEP Grant Council. These initiatives aimed to reward academic achievements, foster a motivational environment for Master's and PhD students, and facilitate the further development of student projects at national and international grant agencies.

International community

In 2023, the university implemented a series of measures aimed at gradually increasing mobility levels back to the pre-pandemic state. These measures primarily included pre-departure support and training, information days (such as “Breakfast with Erasmus”), as well as assistance throughout the entire mobility period and upon return. The selection criteria were redefined to reward not only academic performance but also first-time mobilities and those taking place in the final years of study, ensuring that the opportunity to study abroad was accessible to the widest possible range of students.

At the university level, a survey was conducted in May 2023 to assess, among other things, the current level of experience among staff regarding international mobility, as well as to identify barriers to mobility participation and tools for overcoming them. The selection criteria include parameters (particularly the duration of the stay) designed to facilitate mobility for the broadest possible range of applicants. Beyond the Erasmus+ and CEEPUS programs, outgoing and incoming mobilities to institutions that are not contractual partners of the university within the Erasmus+ framework were supported through individual projects funded by the Strategic Management Support Program. Similarly, international creative activity projects were utilized at the faculty level to support academic mobility, enabling internships at partner institutions. Examples include the Gardening of Soul project under the EEA and Norway Grants at the Faculty of Art and Design, and COST and Horizon program projects at the Faculty of Social and Economic Studies, the Faculty of Environment, and the Faculty of Science.

Based on the survey results, a strategic goal was set to establish a system for evaluating mobility as part of employees' career plans. In 2023, such evaluation or support was conducted individually at the faculty level, primarily targeting staff preparing for habilitation or appointment procedures. The goal for the upcoming period is to introduce measures that support mobility among individuals with caregiving responsibilities or those facing financial, work-related, or health-related barriers to mobility.

Expanding the proportion of international members within the academic community is a strategic goal of the university. In 2023, international staff accounted for 5.6% of the university workforce, with a majority coming from Central European countries. Throughout 2023, foreign-language information on university affairs underwent gradual restructuring on communication platforms, and a decision was made to include a foreign-language section (“International Corner”) in the university newsletter Silverius. Key university documents also started being prepared in bilingual versions to ensure accessibility for international academic staff. Additionally, operational program projects included initiatives aimed at developing HR policies related to in-

ternational employees and the creation of a Welcome Office portal. This portal will provide comprehensive information on pre-arrival, mobility, post-mobility phases, and employment-related matters for international staff.

In 2023, the university offered a total of ten study programs in a foreign language. A strategic objective for the next period is to increase this number so that each faculty offers at least one such program. Under the newly developed rules for implementing foreign-language instruction into educational programs (effective from 2024), accreditation applications for doctoral study programs must always include a request for program delivery in a foreign language. Together with a consortium of international universities, the university prepared the EduCare 5.0 project within the European University Alliance, focusing on digitalization in healthcare. This project was submitted for evaluation at the beginning of 2024.

Breakfast with Erasmus+





Rector's Awards

Research, development, and arts

The Rector's Awards are a tool to support excellent staff and students of UJEP. The Rector's Prizes are awarded annually in December of each year on the occasion of the birthday of Jan Evangelista Purkyně in several categories.

Award	Name
Rector's Award for Excellence in Engineering and Natural Sciences	Stanislav Vinopal
Rector's Award for Excellence and Excellence in Engineering and Natural Sciences for an employee under 35 years of age	Karim Al Souki Jiří Šmejkal
Rector's Award for Excellence in the Humanities and Social Sciences	Lenka Slavíková
Rector's Award for excellence in the humanities and social sciences for an employee under 35 years of age	Miroslav Kopáček
Rector's Award for Outstanding Artistic Achievement	Margita Titlová-Ylovsky
The Rector's Award for Outstanding Artistic Achievement for an Employee Under 35 years	Jan Pitrmuc
Rector's Award for Applied Research	Jan Novotný
Rector's Award for Applied Research for an Employee Under 35	Anna Knaislová Pavol Midula
Rector's Award for Outstanding Teaching in the Field of Technical and Natural Sciences	Michaela Liegertová
Rector's Award for Outstanding Teaching in the Field of Humanities and Social Sciences	Barbora Lanková
Rector's Award for Students for Exceptional Achievements in Creative Activities in the Field of Technical, Natural, and Economic Sciences	Hana Burdová Pavína Mimrová
Rector's Award for Students for Exceptional Achievements in Creative Activities in the Field of Social, Humanitarian, and Artistic Sciences	Filip Trubač
Rector's Award for Best Sports Performance (1st Place)	Michaela Malinová

Strategic support

One of the main instruments is the so-called Jan Evangelista Purkyně Development Fund, established in 2023, which focuses on supporting existing key personnel, attracting new domestic and international key personnel, and promoting contract research. The Internal Evaluation Board of UJEP contributes to achieving this goal by ensuring high-quality staffing of study programs. The UJEP Scientific Council, along with the scientific councils of individual faculties, emphasizes creative activity as one of the key qualification requirements for appointing academic staff in habilitation and professorial appointment procedures.

In 2023, the university formulated so-called research clusters, which represent priority research topics and creative teams that receive institutional support. The aim is to invest in creative topics that offer a comparative advantage within the national and international research environment. Research clusters provide a platform for supporting high-quality human resources within interfaculty research teams and for young academic staff who are involved in teaching specialized subjects.

In 2023, UJEP successfully utilized targeted financial resources for research, development, and innovation from various sources. Among the most significant scientific projects undertaken by UJEP in 2023 were grants from the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic, the Czech Science Foundation, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Culture. These funds enabled the implementation of numerous scientific projects that contributed to strengthening research infrastructure and enhancing the university's innovation potential.

Institutional support for long-term conceptual development, provided by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports for 2023 in the amount of CZK 79,689 thousand, along with targeted support for specific research amounting to CZK 12,127 thousand, allowed UJEP to continue its ambitious scientific and research activities.

Transfer of innovation

Collaboration with the application sector takes the form of partnerships in fundamental, applied, and contract research. The results of this collaboration include (European) patents (four at UJEP), utility models (three at UJEP), verified technologies (three at UJEP), specialized maps, certified methodologies, as well as exhibitions, conferences, and professional seminars.

Highlights

UJEP to Enhance Cybersecurity with a Memorandum of Cooperation with the National Agency for Communication and Information Technologies

Urban Mobility and COVID-19: Research by the Faculty of Social and Economic Studies Provides Valuable Insights

A Team of UJEP Scientists Helps Uncover How Remarkable Tardigrades Survive in Extreme Conditions

Industrial Heritage as an Opportunity for Regional Development: A New Publication by an Interdisciplinary Research Team Highlights Its Potential

Artificial Intelligence in Education: Instead of Restrictions, the Faculty of Science Chooses Understanding and Learning

We Have Launched the First English-Taught PhD Program in Biology, Ecology, and Environmental Sciences

UJEP and TU Dresden Collaborate on Biomedical Research

Rector's Awards



Social and environmental responsibility

Social security, care and gender

Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem has an Equal Opportunities Plan for the period 2023–2025. Its development was based on an assessment of the current internal environment at UJEP, as well as an external audit conducted in 2022 by an external provider, the Gender Information Center NORA, o. p. s. Following the audit on equal opportunities among employees, an equal opportunities audit for students at UJEP was carried out in the autumn of 2023 by Osvětová beseda, o. p. s. Based on these audits, as well as other recommendations from educational activities and similar initiatives, UJEP aims to strengthen its emphasis on equal treatment, equal opportunities, and the elimination of discrimination in all relevant documents, such as the Statute, Work Regulations, Collective Agreement, Code of Ethics, and other documents at both the university and faculty levels. Furthermore, UJEP seeks to ensure appropriate conditions for the social security of the UJEP community, including employees and students. To support this goal, UJEP established the position of an ombudsperson in the autumn of 2023.

UJEP's regional role

The university collaborated with organizations in the region as part of its creative activities focused on applied and contract research, as well as in fulfilling its third role as the only public higher education institution based in the Ústí nad Labem Region.

At the university level, UJEP has a representative in the Regional Permanent Conference of the Ústí nad Labem Region. In close cooperation with regional institutions and other entities, the university has been preparing the project Region for University, University for Region and the Green Energy Technologies Centre of UJEP project for the Operational Programme Just Transition. The university has also been involved in the preparation of other projects, placing particular emphasis on its key role in providing education in the region. Through these strategic projects, it aims to expand its educational impact to other levels of education, thereby better fulfilling its third role.

University commitment to SDGs

The university strives to contribute to sustainable development of society in all its domains defined by the United Nations. In line with its mission, it has been specifically addressing the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): 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 is reported based on the ESG model of institutional sustainability in the following three domains:

Environmental Impact (SDGs 11, 13 and 17): Within a newly submitted project 'RUR – Region for University, University for Region' to the Just Transition Fund (JTF), the university designed a new plan for transforming the campus into an experiential and

demonstrational site for sustainability solutions. The RUR project started in October 2023. In addition, a new project 'Green Energy Technologies' has been prepared under the JTF scheme, focusing on research of innovative renewable energies. Finally, the green campus activities culminated in participation in the European Sustainable Development Week (ESDW) on 20th–26th September 2023 with events focusing i.e. on sustainable mobility, eating, or waste reduction (swap).

Social Impact (SDGs 1, 4, 5, and 8): The university continued its efforts in human resources policy and it has launched a new Gender Equality Plan (GEP) for the period 2023–2025 based on the results of an external equal opportunities audit among employees in 2022 and discussions within the university community. In addition, an external equal opportunities audit focusing on students was performed in 2023 and key outcomes will be reflected in the GEP.

Governance (SDG 17): The university continued to build partnerships for sustainable development. It has prepared and submitted the 'RUR' project to the Just Transition Fund, which will among other things enable to create a new position of ESG manager at the university. The role of the ESG manager will be to institutionalise sustainability via new ESG strategies, monitoring and reporting schemes within the university, as well as to coordinate relevant actions with other institutions in the region and beyond.

Rector and the Ombudsperson



Infrastructure and finance

The financial management of UJEP is regularly evaluated at all levels of governance within the university, including the Academic Senate and the Board of Trustees, and is subject to verification of financial statements by an auditor. The quality of financial management is significantly supported by the centralization of all financial operations, both structurally and within the university's IT tools. The effectiveness of UJEP's internal control system is assessed through internal audits.

UJEP has consistently achieved a positive financial result over the long term. In 2023, it recorded a financial result of CZK 12,668,000. The university proposes to allocate this surplus to the Operating Funds and the Investment Asset Reproduction Fund. In 2024, it will be necessary to continue making maximum efforts to reduce operational costs and efficiently utilize university facilities, in line with the relevant chapter of the UJEP Strategic Plan 2021+ and the Implementation Plan for the UJEP Strategic Plan for 2024. Additionally, 2024 will mark the beginning of project implementation under the Just Transition Operational Program in the Ústí nad Labem Region.

Investment development has been directed towards completing new or expanding existing capacities for educational and creative activities, as well as the reconstruction of existing university buildings and the modernization 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 2023

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, Pavel Raška, Jan Slavík, Andrea Čebišová and Jana Kasaničová

Graphic design, cover, and typesetting by Daniel Barek

Photos by: Josef Růžička, Daniel Augustin and the UJEP archive

This publication is a stand-alone edition and is not for sale. Without written permission from the publisher and other copyright holders, it may not be reproduced, in whole or in part, or transmitted by any means, including mechanical, photocopying, or magnetic recording.

© J. E. Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem,
2024

#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.

