

**2025
2026**



ACTIVITY REPORT

SCIENTIFIC AND UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT

EDITO

The Czech Republic and France share a rich history of academic and scientific cooperation, a tradition stretching back to the 19th century with figures like Joachim Barrande, the renowned French geologist who dedicated his life to studying Czech geological history. This legacy thrives today through numerous collaborative research projects across diverse fields and robust academic exchanges, particularly within European university alliances.

The Scientific and University Department of the French Institute in Prague actively encourages these exchanges, aligning with the French Embassy's Action Plan. Our mission is clear: connect, nurture, and share.

We are proud to present this report, highlighting the key initiatives and achievements of our work during the 2025-2026 academic year. We hope you will enjoy reading it!

Scientific and University Department

03	Campus France	10	Highlights of the year
04	France Alumni	14	A year in pictures
05	Scientific cooperation support	15	Contact us
07	Scientific Prizes	16	Our partners

CAMPUS FRANCE



43

high schools visited
in 2025-2026

2 300

students informed in
person about studies in
France in 2025-2026

635

Czech students chose
France for their studies
in 2024-2025

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

Every year, we meet hundreds of students on our tour of Czech high schools to introduce study possibilities in France. We also visit students of Czech universities to present the **scholarships** they can apply for and the opportunities available in their field through the Erasmus programme or double degrees. We take part in **local student fairs** organized directly by schools across the country. Once they have made their choice, we offer individualized support to help students at every stage of the application process, answer any question they may have and assist them with administrative paperwork.

We also organize and participate in **different events to promote student mobility** such as the *Erasmus Days* or international fairs at universities. Every year in June, we invite all high school and university students who will study in France during the next academic year to *Bienvenue en France* sessions to best prepare them for their arrival in France.

Our office is located at the French Institute in Prague and welcomes students by appointment.



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 Czechia, the network was created in **December 2016** with the aim to enable Czech Alumni to stay connected with the French culture and language while supporting them in their professional careers.

The Czech network currently has nearly **760 members** registered on the France Alumni Czech Republic platform.

Throughout the academic year 2025-2026, we kept the community alive by organizing several **convivial networking events**: France Alumni gathering in Brno, *Galette des rois des Alumni*, *Soirée dégustation de vins français* or the *France Alumni Day* in cooperation with the French-Czech Chamber of Commerce.

Our alumni were also invited to our "**Rendez-vous à la française**", this year at the University of Ostrava (VŠB-TUO) in November 2025 and the University of South Bohemia in April 2026. These events aim to highlight the opportunities offered by learning French and academic mobility; our alumni can share their experience with younger students, and meet with companies looking for French-speaking talent during a business forum.



New in 2026!

Members of the France Alumni network can now join our new WhatsApp community. They can share job offers, language and cultural tips, and stay in touch with students and fellow alumni!



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 (Ph.D and master's), they also contribute to the **training of young researchers**, to their international exposure as well as to the development of a **sense of belonging** to a joint community.

Based on a successful recipe combining short presentations, lab visits and networking opportunities, the workshops gather **on average 50 participants** and are organized **alternatively in France and in the Czech Republic**.

The 6th Barrande Conference on Nanotechnology, Photonics and Electronics, Grenoble, November 24th to 26th, 2025.

The 14th Barrande-Vltava French-Czech chemistry meeting was held in Pardubice, from August 31st to September 2; 2026.



In addition to the Barrande workshops, the Scientific Department also supported the 25th **European Summer University of OFFRES** (francophone academic network focused on European training and research in the humanities), from July 12th to 19th 2026, which brought together students, researchers and academics at Charles University in Prague.

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): **PHC Barrande** (bilateral mobility) and **PHC Danube** (regional mobility, every other year).

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

15

Barrande mobility projects supported this year

9

Danube mobility projects funded involving the Czech Republic for 2 years

Mobility of Ph.D students

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 Czech and French 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.

For the 7th edition of the programme in 2026, 44 candidates were auditioned, and 26 were selected:

- **17 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).





Scientific Prizes of the Embassy of France in the Czech Republic

The Embassy organizes the Scientific Prizes competition, which aims at **recognizing the best Ph.D students and young researchers** in the Czech Republic. Covering different fields of research, they are supported by companies or foundations:

- The **Jean-Marie Lehn Prize in Chemistry**, launched in 1994, in partnership with the IOCB Foundation and the Czech Chemical Society
- The **Albert Schweitzer Prize in Medicine**, in partnership with Servier
- The **Sanofi Prize** in Pharmacy, in partnership with Sanofi
- The **Henri Becquerel Prize in Nuclear Sciences**, in partnership with Framatome
- The **Joseph Fourier Prize in Computer Sciences**, in partnership with DataSentics and IT4Innovations (supercomputer based at the technical University of Ostrava)
- The **Jacques Derrida Prize in Social Sciences and Humanities**, in partnership with the Young Talents Foundation
- The **Make Our Planet Great Again Prize (MOPGA)**, in partnership with BNP Paribas

Through 7 panels gathering 26 Czech researchers and 7 French experts who chaired the committees, 64 candidates were auditioned. 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 26th, 2026 and gathered more than 100 people to celebrate the success of the new laureates. They were awarded their prizes by the Ambassador of France, the **Nobel Prize awardee in Chemistry, Jean-Marie Lehn** and the **distinguished biophysician Pascal Mayer**.



SCIENTIFIC PRIZES



Scientific Prizes of the Embassy of France in the Czech Republic: Laureates in each category

Category	Ranking	Name	First Name	Institution
Henri Becquerel	1	Peltan	Tomáš	University of West Bohemia, Plzeň
Henri Becquerel	2	Vanicek	Ondřej	University of West Bohemia, Plzeň
Henri Becquerel	3	Lavičková	Karolína	Czech Technical University in Prague
Jacques Derrida	1	Řičář	Josef	Charles University
Jacques Derrida	2	Wassouf	Dennis	Masaryk University
Jacques Derrida	3	Coufal	Linda	Charles University
CEFRES	CEFRES platform award	Muchová	Linda	Charles University
Joseph Fourier	1	Horyna	Jiří	Czech Technical University in Prague
Joseph Fourier	2	Polok	Alexander	Brno University of Technology
Joseph Fourier	3	Šubert	Martin	Czech Technical University in Prague
Joseph Fourier	IT4Innovation award	Polok	Alexander	Brno University of Technology
Jean-Marie Lehn	1	Copko	Jakub	Czech Academy of Sciences
Jean-Marie Lehn	2	Janoš	Jiří	University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague
Jean-Marie Lehn	3	Chasak	Jan	Palacký University, Olomouc
Jean-Marie Lehn	Czech Chemical Society award	Labíková	Magdaléna	University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague

SCIENTIFIC PRIZES



Scientific Prizes of the Embassy of France in the Czech Republic: Laureates in each category

Category	Ranking	Name	First Name	Institution
Make our planet great again	1	Kocum	Jiří	Czech Academy of Sciences
Make our planet great again	2	Jašek	Vojtěch	Brno University of Technology
Make our planet great again	3	Koppová	Kamila	University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague
Sanofi	1	Král'	Michal	Czech Academy of Sciences
Sanofi	2	Gazárková	Taťána	Charles University
Sanofi	3	Cmarko	Leoš	Charles University
Albert Schweitzer	1	Schütz	Štěpán-Ota	Charles University
Albert Schweitzer	2	Šantová	Alžbeta	Charles University
Albert Schweitzer	3	Stejskal	Pavel	Palacký University, Olomouc



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

France Alumni Day 2026

We took part in the France Alumni Day initiative for the fourth consecutive year, celebrating the strong ties between higher education, scientific research, and career development under the theme of innovation and cross-border collaboration. In the Czechia, we organised several events to celebrate our alumni:

- The flagship **France Alumni Career and Innovation Day** took place at the French Embassy on June 11th. We brought together around 100 researchers and professionals, all alumni of the French higher education system, who drive innovation across varied industries. It was the occasion to highlight the excellence of French academic pathways.
- An interdisciplinary round-table brought together four alumni with outstanding trajectories across artificial intelligence, luxury craftsmanship, pharmaceutical R&D, and neurolinguistics. They shared their international experience and demonstrated the tangible synergies between academic research and business innovation.
- For the first time, a dedicated career forum was organized in partnership with the French-Czech Chamber of Commerce, featuring eight major partner companies representing sectors such as biotechnology, AI, energy, and international law.
- An interactive AI networking tool was deployed to facilitate direct exchanges between alumni and recruiters. The event was also the opportunity to actively mobilize former French Government Scholarship (BGF) laureates and reinforce their lasting connection with the network.
- The France Alumni Days were also the occasion to present diverse testimonies from alumni across our social networks (LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram).



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR



On June 25th, 2026, the fourth edition of "**Sounds of Science**" took place at the magnificent Estates Theater (*Stavovské Divadlo*), bringing together scientists of the highest level and musicians for a dialogue between science and the arts.

Scientific lectures were given by French scientists, who introduced the latest scientific concepts and challenges in their respective disciplines in an enthusiastic and accessible way:

- Mathematician **Hugo Duminil-Copin** (Fields Medal 2022)
- Astrophysicist **Françoise Combes** (President of the French Academy of Sciences)
- Biophysicist **Pascal Mayer** (Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences 2022, Canada Gairdner International Award Laureate 2024, Princess of Asturias Award Laureate 2026)
- Under the patronage of **Jean-Marie Lehn** (Nobel Prize in Chemistry 1987)

This intellectual journey was moderated by the famous Czech **journalist Daniel Stach** (*Česká televize*) and punctuated by **musical interludes** performed by French pianist **Frank Braley** (Queen Elisabeth Competition laureate), with a varied programme including works by Mozart, among others, paying tribute to the historical lineage between Stavovské divadlo and the composer.

The three scientists also engaged in scientific side-events at the University of Chemistry and Technology in Prague, the Astrological Institute and the Institute of Molecular Genetics of the Czech Academy of Sciences, who were all partners of the event.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Scientific & university cooperation



Women in sciences: their journeys inspire us

In the frame of the **international day of Women and Girls in Science**, we organised a roundtable on February 11, featuring four female scientific researchers and moderated by sociologist Marcela Linkova, expert on gender inequality in higher education and research.

Sharing their experience with high school students, they **empowered young girls to choose scientific fields**. The discussion with students reflected on the place of women in science and the efforts that still need to be made in order to achieve gender equality, as well as **debunking gender stereotypes** when it comes to women working in predominantly male scientific fields.

French-Czech-Slovak winter school on nuclear sciences

From February 23 to 27, the Slovak university of technology, the I2EN (International Institute of Nuclear Energy), the University of Bohemia and the French Embassies in Prague and Bratislava organized **the 2026 edition of the trilateral France-Czech-Slovak Nuclear Winter School**.

Students from the Czech Republic, France and Slovakia gathered in the **University of West Bohemia in Plzeň** and benefited from the lectures and practical techniques of a dozen of experts. This scientific collaboration paves the way for future cooperations between the academic world and the industry.



Czech – French Collaboration in Astronomy and Astrophysics

On June 26, the Institute of Astrophysics (Czech Academy of Sciences) hosted a workshop, with French astrophysicist and President of the Academy of Sciences **Françoise Combes** as a guest. **Françoise Combes received the Ernst Mach Honorary Medal for Merits in the Physical Sciences**, one of the highest distinctions awarded by the Czech Academy of Sciences.

This prestigious recognition honours an outstanding scientific career and perfectly illustrates the excellence of international research collaboration.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Popularisation of science

'Ma Thèse en 180 secondes'

8 PhD students from Czech universities participated in the **Czech finale of the 'Ma Thèse en 180 secondes' competition** on May 16. They rose to the challenge of **presenting their PhD research in French in just three minutes**. Three of them were selected by the jury to compete in the Central Europe finale in Vienna on June 15th. Magui Khazaal, who is pursuing her PhD at the Institute of Experimental Medicine of the Czech Academy of Sciences, won the first prize in Vienna and will participate in the international final.



'Club Sciences'

This year we organised two 'Club sciences' aiming at fostering dialogue between science and society and promoting scientific collaborations between science and society.

On December 17, a debate **"Challenges to environmental politics in the Czech Republic and Central Europe"** was hosted at the French Institute, featuring Czech famous greenfluencer Rozárie Haškovcová and geographer Gilles Lepasant from the CEFRES. We discussed what is specific about climate-scepticism in Czechia, the difficulties of questioning the growth paradigm in a post-soviet context, and what roles could content creators, researchers but also culture & arts endorse in promoting a desirable, greener future.



Another session of Club sciences took place on March 4, leading up to International Women's Day, dedicated to **research in gender studies**. As gender studies is very challenged as a research field, and as its scientific nature is often called into question, sociologists Eva Svatonová and Magdaléna Michlová exposed why this research matters in a context of political backlash on women's and gender minorities' rights. The anti-gender movement in the Czech Republic, and gender politics in Central & Eastern European societies were also discussed.

OUR YEAR IN PICTURES

The academic year 2025-2026 was also the opportunity for our team and for H.E. Stéphane Crouzat, French Ambassador to the Czech Republic, to visit many partner universities and institutions. You can find some examples below.

Graduation ceremony for the Czech-French double-degree MFTAP between Masaryk University (Brno) and Rennes University.



October 8, 2025

Visit of the Czech Institute of Informatics, Robotics and Cybernetics, and tour of the facilities.



November 13, 2025

PhD defense of Leos Cmarko, a French Alumni who did a double-degree PhD (cotutelle) between Nantes and Prague, as part of the Barrande Fellowship Programme.



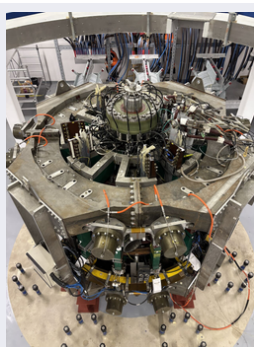
November 15, 2025

Visit at the IOCB (Czech Academy of Sciences) with Mr Ambassador.



December 12, 2025

Visit to the Institutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences in Ládvi: AI for Science & Society.



December 2025

A visit to Brno focused on academic and scientific exchanges: CEITEC - Central European Institute of Technology, double-degree between Masaryk and Rennes University, Gallica association...



January 16 to 17, 2026

Visit of ZEVO Malešice (Zařízení na energetické využití odpadu), the waste-to-energy plant in Prague, with H.E. Stéphane Crouzat and Prof. Marcela Efmretova.



January 28, 2026

Visit of the Faculty of Chemical Technology in Pardubice, with Mr Ambassador Crouzat.



April 13th, 2026

FOLLOW US

if_prague



campusfrance_republiquetcheque

Institut français de Prague



Campus France République tchèque

Institut français de Prague



France Alumni ČESKÁ REPUBLIKA

IF Prague



Francouzský institut v Praze



www.ifp.cz



www.republiquetcheque.
campusfrance.org

CONTACT US

Scientific and University Department

science@ifp.cz

Campus France Czech Republic

prague@campusfrance.org

OUR PARTNERS



Main partners



Ministerstvo
školství, mládeže
a tělovýchovy



Scientific Prizes and Sounds of Science



YOUNG
TALENTS
FOUNDATION



IOCB
FOUNDATION



BNP PARIBAS



Akademie věd
České republiky



FAKULTA
JADERNÁ
A FYZIKÁLNĚ
INŽENÝRSKÁ
ČVUT V PRAZE



VYSOKÁ ŠKOLA
CHEMICKO-TECHNOLOGICKÁ
V PRAZE



Astronomical Institute
of the Czech Academy of Sciences



Other partners



Government
of Canada
Embassy
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada
Ambassade
du Canada



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Ambassade de Suisse en République tchèque
Švýcarské velvyslanectví v České republice



EMBASSY OF BELGIUM



CZEXPATS
IN SCIENCE

Many thanks to all our partners for your trust and support!



Authors:

Stéphanie Legoupy

Capucine Martin

Aneta Sargeant

© Photo credit

Eva Kořínková

Lukáš Bíba