

## **Press release**

Prague, 18 November 2024

### **Artificial Intelligence and Wellbeing: CZEDUCON Connects European Leaders in a Key Debate on the Future of Higher Education**

This evening, the ceremonial opening of the 6th annual international higher education conference [CZEDUCON](#) will take place in the prestigious Karolinum of Charles University. The conference will continue at the O2 Universum in Prague until Wednesday, 20 November. Co-organized by the **Czech National Agency for International Education and Research (DZS)** and national agencies for international education from Austria, Germany, Poland, and Slovakia, the event is one of the most significant European gatherings focused on international collaboration in higher education. This year, it will bring together **750 representatives** of international and Czech universities, renowned think tanks, and government officials.

*"Education as we knew it in the 20th century is no longer sufficient. Internationalization is no longer optional; it is a fundamental prerequisite. The future of education requires innovations like micro-credentials, new teaching formats, and deeper cooperation within the European Education Area. Greater accessibility to higher education must be accompanied by support for excellence. Tools such as European university alliances, the Erasmus+ program, and others represent key policies. We are looking for ways to strengthen these and enhance the sharing of experiences,"* said **Michal Uhl**, Director of DZS.

This year's CZEDUCON program offers over **60 panel discussions, lectures, and workshops**. Key topics include inclusive internationalization, the rise of the digital age, organizational cooperation, and care for the mental wellbeing of both staff and students.

Internationalization is a critical tool enabling universities to address global challenges such as the rapid development of digital technologies and artificial intelligence. At the same time, it allows them to benefit from and actively shape these changes. Close international cooperation helps universities share resources, experiences, and innovations, enabling them to better adapt to new environments and strengthening their position in education and research. The **wellbeing** of the academic community is an essential foundation for achieving these goals.

The conference will feature numerous distinguished speakers and leading experts from around the world, who have been long-time advocates of the aforementioned themes. Contributions to organizational cooperation will be made by **Milena Králíčková**, Rector of Charles University, and **Sarah Ilchman**, Co-President of the Institute of International Education (IIE) in the United States, who has over 30 years of experience managing global education programs. **Laura E. Rumbley**, Director of Knowledge Development and Research at the European Association for International Education (EAIE), has been working on internationalization at an expert level for many years. She is also a co-author of several academic publications, including a key document for UNESCO's 2009 World Conference on Higher Education. **Daria Hvízdalová**, Director of AI Skills & Learning at 42London, is one of the leading specialists in the use of artificial intelligence in education.



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*"The conference offers great insights into the state and trends of internationalization in European higher education, directly through the perspectives of practitioners," said **Laura Rumbley**. "CZEDUCON represents an excellent opportunity to share these insights with both the Czech and international expert communities and to highlight the transformations higher education is undergoing in Europe. So, altogether, I think the conference provides the broader public and media with a deeper, much-needed understanding of the importance of internationalization," Rumbley concluded.*

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**The Czech National Agency for International Education and Research (DZS)**

The Czech National Agency for International Education and Research (DZS) is a contributory organization of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. Its primary mission is to manage programs focused on international education and to promote Czech education abroad. For more information about DZS activities, visit [www.dzs.cz/en/](http://www.dzs.cz/en/).



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