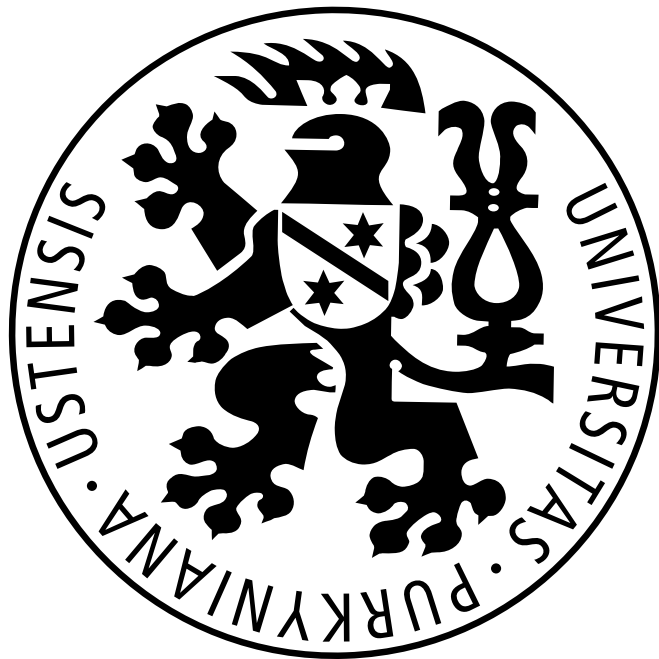


2024 Annual Report

Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem





**University
management**

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

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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 2024 confirmed that Jan Evangelista Purkyně University is a confident, resilient, and forward-looking institution deeply rooted in its region while increasingly visible on the international stage. We expanded our educational offer, strengthened international mobility, and further integrated research, creative activity, and teaching across all faculties. Among the year's highlights were the launch of the strategic RUR – Region to the University, University to the Region project, the establishment of the Jaroslav Sýkora Institute of Space Research, and the continued success of our students and staff, whose achievements were recognised through Rector's Awards, international projects, and applied research with tangible societal impact. These milestones demonstrate our ability to respond to regional challenges, global trends, and the evolving needs of society.

None of this would be possible without the dedication, professionalism, and cooperation of our academic community, students, and partners. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all who contribute daily to the development of UJEP – as educators, researchers, artists, administrative staff, students, and alumni. Your work strengthens the University as an open, inclusive, and responsible institution that values quality, integrity, and collaboration. I firmly believe that the results presented in this report provide a solid foundation for our future ambitions and confirm that UJEP is well prepared to continue fulfilling its role as a key educational, research, and cultural centre of the Ústí Region and beyond.

Author

Jaroslav Koutský – Rector of UJEP

**Breakfast
with Erasmus**

→



Year 2024 in figures

8 675 students

	Bachelor's	Master's	Ph.D.
M	2 434	571	128
F	3 870	1 557	115

International students

436	International students
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Full-time study programmes

	Number
Bachelor's	92
Long Master's	4
Master's	77
Ph.D.	32

Foreign language study programmes

8	Full-time programmes	3	Part-time programmes
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Graduates

1652	Graduates	30 / 70	M/F ratio
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Lifelong learning programmes

141	Lifelong learning programmes
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Academic staff (normalised numbers)

	Number
M	359
F	255
Sum	614

Students and staff in international mobility programmes

296	Student mobilities	217	Staff mobilities
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Budget balance sheet

	Contributions and subsidies	Own revenue
2020	817	203
2021	850	229
2022	896	303
2023	818	324
2024	979	367

Research & development funding

124 mil. CZK

European Union funding

412 mil. CZK

Graduates of the Faculty of Science UJEP



Annual Report of Jan Evangelista Purkyně University

Key activities & achievements

Study

The University's cooperation with secondary schools focused mainly on inviting pupils to on-campus activities at UJEP, including events such as the Night of Scientists, Open Day, and One Day as a College Student, all aimed at prospective applicants. This collaboration was reinforced by ongoing direct communication with school guidance counsellors, who were regularly informed about the current range of study programmes offered by the individual faculties. In addition, some faculties contributed through outreach activities at schools, such as delivering guest lectures or supervising secondary school students in their vocational or graduation projects.

Faculties also supported teachers from educational institutions by organizing professional lectures and training seminars. Another important form of collaboration involved building and expanding a network of partner (faculty) schools. By 2024, this network was in place at seven faculties, with the number of partner schools specified below.

As of 31 December 2024, UJEP had a total of 340 study programmes accredited or approved under institutional accreditation, including 12 programmes taught in a foreign language, one of them as a double degree programme Intercultural German Studies in the Czech-German Context. This programme is accredited at the Faculty of Arts and is implemented on the basis of an inter-university agreement concluded with the University of Bayreuth.

The University maintains systematic contact with its graduates primarily through the UJEP Alumni Club, which distributes regular newsletters featuring university events, alumni gatherings, and opportunities for cooperation. Faculties regard alumni engagement as an important tool for continuity, professional networking, and intergenerational knowledge sharing. Many alumni are actively involved in teaching and student training through guest lectures, seminars, workshops, mentoring, or consultations. Individual faculties develop these relationships in different ways—for example through cooperation with alumni teachers, involvement in professional practice, participation in conferences and discipline-specific events, publication of alumni magazines, organization of alumni meetings, exhibitions, podcasts, or alumni profiles. The Alumni Club database is also used as a foundation for expanding further forms of collaboration.

UJEP continuously monitors graduate employability using data from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. Data for 2024 confirmed that the standardized unemployment rate of UJEP graduates remained below the average of other public universities across all study programme types, while unemployment among doctoral graduates was again zero. Despite these favourable results, faculties continued to strengthen measures supporting graduate employability, particularly through internships and professional placements with external partners and through the development of professionally oriented study

Support to students

programmes with a strong practical component. Cooperation with future employers is largely embedded in study curricula via structured systems of professional practice based on framework or individual agreements with partner institutions across education, healthcare, public administration, cultural and creative industries, science, and the private sector. Overall, close integration of teaching with practice is a well-established and effective approach at UJEP, helping students gain real-world experience and facilitating their transition to the labour market.

UJEP provided a comprehensive system of counselling services through its Counselling Centre, which coordinated support for students with specific needs as well as career, psychological, and special education counselling, and mediated study-related and socio-legal advice. Demand for psychological counselling increased year on year, accompanied by a rise in the severity of student difficulties. Support structures were in place at all faculties through trained coordinators, contact persons, and student assistants, with ongoing professional development and sharing of good practice. At the end of the year, the U21+ project was prepared to further enhance counselling services, reduce study failure, and expand career guidance through adaptation days, psychology summer schools, bridging courses, career events, workshops with employers, and individual career counselling.

UJEP continued to systematically support students with specific needs, socioeconomically disadvantaged students, exceptionally gifted students, and student-parents. The number of students with specific needs nearly doubled over the past three years, with the largest increase among students with learning difficulties, who received tailored pedagogical support alongside standardized services for sensory or physical disabilities. Talented students were supported through internal grant schemes and student research projects, fostering early research careers, transferable skills, and international experience, while outstanding student achievements were actively promoted. Socioeconomically disadvantaged students were assisted through social, extraordinary, accommodation, and targeted international support scholarships, alongside a strong offer of combined (part-time) study programmes. Support for student-parents included flexible study arrangements, fee waivers, and the preparation of a campus-based childcare facility, aligning with the university's broader strategy to promote work-life balance and equal access to higher education.

International community

UJEP supports student participation in international mobility through preparatory and follow-up activities such as language courses, training in psychological resilience, and return seminars. The system is anchored in the university directive on international mobility and complemented by faculty-level financial, administrative, and academic support. Motivational scholarships are a key instrument: for example, the Faculty of Education (PF) and the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering (FSI) provide monthly support of CZK 2,500, while the Faculty of Science (PřF) and the Faculty of Environment (FŽP) award a one-off CZK 10,000 scholarship after successful completion of mobility. Faculties also focus on smooth recognition of courses, supported by close cooperation between coordinators. Practical examples include PF rewarding students who promote Erasmus+ after return and the Faculty of Art and Design (FUD) supporting doctoral students' participation in international exhibitions and conferences.

International mobility of academic and non-academic staff is considered an integral part of professional development and internationalisation. Mobilities are mainly supported through Erasmus+ and CEEPUS and are often embedded in career development systems and the HAP evaluation framework. PF requires academic staff to complete a mobility within five years, while other faculties apply more flexible approaches, prioritising doctoral candidates, early-career researchers, or staff preparing for habilitation. Faculties also promote internationalisation through staff participation in international projects, exhibitions, and research stays, as well as by sharing mobility experiences internally.

The integration of international academics and students is a long-term strategic priority. In 2024, UJEP strengthened communication with its international community through updated bilingual documentation, English-language web content, and the introduction of the “International Corner” section in the university magazine *Silverius*. Networking events such as the International Academic Reception were organised, and preparations began for a digital Welcome Office. International student integration was supported through expanded foreign-language instruction and close cooperation with Erasmus+ Student Network (ESN Ústí nad Labem), including buddy programmes, excursions, and cultural activities.

Virtual and blended mobility formats, originally introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic, remain part of UJEP's internationalisation strategy, particularly where physical mobility is less feasible. Internationalisation is further supported through foreign-language study programmes (nine on-site and three blended in 2024), international research cooperation, and targeted funding for visiting scholars. Examples include a visiting professor from Australia at the Faculty of Health Studies and “internationalisation at home” activities at the Faculty of Education, such as MEET and GREET events, guest lectures, and the First Erasmus Kit for incoming students.



Research, development, and arts

Rector's Awards

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	Filip Moučka Jana Müllerová
Rector's Award for Excellence and Excellence in Engineering and Natural Sciences for an employee under 35 years of age	Adéla Jagerová
Rector's Award for Excellence in the Humanities and Social Sciences	Jan Brabec
Rector's Award for excellence in the humanities and social sciences for an employee under 35 years of age	Aneta Hujová
Rector's Award for Outstanding Artistic Achievement	Michaela Labudová Pavel Frič
The Rector's Award for Outstanding Artistic Achievement for an Employee Under 35 years	Nikola Ivanov
Rector's Award for Applied Research	Michal Lattner
Rector's Award for Best Science Book	Pavel Maškarinec
Rector's Award for Best Popular Science Book	Patrik Christian Cmorej
Rector's Award for Outstanding Teaching in the Field of Technical and Natural Sciences	Vít Černohlávek
Rector's Award for Outstanding Teaching in the Field of Humanities and Social Sciences	Jan Čapek
Rector's Award for Students for Exceptional Achievements in Creative Activities in the Field of Technical, Natural, and Economic Sciences	Jakub Hoskovec
Rector's Award for Students for Exceptional Achievements in Creative Activities in the Field of Social, Humanitarian, and Artistic Sciences	Sára Laníková
Rector's Award for Best Sports Performance (1st Place)	Daryna Nabojčenko

Rector's Award for Representing the University at the National and International Level	Valentyna Pidlisniuk
Rector's Award of UJEP for an Outstanding Technical and Administrative Staff Member	Hana Galiová Lenka Stiborová Zdenka Kubištová

Strategic support

Jan Evangelista Purkyně Development Fund, established in 2023, continues to represent the main supporting mechanism for 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.

At UJEP, the close integration of creative and educational activities is a key pillar of academic development. All faculties incorporate research and artistic work into teaching by involving students in research projects, using laboratories and simulation centres, and formulating thesis topics based on current research. Academic staff systematically transfer research outcomes into lectures, seminars, and teaching materials, ensuring that instruction reflects the latest knowledge.

The integration of research and teaching is systematically supported through internal grant schemes, publication support, professional training, and student participation in research teams at all study levels. In 2024, UJEP received CZK 158.9 million for research and development, including funding for specific university research, institutional development of research organisations, national R&D projects, and international projects where UJEP acted as a partner. These resources underpin modern, practice-oriented education that responds to societal challenges and regional needs.

Transfer of innovation

In 2024, UJEP continued to strengthen cooperation with the application-oriented sector through contract research, expert consultations, and participation in research consortia, with forms of collaboration reflecting the specific focus of individual faculties. The Faculty of Mechanical Engineering (FSI) primarily cooperated with research organisations and private companies in mechanical and materials engineering, while the Faculty of Science (PřF) maintained close partnerships with industry and academic institutions in the Czech Republic and abroad in areas with high technology-transfer potential, such as nanomaterials for biomedicine, advanced materials research, regional and environmental development, and machine learning and big data applications.

The Faculty of Arts (FF) worked mainly with institutions in heritage conservation and regional development, including contributions to the documentation of historical building restoration. The Faculty of Environment (FŽP) focused on joint research

projects in sustainability, environmental protection, and the circular economy, and in 2024 published an international patent application for a wastewater treatment method. Institutional support for knowledge transfer was further strengthened by staffing the university Technology and Knowledge Transfer Centre (CTTZ).

Highlights

We established the Jaroslav Sýkora Institute of Space Research, focusing on psychological and sociological aspects in space missions.

The University of the Third Age celebrated its 30th anniversary.

UJEP hosted the annual conference of the Czech Geographical Society.

Our founding Faculty of Education celebrated 60 years of teachers training programmes.

The University and the Ústí Community Foundation established the UJEP Fund, supporting innovative students' and academics' activities.

We launched the RUR – Region to the University, University to the Region strategic project, supported by the European Union under the Just Transition Operational Programme.

Rector's Awards



Social and environmental responsibility

Social security, care and gender

As part of the Equal Opportunities Plan for 2023–2025, procedures have been established to address issues related to sexual and gender-based violence. A key element in the practical implementation of these procedures was the establishment of the position of UJEP Ombudsperson. The Ombudsperson provides counselling and support in resolving conflicts, complaints, and difficulties, acts as an independent mediator in communication between members of the university community, and promotes a culture of respect, ethics, fairness, and openness at the university.

UJEP operates the NNTB (Nenech to být) system, an online confidential reporting and internal whistleblowing platform. Members of the academic community, employees, and other persons connected to the university can use this tool to submit concerns and address issues that may be difficult to discuss in person. It serves as a simple and secure instrument for fostering an ethical university culture, handling whistleblowing, identifying bullying, and addressing a wide range of other concerns.

The University has adopted a Gender Equality Plan and formally declares its policies on social safety, sexual harassment, and gender-based violence. These frameworks are complemented by the Code of Ethics and the university's commitment to the HR Excellence in Research Award, which UJEP proudly holds.

The University actively integrates a gender perspective into its research and educational activities by identifying key areas in which gender-related topics are incorporated into research and teaching. Information on gender equality and safety is systematically presented on the university website. An active Ombudsperson and a dedicated working group contribute to this agenda through participation in workshops and training activities, sharing best practices within university governance bodies, and supporting their implementation in everyday academic life. These efforts focus particularly on creating an inclusive learning environment free from gender stereotypes. UJEP recognises the importance of these issues and will continue to reflect gender perspectives in its projects while actively working to eliminate gender stereotypes within its academic environment.

UJEP's regional role

In 2024, the University continued to develop its third mission and acted as a key partner for public administration, regional authorities, and professional and cultural institutions. A major instrument for fulfilling this role was the strategic OP ST project RUR – Region to the University, University to the Region, through which academic staff prepared expert opinions and participated in advisory and governing bodies across the cultural, educational, and industrial sectors.

Individual faculties contributed according to their expertise: the Faculty of Arts supported heritage documentation and served on heritage and scientific councils; the Faculty of Social and Economic Studies engaged in public debates on spatial planning, cohesion policy, climate adaptation, and sustainability; the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering collaborated with industry through contract research; the Faculty of Art and Design held leadership roles in regional cultural institutions; the Faculty of Science participated in regional and international expert networks; the Faculty of Education contributed to teacher training and national curriculum reform; and the Faculty of Health Studies was active in professional platforms of the Ministry of Health. Overall, UJEP continues to position itself as a strategic partner in regional development, education, culture, and public health.

University commitment to SDGs

The University seeks to contribute to sustainable development across all areas defined by the United Nations. In line with its mission, it focuses in particular on the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): SDG 1 – No Poverty, SDG 4 – Quality Education, SDG 5 – Gender Equality, SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG 13 – Climate Action, and SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals. Progress achieved in 2024 is reported using the ESG institutional sustainability model across three main dimensions.

Environmental impact (SDGs 11, 13 and 17): The project RUR – Region to the University, University to the Region, funded by the Just Transition Fund, continued to support the sustainable development of both the University and the wider region. Within Key Activity 4: Creative Institutions, work began on several measures, including the institutionalisation of sustainability through an ESG model, a climate-sensitive campus landscape concept, development of green-blue infrastructure (such as an Environmental Education Centre, demonstration garden and orchard, and optimisation of energy management), as well as a Living Lab and a Sustainable Mobility Plan. The University also took part in the European Sustainable Development Week from 23 September to 2 October 2024 through a range of activities.

Social impact (SDGs 1, 4, 5 and 8): In line with its commitment to equal opportunities and a safe social environment, the University established a new Ombudsperson position. The role has been held by Lucie Tesařová since January 2024.

Governance and management (SDG 17): The University continued to strengthen partnerships for sustainable development, particularly through the RUR project. On 26 November 2024, UJEP hosted a project conference presenting key activities, plans, and progress related to sustainability to representatives of the academic community, ministries, municipalities, and other stakeholders. From September 2024, a new ESG Manager, Dana Kapitulčinová, was appointed, and work began on a conceptual framework for the institutionalisation of sustainability based on the ESG model.



Infrastructure and finance

UJEP's financial management is regularly evaluated at all levels of governance, including academic self-government and administrative management, and is subject to verification of the financial statements by an external auditor. The quality of financial management is significantly supported by the centralisation of all financial operations and structures, as well as by internal control mechanisms within the University's internal control system, which is reviewed by internal audit.

UJEP has long achieved a positive financial result. In 2024, the University recorded a surplus of CZK 10,409 thousand. The University also proposes transferring funds to the Investment Property Development Fund. In 2025, the University will continue to strive for maximum efficiency in operational expenditure and effective use of its budget in line with the relevant chapter of the UJEP Strategic Plan 2021–2025 and the Implementation Plan of the UJEP Strategic Plan for 2025. In 2025, implementation of the GET project under the Just Transition Operational Programme for the Ústí nad Labem Region will also begin.

Investment development focused on completing new facilities or expanding existing capacities for educational and creative activities, as well as on reconstructing existing university buildings and modernising their equipment and other material resources related to teaching and creative work.



Publisher

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in Ústí nad Labem for the Year 2024

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#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.

