

UNICOM Meeting Prague (2024)



1.-4.10.2024

Czech University of Life Sciences Prague
Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences
Room 313 and 315



Welcome at CZU – Czech University of Life Sciences Prague

Experience Sharing – *Third mission of universities & University-Community cooperation*

Dear colleagues, Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed guests, and fellow scholars,

It is a great honor and privilege to welcome you all to this distinguished gathering where we come together to explore a vital aspect of higher education and research – the **third mission of universities and university-community cooperation**. In this week (1.-4.10.2024), we embark on a journey of experience sharing, a journey that promises to shed light on how universities can serve as catalysts for positive change in their communities and beyond.

Our focus today lies at the intersection of academia and society, where the impact of universities extends far beyond lecture halls and laboratories. Universities have long been recognized as the cradles of knowledge, nurturing young minds and producing cutting-edge research. Yet, they are increasingly being called upon to fulfill a broader role – a role that goes beyond teaching and research, a role often referred to as the "third mission."

„The third role of CZU is an important aspect of the university's mission, helping to connect the academic community with the broader society and contributing to the sustainable development of the region.”

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hynek Roubík

The third mission encompasses the idea that universities have a duty to engage with the wider community and contribute to social and economic development. It emphasizes the importance of sharing knowledge, resources, and expertise for the betterment of society. Universities are not isolated ivory towers; they are dynamic institutions that have the potential to be powerful forces for positive change.

This week's event is particularly significant as we have the distinct pleasure of hosting all of you at the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague. Your visit offers us a unique opportunity to exchange insights, experiences, and best practices in the field of university-community cooperation. This collaboration not only strengthens our academic bonds but also reinforces our commitment to addressing the real-world challenges faced by our communities.

Throughout the course of this event, we will look into the strategies, initiatives, and partnerships that have enabled our institutions to make a meaningful impact beyond our campuses. We will learn from one another's successes and challenges, and we will chart a course toward even more effective and sustainable collaboration.

University-community cooperation is not a one-size-fits-all concept. It takes various forms, from community outreach programs to research partnerships, entrepreneurship support, and more. It's about universities becoming responsive and responsible agents of positive change, tailored to the specific needs and contexts of our communities.

As we embark on this journey of exploration and collaboration, I encourage all of us to approach the discussions with an open mind and a shared commitment to fostering the third mission of universities. Let us remember that the knowledge we create and share today can pave the way for a brighter, more inclusive, and more prosperous future for all.

Once again, I extend a warm welcome to our distinguished guests from all over Europe and also specifically from Ukraine here at the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, and I thank all of you for your presence here. Together, we have the potential to shape a future where the impact of universities reaches far beyond academia, transforming the communities we serve.

Sincerely,

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hynek Roubík

Director of BioResources and Technology Division

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Content

Welcome at CZU – Czech University of Life Sciences Prague	2
Experience Sharing – <i>Third mission of universities & University-Community cooperation</i>	2
General guidelines and practical information	6
Visa information	6
General requirements	6
Invitation letter	7
Venue	8
How to get to CZU	8
Travelling by train	8
Travelling by long distance bus.....	9
Travelling by plane	9
Parking.....	9
Accommodation	10
Program of the UNICOM meeting	11
Tuesday, 1.10.2024	11
Wednesday, 2.10.2024.....	11
Thursday, 3.10.2024.....	12
Friday, 4.10.2024	12
About Czech University of Life Sciences	14
About Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences	15
About BioResources & Technology	16



General guidelines and practical information

Visa information

For information on visa requirements, different visa types, and the application procedure as well as for downloading the application form please consult the website of the Czech embassy in your country.

General requirements

According to the Schengen Agreement, tourist and business visas issued by a mission of one of the following countries are valid for travel to all other countries listed: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

However, you always have to apply at the mission of the country which is your main destination.

You should file your visa application in the state of your citizenship or residency. If there is no diplomatic mission of the Czech Republic in this state, the application should be filed at a diplomatic mission which is accredited for that state (usually in a neighbouring state) or at a diplomatic mission of another Schengen Area state which represents the Czech Republic in this state.

Please note that the processing of a Schengen visa category C (short-term visa - for visits to the Czech Republic of up to 90 days), takes at least two weeks and it is not possible to expedite the visa processing. Therefore, be sure to apply for a visa in time.

At most Czech embassies it is crucial to make an appointment before the necessary documents can be handed in - usually by phone, email or website booking system. Please be sure to book an appointment at least 6-8 weeks prior to the intended time of travel - in most cases you do have to start obtaining an appointment much earlier. You will find all necessary information on the website of the Czech embassy in your country.

Please read carefully the visa application information available on the website of your Czech embassy before scheduling an appointment or to go there.

Invitation letter

If you wish to receive such a letter, please contact us via BRT@ftz.czu.cz.

Be aware that we can only issue such letters electronically (pdf format) and are not able to send you or the embassy a hard copy.



Venue

How to get to the university campus can be found [HERE](#).

The main programme will take place at the [Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences](#).

Search term for Google Maps: [BioResources & Technology](#).

How to get to CZU

The basic reference point for making your way to the CZU campus is the Dejvická A metro station. After you make your way to the Dejvická station via any of the methods specified below, take bus number 107 (heading to Suchdol) or 147 (heading to Výhledy) and go to the "Zemědělská univerzita" stop. Here you will find the entrance gate to CZU.

Travelling by train

Most passengers coming to Prague via train will arrive at one of Prague's two large central stations: The Main Train Station -Hlavní nádraží (Wilsonovo nádraží), or the Holešovice station. Both stations are on metro line C (red). The Main Train Station is usually the terminal station for trains arriving from the west or from the east (Paris, Frankfurt, Stuttgart, Zurich, Warsaw, Moscow), and the Holešovice station for trains from other directions (Berlin, Dresden, Vienna, Budapest, Zagreb). To get to the Dejvická station, first take the C line (red) metro to the Muzeum station and then transfer to the A Line (green) and make your way to the Dejvická station. Passengers from Western and North-western Bohemia and Pardubice can also arrive at Masarykovo nádraží where the trains terminate. If you arrive here, then take the metro via the B line (yellow) from the Náměstí republiky station (one of the entrances to this station is right next to the exit from Masarykovo nádraží!) one stop to the Můstek station and transfer to line A (green) and continue on to Dejvická.

Travelling by long distance bus

Passengers travelling via long distance bus from any direction, country or part of the Czech Republic will arrive at the Florenc bus station, which is right next to the Florenc metro where two metro lines intersect (B = yellow and C = red).

It is a very short trip to the Dejvická station via the metro line B first to the Můstek station, where you will transfer to line A (green), and from there you will make your way to the Dejvická station. The Prague Metro has three lines: A (green), B (yellow) and C (red). In order to get to our university, you will need to get on line A (green) and make your way to the Dejvická station. From here, using the same ticket you purchased on the metro, get on bus 107 (heading to Suchbátka) or 147 (heading to Výchleby). Both stop at Zemědělská univerzita. The bus ride takes about 10 minutes.

Travelling by plane

The Václav Havel Airport is located 15 km west of the city centre. You can make your way to our university from the airport via public transport or taxi.

A public transport ticket costs 40 CZK. You have to buy it in advance, it's not possible to buy it on the board (only in selected vehicles, payment only by credit card). The tickets are valid for transfers to all public transport in Prague (buses, trams, metro, some trains in Prague and the cable car to Petřín) for 90 minutes (see details on the ticket). From the Václav Havel Airport, take bus 119, which will take you to the Metro A Veleslavín station. From the Veleslavín station, take the metro two stations towards Skalka/Depo Hostivař all the way to the Metro A Dejvická station.

The complete price list of the public transport can be found at pid.cz/tarif-web/?lang=en.

Parking

Parking is available on the university campus. You can enter it by the main gate (there is a sign for university guests).

Accommodation

Close to the venue with an approximate price for two nights:

[Hotel International Prague](#) – 250 euro

[Vienna House Diplomat Prague](#) – 180 euro

[Hotel Schweiger](#) – 135 euro

[Hotel DAP](#) – 120 euro

[Vila Lanna](#) – 110 euro

[Masarykova kolej](#) (dormitories) – 100 euro

[a&o Prague Rhea Hotel](#) - 80 euro (further from campus)

Dormitories of our University also have some capacity for hotel rooms, but preferably contact us as soon as possible, and we will make a reservation for you. Rooms are perfectly fine for a short stay, but you may have to experience some student evening activities. The price is low, usually around 20 euros per night.

Program of the UNICOM meeting

Tuesday, 1.10.2024

Time	Topic	Responsible person	ROOM
11:00-12:00	Arrival & Registration		313
			313
13:00	Official Welcome	Hynek Roubík	313
13:30-14:00	Presentation of BRT activities	Hynek Roubík	
14:00-17:00	10th Exhibition of Chilli Peppers	Marek Jelínek	313

Wednesday, 2.10.2024

Time	Topic	Responsible person	
9:00-10:00	Arrival & Registration		313
10:00-11:00	Laboratories of FTA	Marek Jelínek	313
11:00-12:00	International activities for FTA	International Relations Office	
12:00-14:00	Lunch break		
14:00-17:00	Trip to the City Center	Marek Jelínek	313
Time	Topic	Responsible person	



Thursday, 3.10.2024

9:00-9:30	Registration
9:30-10:30	Opening / Keynote Speech
10:30-12:30	Session: Climate and Sustainability
12:30-13:30	Lunch break
13:30-14:45	Session: Plants and Agriculture (I)
14:45-15:30	Coffe break / Photo exposition opening
15:30-18:00	Session: Technology and Innovation
18:00	Barbecue

Friday, 4.10.2024

9:00 - 10:30	Session: In-Person Poster Presentations
10:30 - 11:15	Coffe break / Poster discussion
11:15 - 12:30	Session: Animals and Ecology
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch Break
13:30-15:00	Session: Plants and Agriculture (II)
15:00-15:30	Coffe break
15:30-17:00	Session:Society and Culture
17:00–19:00	Online Work shop

Space for your notes





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Consortium

- Genoa University (Coordinator)
- Fachhochschule des Mittelstands
- University of Latvia
- Czech University of Life Sciences Prague
- Lund University
- Fondazione Sicurezza e Libertà
- Accreditation Council for Entrepreneurial and Engaged Universities
- National Pedagogical Dragomanov University (National coordinator)
- Sumy National Agrarian University
- Ivan Franko National University of Lviv
- Kharkiv National University of Radio Electronic
- Bohdan Khmelnytsky Melitopol State Pedagogical University
- Donetsk State University of Internal Affairs
- National Pirogov Memorial Medical University, Vinnytsya
- Institute of Higher Education of the National Academy of Pedagogical Sciences
- Ukrainian Association of Professors and Researchers of European Integration
- Ukrainian Association of European Studies
- Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine



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Meeting hosted by:



Czech
University
of Life Sciences
Prague



**BioResources
& Technology**



About Czech University of Life Sciences

The Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (CZU) is one of the leading European institutions in the field of life sciences (Around 50th place worldwide in Agriculture and Forestry).

CZU is not just a life sciences university, but a place of innovative scientific research and discovery.

We live in a world where natural resources are being depleted at an alarming rate.

CZU emphasizes education and research in sustainable development and the conservation of biodiversity along with the responsible use of natural resources and alternative, renewable means of energy production.

CZU Prague is situated on the outskirts of Prague, on a quiet and well-equipped campus that is easily reachable from the city centre by public transport.

CZU is one of the largest universities in the Czech Republic, offering over 220 Bachelor's, Master's, and PhD study programmes. Over 50 study programmes are taught entirely in English.

More than three hundred students from our university travel each year in the framework of the Erasmus+ mobility programme, traveling to 27 countries in Europe to study for a semester or one academic year at over 200 universities throughout Europe.



About Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences

The Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences (FTA), the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (CZU) is a unique institution in our country with over fifty years of tradition in tropical agriculture, rural development and the sustainable management of natural resources in the tropics.

The mission of the Faculty:

The mission of the faculty is the higher education of foreign and Czech students in the fields of tropical agriculture, rural development and the sustainable management of natural and energy resources in the tropics. An integral part of our mission is Research and Development in the field of tropical life sciences and the application of R&D results to the specific conditions of tropical and/or developing countries.

The vision of the Faculty:

To be an excellent and very specific institution in the Czech Republic orientated towards the transfer of the latest knowledge and technology between the Czech Republic, the EU and tropical regions respecting the traditional values of the local communities of the developing world as well as their level of socio-economic and technological development.



About BioResources & Technology

The main objective of the solved research at the BioResources & Technology is to determine the real impact of small biogas plants (both in developing and developed countries) on the environment, climate change and society and to contribute crucially to the current global debate on small biogas technology.

Biogas = Biogas is a mixture of gases, primarily consisting of methane, carbon dioxide and hydrogen sulphide, produced from raw materials such as agricultural waste, manure, municipal waste, plant material, sewage, green waste and food waste. It is a renewable energy source. And we do like these kinds of sources.

The main long-term research interest of the BioResources & Technology is to reveal the current state, bottlenecks and perspectives of biogas plants in both developing and developed countries.

Biogas plant = We can't speak about the term "biogas" without mentioning the biogas plants. These are simply the places where the biogas production process occurs. In plain English, a biogas plant is a system that provides an Anaerobic (oxygen-free) environment where bacteria transform biomass into biogas. It can come in different sizes and forms, and it serves to create carbon-neutral energy.

Our team is covering what we call the whole research life cycle – which, from our point of view, means that we do everything from feasibility studies, system studies, technology development, laboratory scale research, towards implementation. Furthermore, we continue with socio-economic studies and implications, gender studies as well as various environmental studies.

The research lifecycle = covers everything from the conception of a research idea through securing funding for it, building the team, partnerships or collaborators who will work on it with you, taking the project to completion and then beyond communication and dissemination to impact. The research lifecycle – with attending strategies and processes – applies as much to a small research project (for instance a fellowship) as well as major programmes of investment (such as the Global Challenges Research Fund).

What are we starting to work on more intensively?

There are several areas that BioResources & Technology is starting to focus on to advance the development and implementation of biogas technology. Here are some examples:

Feedstock diversity and optimization: BioResources & Technology investigates new and underutilized feedstocks, such as algae, seaweed, and aquatic plants, to expand the range of materials that can be used for biogas production. Trying to explore ways to optimize the use of current feedstocks to improve biogas yields and reduce costs.

Advanced biogas production techniques: There is still much to be learned about the most efficient and effective ways to produce biogas, particularly in terms of reactor design, temperature and pH control, and pre- and post-treatment processes. BioResources & Technology investigates novel reactor configurations, such as membrane-based and two-phase systems, and new techniques for nutrient and pH control.

Biogas utilization and storage: Once biogas is produced, it must be stored and utilized efficiently and effectively. BioResources & Technology plans to explore new storage and utilization technologies, as well as ways to optimize existing storage and utilization methods.

Environmental and social impacts of biogas production: As biogas production continues to expand, it is important to understand the environmental and social impacts of this technology. BioResources & Technology studies the emissions and ecological impacts of biogas production and use, as well as the social and economic benefits and challenges of biogas implementation.

Integration of biogas into energy systems: Biogas production can be integrated into existing energy systems in a variety of ways, such as by using biogas to supplement or replace fossil fuels in electricity generation, heating, and transportation. BioResources & Technology investigates the technical and economic feasibility of these integration strategies, as well as the policy and regulatory frameworks needed to support them.

Overall, there are many exciting opportunities for BioResources & Technology is to contribute to the development and implementation of this promising renewable energy source.

Waste management side of BioResources & Technology

An inseparable part of work of BioResources & Technology is waste management research. Some of these areas include:

Waste Reduction: One of the most important goals of waste management is to reduce the amount of waste generated in the first place. Waste reduction strategies can include better product design, more efficient manufacturing processes, and greater use of recycling and reuse.

Resource Recovery: Another important area of waste management research is the recovery of resources from waste. This can include the extraction of valuable materials from waste streams, such as metals and other minerals, as well as the generation of energy from waste.

Technological Innovation: Waste management research is also focusing on the development of new technologies that can improve the efficiency and effectiveness of waste management. These are new sorting and separation technologies, advanced recycling processes, and new methods for converting waste into energy. Especially those focused on low-cost and simple implementation.

Circular Economy: The concept of a circular economy, in which waste is minimized and materials are kept in use for as long as possible, is becoming increasingly important in waste management research. This approach emphasizes the importance of closing the loop on materials and reducing waste generation through the redesign of products and business models.

Social and Behavioral Factors: Waste management research focusing on the social and behavioral factors that influence waste generation and disposal. This could include research on consumer behavior, public attitudes towards waste management, and the role of education and outreach in promoting sustainable waste management practices.

Overall, activities of BioResources & Technology and waste management research is driven by a combination of technological innovation, environmental sustainability, and social and behavioral factors. As waste management becomes an increasingly pressing issue in many parts of the world, there is likely to be growing investment in research and innovation in this area.

