

YEAR **2022**

Czech National Agency for International Education and Research Strategy





OUR PURPOSE



It is our strong belief that international experience makes society and the world a better place. That's why we are passionate about developing educational programmes that give everyone a chance to get involved in international activities





Vision

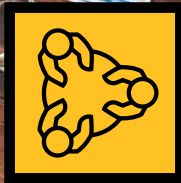
Today's interconnected world offers endless opportunities for people to learn from and inspire each other and share knowledge and experience. Such exchange helps to improve understanding between different cultures and **promote not only individual growth, but also the development and prosperity of society as a whole.**

International co-operation has proven useful in taking advantage of these opportunities in fields of study, research or work. That's why we strive to **develop co-operation in international education** and build strong relations with other countries. We have an outstanding offer in this area, that's why we make every effort to communicate the Czech Republic's rich reputation and expert position internationally.

We also believe that if we provide people and institutions with examples of good practice in teaching methods, innovative approaches to education and research projects abroad, they'll **have a head start on their home turf.** Thanks to healthy competition and sharing newly acquired skills, the quality of education will also gradually improve in the Czech Republic.

We are working to ensure that everyone – whether a self-taught enthusiast, a student, an educator or a school – can gradually get involved in international education. We believe that **international experience transforms both individuals and society for the better.**

We strive to develop co-operation in international education and build strong relations with other countries



We believe that both international education enthusiasts and professionals can help each other move forward by sharing experience and know-how

Mission

DZS is the Czech National Agency for International Education and Research. We are in a unique position within the Czech Republic because we **represent and lead the largest educational programmes** connected with international co-operation in education.

We adapt these programmes to the Czech environment and enhance them with our own content to ensure the programmes are tailored precisely to our target groups. In addition, we are an authority in the field of international education, both in the Czech Republic in our advisory role to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and in the international professional community.

We tirelessly **promote the rewarding opportunities and benefits of international co-operation**, motivate institutions and individuals to get involved, and help them get the information and funding they need to transform their plans into reality. Thanks to our team members in the field, we are in **close contact with schools in individual regions** and so we adapt our services to meet their specific needs as much as possible.

We **provide** Czech scientists with first-hand **information on opportunities for research collaboration at the international level**, which our Brussels office is instrumental in providing. We raise awareness about the results and outputs of international research and keep both the professional community

and the general public informed about current trends in education abroad.

We believe that both international education enthusiasts and professionals can help each other move forward by sharing experience and know-how. That's why we create platforms where they can meet to **build a community of like-minded people**.

Such people also work within our organisation because we are looking for motivated and creative people who quickly resonate with our organisational environment and get excited about it. **We see our team members first and foremost as people** – we support their self-development, respect their individual needs, and view their differences as an enrichment of our internal culture and an opportunity to foster mutual understanding. We have ambitious goals and so we require independence and high performance, which is contrary to conventional notions of how public administration works.

Our work contributes to education, thoughtfulness and understanding, which are essential prerequisites for the **long-term sustainable development** of society as a whole. To this aim, we incorporate these values into the programmes we offer and the way our team operates. We motivate our partners to do the same, not only by setting an example, but also through creating activities that help them integrate sustainability principles into their own activities.



We act in a way that is sincere, appropriate, and open to ourselves and our partners

In our work, we uphold values that permeate all our activities as well as communication with stakeholders:

Transparency, openness, and equal access

Our actions are sincere, appropriate, and open to ourselves and our partners. We approach our work responsibly and with respect for the individual requirements of all target groups in education and research.

Expertise and professionalism

We help our team members reach their professional and personal potential. We create a work environment that allows them to broaden their knowledge and keep up with current trends. We grow our organisation's professional know-how and actively contribute to the debate in the field of international education and research. We help each team member realise their potential and develop their abilities.

Quality in all areas

We regularly set quality objectives, monitor and evaluate the quality management system in place, and take adequate corrective measures. We strive to continuously improve the quality of all our activities and services aiming to develop high-quality international education and research in the Czech Republic.

Effective communication and promotion

We aim to communicate in a clear and comprehensive way. We always tailor the content and form of our message to meet the needs of our end clients. We represent, promote, and advertise Czech education, research, and development abroad.

Applying principles of social responsibility

In our daily activities, we accept economic, social, and environmental responsibility and do our best to lead by example. We embrace sustainability as an essential prerequisite for the success of our operations and accomplishment of our mission.

Economy

We make sound use of public funds. We utilize material, human, and financial resources efficiently and effectively so that we achieve maximum effect while respecting our founder's requirements.



We embrace sustainability as an essential prerequisite for the success of our operations and accomplishment of our mission

Priorities 2021–2025

Together, we've agreed to focus on the following priorities for 2021–2025 because they will help us contribute to a more sustainable future, in education and elsewhere:

High-quality and inclusive international education and research

We respond to required changes in education, and we support the widest possible involvement of individuals and institutions in international education and research.

- We engage with key partners to strengthen the international character of education and research in the Czech Republic.
- We support the gaining of global competencies through international co-operation, academic residences abroad, national projects, and training across all sectors of education.
- We foster the development of alternative forms of international co-operation.
- We provide a supportive environment to Czech researchers in international co-operation.
- We make sure individuals and organisations have equal access to international education and research programmes, and we eliminate barriers. We have a Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan in place, check it out on our website [HERE](#).
- Through CZELO, we provide information on EU research and education policy making and developments.

Sustainability of international residences and co-operation projects

We promote the concept of sustainable development and inspire participants in international residences and projects to behave responsibly.

- We introduce sustainable development topics into dialogue with partner organisations and grant beneficiaries.
- We encourage sustainable modes of transport in residences and projects.
- We provide international residence participants with tips and resources for a sustainable international experience.
- We share examples of national and international projects on sustainability-related topics.
- We support the digitalization and paperless administration of project documentation.



We build our organisation's professional know-how and develop the potential of our team members

Responsible operation of the organisation

We operate responsibly across all processes connected to our activities.

- In all our spheres of influence, we are ethical, transparent, and we respect human rights.
- We listen to stakeholders, take their expectations into account in our decisions, and support their socially responsible business behaviour.
- We reduce the environmental impact of our organisation, and we regularly report on our results.

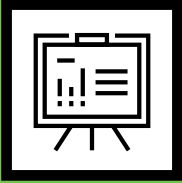
Team-member development

Our work environment is inspiring and respectful. We support the professional and personal growth of our team members.

- We live our values and uphold them in our everyday work.
- We create an environment that allows team members to broaden their knowledge and keep up with current trends.
- We support open communication and create a shared culture based on professionalism and responsibility.
- We empower our people to develop their talents and to strike a good balance between their personal and professional lives.
- We grow our organisation's professional know-how and actively contribute to the debate in the field of international education and research.

Our main sustainability goals for 2025:

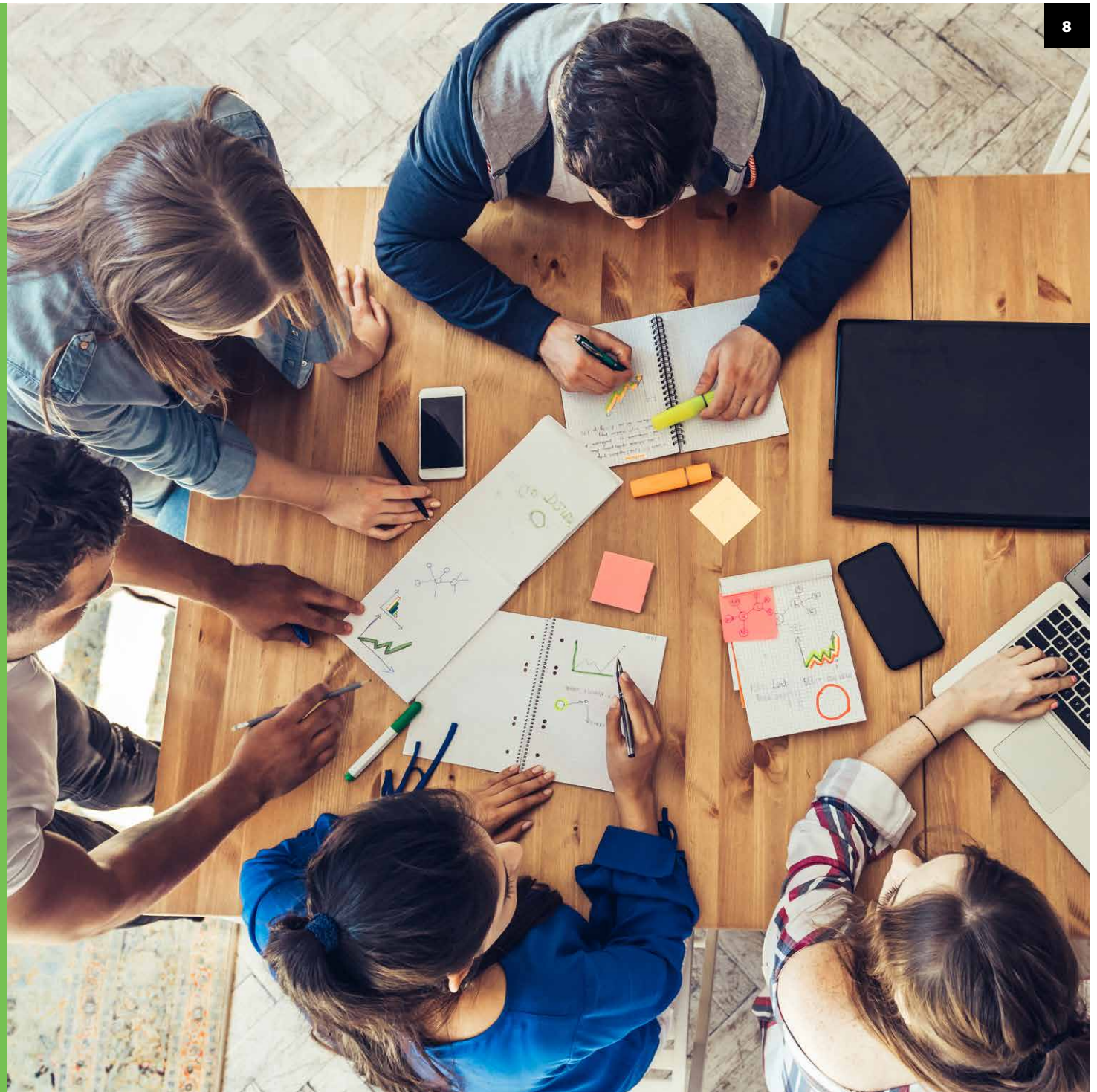
- Expanding the portfolio of grant applicants through an inclusive approach to international education and research.
- Actively supporting the acquisition of global competencies that are important, and not only for accomplishing the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Promoting a sustainable dimension in international education and co-operation in all programmes.
- Strengthening the international dimension of research and development in the Czech Republic.
- Identifying, measuring and reducing the main environmental impacts of our activities and, by extension, setting an example for key stakeholders.
- Reflecting the principles of diversity in our everyday work.
- Supporting team members in active citizenship through community assistance and expert volunteering.



SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY AT DZS



**Education is
a fundamental tool
to achieve sustainable
development**





The path towards DZS sustainability

Education is a fundamental tool to achieve sustainable development.

We enthusiastically support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (*Sustainable Development Goals – SDGs*) as a global programme that aims to achieve a sustainable future. Our successful implementation of these SDGs depends on the effort and co-operation of all members of society around the world, including educational institutions.

Our activities at DZS contribute significantly towards these goals, especially **Goal 4: Quality Education**. We ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

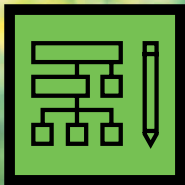
Through the programmes and projects we implement, we cultivate our society, teach tolerance, respect, promote co-operation and equality, and encourage active citizenship. Educational programmes are open to anyone interested and are set up to ensure that you are not limited by language, geographical, educational, health, cultural, socio-economic, gender, or administrative barriers.

We want to have a better-educated society prepared to face future challenges, which is why we help individuals and organisations reach their potential.

We contribute significantly to the development of in-school educational activities and the professional growth of teachers, adult educators, and youth workers. We provide students, pupils, and young people with opportunities to gain experience abroad and improve their chances on the labour market, fulfilling our role as a responsible member of society with a long-term positive impact.

Goal 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure has recently become a key objective for us at DZS as it has begun to support research. In 2021, we expanded our operations to Brussels, taking over the management of the Czech Liaison Office for Research, Development and Innovation (CZELO). Having become actively involved in advancing Czech research and development – in addition to education – we aim to improve the prospects of Czech researchers within the context of international co-operation.





We participate in developing and shaping the future of education and research, and engage in an active dialogue with the professional community

Our sustainable development goals set the direction for a responsible approach to education at DZS. In the long-term, we mainly want to focus on **co-operation with other experts** in advancing the quality of education and research, **sustainable behaviour of participants** in educational programmes, and the **overall responsible operation of DZS** in line with stakeholder requirements and expectations.

The following areas of DZS sustainability are linked to our priorities at DZS.

The professional community – Co-operation with other experts in advancing the quality of education and research

Our work at the Czech National Agency for International Education and Research and the priorities of our activities build on a number of European and national strategies. Within these, there have recently been many voices calling for modifications to the education system, an **expansion of the function of education, and the development of key competencies** related to technologies, changes in the labour market, and active citizenship. There are also appeals to utilise the potential of extra-curricular and non-formal education. **Inclusion, equal opportunities, and inter-cultural tolerance are also being emphasised to a great extent.** Furthermore, the prevailing effort is to educate a society that is globally-minded and respectful. International co-operation in education and research plays

an important role here, and we at DZS are in the privileged position of being able to influence the successful implementation of these steps in the Czech environment.

We want to participate in developing and shaping the future form of education and research and engage in an active dialogue with the professional community, share our knowledge of the needs, limitations, and challenges of all target groups, and transfer changes to mobility and co-operation programmes.

With our expansion to the Brussels-based CZELO office, we also have an opportunity to support the **development of innovative projects on an international scale**, which will strengthen the Czech Republic's position in the field of research and education.

In crisis situations that may arise (e.g. COVID-19), we want to strengthen our role as a responsible partner and be able to respond quickly and effectively to the current situation and adapt our services to benefit all stakeholders.



We support the social and environmental responsibility of international residences and projects

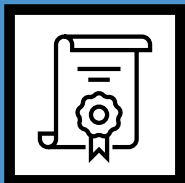
Participants in programmes – Education in sustainable development

In our international education community, we have seen a growing interest in sustainable policies and practices and an increasing commitment to incorporate them into programmes offered all over the world. The aim is not to stop or limit our international visits and residences. The opposite is true as such co-operation will help future leaders acquire the necessary competencies, values, and attitudes to make important decisions responsibly and to face global challenges such as the climate crisis.

Our objective is to introduce a sustainable dimension into international education and national partner programmes and to provide coordinators, students, and other participants in educational stays (not only) abroad with the knowledge and skills required to actively implement the SDGs. Through raising their awareness of and educating them on sustainable development – offering them tips and guidance – we hope to motivate them on how to understand and consider social and environmental responsibility during their stays abroad and their work on international projects.

Our organisation – Responsible operation of DZS

We are committed to the sustainable development of our organisation as a way to make our operations more efficient, develop our human potential, and innovate our work in general. In the long run, we strive to make our operations more environmentally friendly, provide strategic assistance in the community, and satisfy our team members and other stakeholders. We want to achieve long-term effectiveness in fulfilling and monitoring our Sustainability Strategy. By putting in place measurable indicators and reporting, we want to **further strengthen our transparency and open communication.**



QUALITY POLICY



**We provide access
to opportunities
for participation in
sustainability, inclusion
and diversity activities,
and promote their benefits**





We maintain, develop and create permanent conditions for continuous improvement of the quality management system

Principles

The quality policy is built on the following principles, which are the basic pillars of DZS:

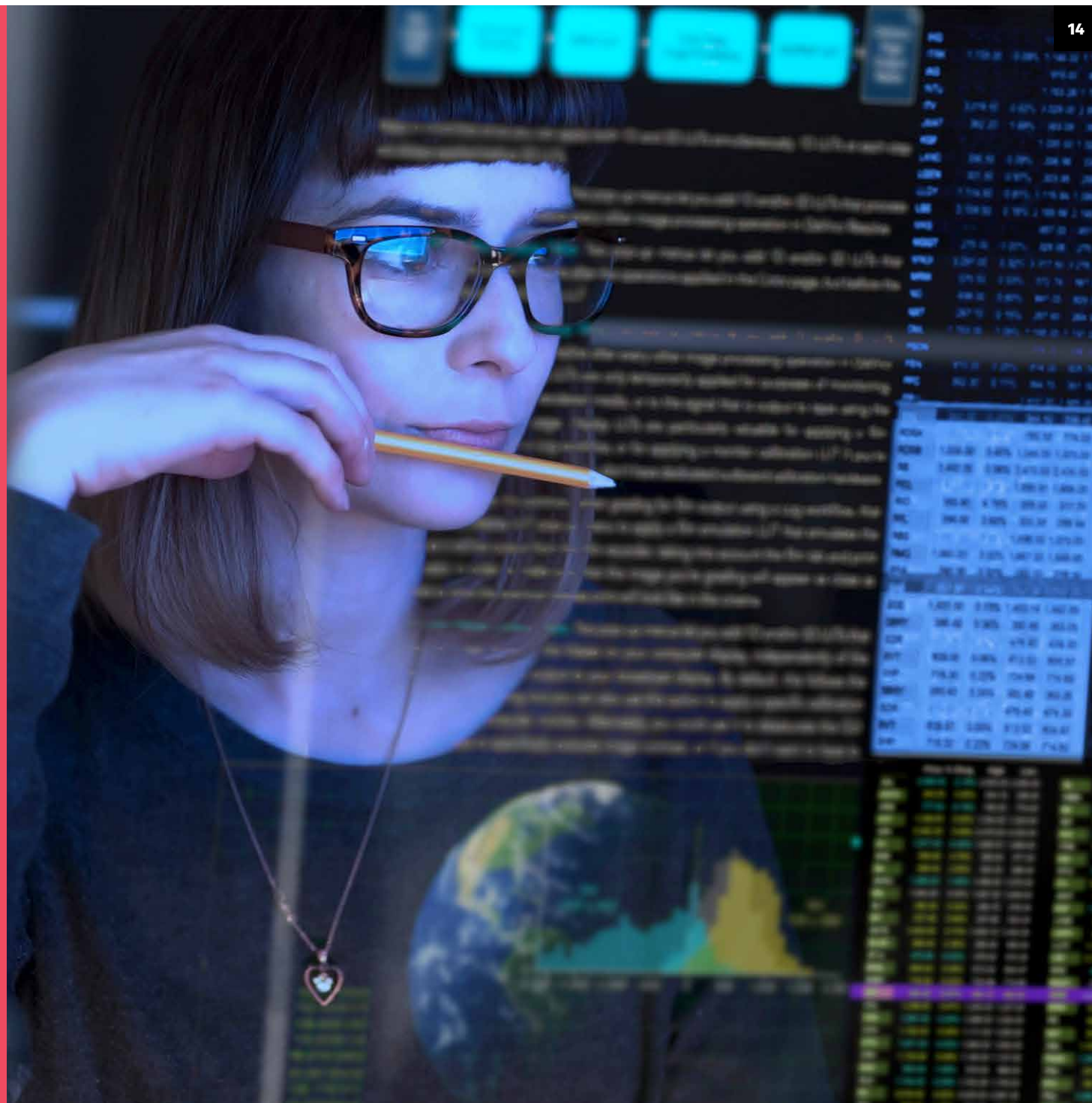
- We represent international education programmes in the Czech Republic, and make them accessible and promote them to institutions, students and the public.
- We are part of education networks and promote the Czech Republic as an advantageous education destination.
- We provide consulting and analytical services in international education, and work with data and statistics which we regularly share with the media.
- We create projects focused on international education.
- We build platforms for sharing know-how and good practice examples, we build international communities.
- We act as facilitators to establish and develop international co-operation in education and research.
- We raise awareness of inspiring Czech achievements all over the world.
- We provide access to opportunities for participation in sustainability, inclusion and diversity activities, and promote their benefits.
- We work in an environment that respects the uniqueness and work needs of each team member.
- We help our team members reach their professional and personal potential.
- We build a digital work environment and make active use of ICT in the organisation's activities.
- We maintain, develop and create permanent conditions for continuous improvement of our quality management system, which we regularly monitor and evaluate, and we take adequate corrective measures.
- We set quality objectives aimed at ensuring an effective management system.



INFORMATION SECURITY POLICY



**We create the conditions
and provide all the
resources needed to
maintain and improve
our information security
management system**





Principles

We adhere to the following principles to ensure and support data and information security:

- We respect and comply with all relevant laws, standards, norms and recommendations.
- We create the conditions and provide all the resources needed to maintain and improve our information security management system.
- We provide a specified level of information security, such as confidentiality, integrity, accessibility, verifiability, reliability and indisputability (of data).
- We create an environment of trust in information systems for all stakeholders.
- We assess the implementation of safety and security measures in terms of their benefits and effectiveness.
- We maintain a functional balance between security measures and the functionality of information systems/information and communication technologies.
- We make sure data is available, in a transparent manner, to all those who need it.
- We make sure all stakeholder data is protected in accordance with GDPR and other legislation.
- We take measures to minimise risks.
- We continuously monitor the management system, evaluate its security and implement appropriate corrective measures.
- We set objectives aimed at ensuring better security for the data and information we handle.
- We regularly educate and train our team members on information security.

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Contact information

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Please don't hesitate to ask us questions or
comment on our Strategy or on the topic of
social responsibility at DZS at csr@dzs.cz.
We really appreciate your feedback.



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