

**2022
2023**



ACTIVITY REPORT

SCIENTIFIC AND UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT

EDITO

The Czech Republic and France have a long tradition of cooperation in the academic and scientific sectors, embodied as far back as the 19th century by Joachim Barrande, the famous French geologist who dedicated part of his life to the study of the Czech geological history. This continues today, with many collaborative research projects covering a vast range of topics, as well as intensive academic exchanges particularly within the framework of European university alliances.

The Scientific and University Department of the French Institute in Prague, in line with the objectives set out in the French Embassy's Action Plan, is helping to develop a framework conducive to these exchanges, always based on the same motto: connect, nurture and share.

We are pleased (and proud!) to present in this report the broad outlines of our action and the highlights for the period 2023-2024. We wish you a pleasant reading!

Véronique Debord-Lazaro

Science and Higher Education Attaché

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CAMPUS FRANCE

Campus France Czech Republic's main mission is to **promote French higher education** to high school and university students living in the Czech Republic.

Every year, we visit hundreds of students on our **tour of Czech high schools** to present them the possibilities of studies in France. We also visit students of **Czech universities** to introduce them to the types of grants they can apply for, and the opportunities available in their field through the Erasmus program or a double-diploma. We are present on both **Gaudeamus fairs, in Brno and in Prague.**

Once they have made their decision to study in France, we offer **individualized support** to help students at every stage of the application process, answer any questions they may have and assist them with **administrative formalities.**

We also organize and participate in different **events to promote the student mobility** (Erasmus Days, International festivals at Czech universities...).

Every year in June, we organize a **hybrid event for all high school and university students** who will study in France during the next academic year, to **prepare them for their arrival in France.**



26

high schools visited
in 2022-2023

1 350

high school and university
students informed in person
about studies in France
in 2022-2023

500

Czech students chose
France for their studies
in 2021-2022



FRANCE ALUMNI

The *France Alumni* network is the **network of international alumni who have completed all or part of their higher education in France.**

In the Czech Republic, the network has existed since **December 2016**. It aims to gather Czech Alumni who studied in France, to allow them maintaining a link with French culture and language while supporting them in their professional careers.

The Czech network currently has over **670 members** registered on the *France Alumni Czech Republic* platform.

Throughout the year 2022-2023, we animated this community by organizing **convivial networking events** such as la Galette des rois des Alumni, l'Afterwork des Alumni, la Fête de la musique des Alumni, la Bûche de Noël des Alumni, la Soirée dégustation de vins français...

We also invited them to take part in our **"Rendez-vous à la française"**: these events have been organized at the Palacký University in Olomouc in March 2022 and at the VŠE in Prague in March 2023. They aim to **highlight the opportunities offered by learning French** and mobility in France for professional life; during these events, our alumni can share their experience with younger students, and meet recruiting companies looking for French-speaking talent during the business forum.



FRANCE ALUMNI DAYS 2023

The first edition of the *France Alumni Day* was held around the world in 2023. In Prague, we organized an event **in May 2023 at the French Embassy** to promote the image of France as a "country of innovation", while highlighting the achievements of Czech alumni.

The programme included the Honoring ceremony for the 2023 French Government Scholarship laureates, a round-table discussion on the theme *"Innovation challenges in France and the Czech Republic: our alumni speak out"*, and the official relaunch of the Czech Republic section of the Sciences Po Paris alumni network by our Ambassador Mr Alexis Dutertre. The evening ended with a cocktail party during which the audience discovered an original exhibition of 17 photo portraits of Czech alumni.

Calendar 2023-2024



October 4th · France Alumni evening (for students of the Masaryk University, Brno)

October 12th · Welcome evening for Sciences Po Paris Erasmus students

October 23rd · Rendez-vous à la française in Pilsen (University of West Bohemia)

January 2024 · Galette des rois des Alumni (Prague)

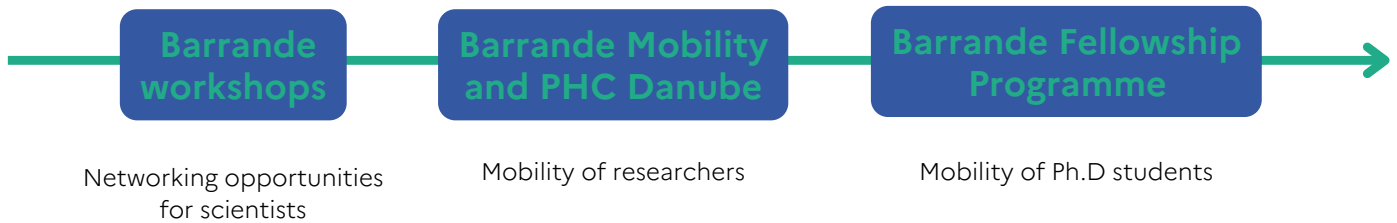
January 30th 2024 · Rendez-vous à la française in Brno (Masaryk University)

March 2024 · Wine tasting evening (French Institute in Prague)

May 2024 · 2nd edition of the France Alumni Day (French Embassy in the Czech Republic)

SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION SUPPORT

Toolbox to support scientific cooperation between France and the Czech Republic



Connecting Czech and French researchers

The **Barrande workshops** aim at **gathering scientists** from both countries to foster **new cooperations**. By involving students (PhD and master's), they also contribute to the **training of young researchers** as well as to the development of a **sense of belonging** to a joint community. After the launch of the 1st Barrande workshop in chemistry in 2009, other disciplines have followed: biosciences in 2015, nanosciences in 2017, nuclear sciences in 2018.

Based on a successful recipe combining short presentations, lab visits and networking opportunities, the workshops gather **on average 30 participants** and are organized **alternatively in France and in the Czech Republic**. Young researchers are active participants in these events, which help them build their international network.

Barrande-Vltava meeting in Chemistry (Dijon, August 2022); Barrande meeting in nuclear sciences (Liblice, October 2022); Barrande meeting in biosciences (Olomouc, October 2022); Barrande meeting in nanosciences (Lille, February 2023).



SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION SUPPORT

Researchers' mobility

The French Embassy operates **two programmes** that support the mobility of researchers in the frame of joint research projects (2 years): **Barrande Mobility** (bilateral mobility) and **Danube** (regional mobility).

They are open to all disciplines (chemistry, math, computer science, biology, SSH, agronomy, engineering, earth sciences) and strongly encourage the participation of young researchers.

32

Barrande mobility projects
supported this year

10

Danube projects
with Czech and French teams supported this year

Ph.D students' mobility



The **Barrande Fellowship Programme**, the bilateral mobility programme **for Ph.D students** between France and the Czech Republic, aims at **enhancing international education exchange** while encouraging scientific cooperation between French and Czech research teams. It is designed to provide Ph.D. students in the Czech Republic with opportunities to study in France and Ph.D. students in France with opportunities to study in the Czech Republic. The call is open to all scientific fields.

This year, 57 candidates were auditioned, and 29 were or will be funded:

- **20 mobilities to France**
- **9 mobilities to the Czech Republic.**

The Barrande Fellowship programme is carried out in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport of the Czech Republic (MŠMT) and with the support of the Czech National Agency for International Education and Research (DZS).

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Supporting cooperation in AI

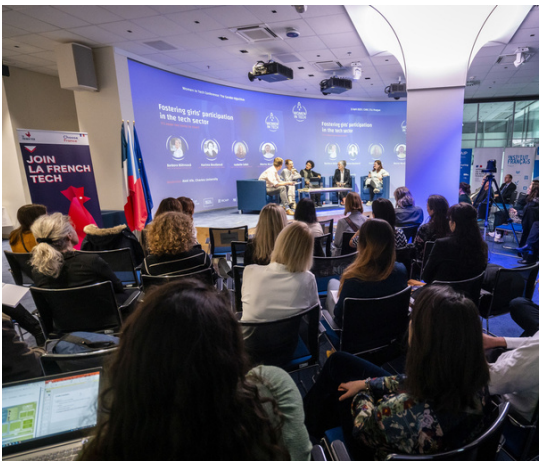
In the framework of the French and Czech national AI strategies, the **first Czech-French workshop on artificial intelligence** took place on September 12th-13th 2022 at the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Czech Technical University in Prague and online.

With **8 sessions** featuring around **30 high-level panelists** from both countries, **over 200 participants** joined to discuss this new technology with major social, security, economic and geopolitical impact.

Organized as part of the Czech Presidency of the EU, the event was supported by the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs and hosted the Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Czech Secretary of State for Science, Research and Innovation.



[For more information](#)



[For more information](#)

Women in Tech: the Gender algorithm

On 12th April 2023, the “Women in Tech – The gender algorithm” conference (organized by the French Embassy, the French Institute in Prague, the Czech Technical University in Prague and La French Tech Prague) brought together **Czech and French experts** and practitioners, to discuss, in two panels, the **place of women in the digital technologies sector**. Indeed, while these technologies are one of the most powerful drivers of structural change in our economies and societies and many initiatives are being taken at national and European level to fight gender inequalities, the percentage of female workers remains very low. **Why are women so poorly represented in the tech sector?** Why is this a problem and what can we do about it?

Transition to a low-carbon economy: focus on circular economy

As an innovative alternative, circular economy can help **reduce the environmental impact of production and consumption**, stimulate innovation and encourage more efficient use of resources. In partnership with the Czech-French Chamber of Commerce, the roundtable “Circular economy, a source of future Franco-Czech partnerships” that took place on June 20th at the French Embassy gathered institutions, agencies and companies to **discuss European and national strategies** and policies, local development aspects and technological and training challenges, as well as the benefits of developing Franco-Czech cooperation in this field by highlighting Czech and French initiatives and business opportunities. Representatives of the Czech Ministry of Industry and Commerce and the Ministry of Environment participated in the event.



[For more information](#)

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Ma thèse en 180 secondes

After the organisation of the Czech selection between January and March, we were very happy to welcome the **candidates from Austria, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia** on June 8th at **Charles University** for the **Central European finale** of the contest.

Congratulations to the 10 finalists, to the laureates, and a very special bravo to our candidates Veronika Trusová, Daria Chernenko and Nardjas Bettazova!

A very warm thank you to Charles University, Gallica, L'Oréal and the Embassy of Swiss in the Czech Republic for helping us in the organisation of this year's edition.

The registration for the 2024 edition of the contest will open in January 2024, and the regional finale will take place in Budapest.

[For more information](#)



**CLUB
SCIENCES** 

OUR NEW BORN

The "Club Sciences de l'Institut français de Prague"

Connect science and society, showcase Czech-French cooperation, promote young researchers... This is what our *Club Sciences* is about.

Through science cafés, conferences, live experiments, workshops for children and families, we try and make **science accessible to the wider audience.**

[For more information](#)

SCIENTIFIC PRIZES



Scientific Prizes of the Embassy of France in the Czech Republic

For the **29th year**, the Embassy of France in the Czech Republic has organized the Scientific Prizes competition, which aims at **rewarding the best PhD students and young researchers** in the Czech Republic. Prizes cover all fields of research, and are all sponsored by companies or institutions:

- The **Jean-Marie Lehn Prize in Chemistry**, oldest prize which was created in 1994, and which is sponsored by the IOCB Tech Foundation and the Czech Chemical Society.
- The **Albert Schweitzer Prize in Medicine** sponsored by Servier.
- The **Sanofi Prize** in Pharmacy sponsored by Sanofi.
- The **Henri Becquerel Prize in Nuclear Sciences** sponsored by EDF.
- The **Joseph Fourier Prize in Computer Sciences** sponsored by Eviden (formerly Atos) and IT4Innovations (supercomputer based at the technical University of Ostrava).
- The **Jacques Derrida Prize in Social Sciences and Humanities** which made his return this year, sponsored by M. Michal Martinko, partner at Crane Consultancy.
- The **Make Our Planet Great Again Prize (MOPGA)**, latest creation of the Scientific Prizes, sponsored by BNP Paribas.

68 candidates were auditioned by 7 panels gathering 39 Czech researchers and 7 French experts who chaired the committees. Laureates were offered financial rewards by the sponsors, and the two first laureates of each category were offered a one-month research stay in France. The awarding ceremony took place at the Embassy of France on June 22nd and gathered more than 120 people to celebrate the success of the new laureates. They were awarded their prizes by the Ambassador of France and Professor and **Nobel Prize in Chemistry Jean-Marie Lehn**, who was one of the instigators of the Prize in the 1990s, and who has hosted the ceremony every year since.



Next year, the Scientific Prizes of the Embassy will celebrate their **30 years of existence**, which will be the occasion for us to reflect on the history of the programme and the path that was travelled by our **400 laureates through the years**.

A **special ceremony** will be organised in the frame of our *Sounds of Science* event in June 2024.

CALENDAR 2023 - 2024



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CONTACT US

Scientific and University Department

veronique.debord-lazaro@ifp.cz

Campus France Czech Republic

prague@campusfrance.org



AMBASSADE
DE FRANCE
EN RÉPUBLIQUE
TCHÈQUE

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*



**CAMPUS
FRANCE**

— RÉP. TCHÈQUE —

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