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# Innovation ecosystem of CUNI

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**Knowledge and technology transfer** at Charles University is centrally supported by the **Centre for Knowledge and Technology Transfer** together with subsidiary company of Charles University: [Charles University Innovations Prague](#). Both the entities offer expertise to the academic community for the full innovation process.

**Innovation ecosystem** of CUNI **originated in 2007** by creation of the above mentioned Centre. **The current scope of activities** has mainly developed **since 2014** when the then new university management decided to include **the third role of the university** and the area of knowledge and technology transfer into its **main priorities**.

The Innovation ecosystem of CUNI has been enhanced by creating of a **subsidiary company** Charles University Innovation Prague in **June 2018**. **CUIP** is responsible for the **final stages of commercialisation** and is legally equipped to **create new spin offs** or acquire shares in existing ones, there are also recognised mechanisms how to proceed without direct involvement and base the valorisation process more on IP licensing or other forms, see [CUIP web](#) for details.

## Contents:

- [3 pillars of the work of the Centre](#)
- [Our services](#)
- [Subsidiary company Charles University Innovations Prague](#)
- [The innovation offer of Charles University](#)
- [Internal regulations](#)
- [Financial resources and Proof of Concept](#)
- [University Innovation Network of Charles University](#)
- [Education: Management of Science Innovation](#)
- [The Centre and the TT community](#)
- [The Centre in the media](#)

## 3 pillars of the work of the Centre

The work of The Centre for Knowledge and Technology Transfer is based on three main pillars:

- **1. Expert knowledge and technology transfer services**  
IP protection and strategies, legal support for contractual and applied research, NDAs, MTAs etc. It support all research fields at Charles university (i.e. medical, pharmaceutical, physical and life sciences together with the wide spectrum of social sciences and humanities. It aims at commercialisation and valorisation using analytical and research tools, business development, using the potential of “university innovation network” (internal innovation scouts and ambassadors – experienced innovators). The Centre can consult Commercialisation Board of the University with its external experts from various industry fields. The Centre often reaches out to other external partners: companies, individual experts, state administration and funding bodies, NGOs.
- **2. Funding**  
The Centre regularly applies for grants and subsidies both from internal and external resources. It specialises in designing and managing applied research projects and above all the Proof of Concept activities. PoC are the priority, the Centre is constantly seeking new opportunities including abroad. Recently it became involved in 4EU+ alliance linked projects and opened discussions how to enhance links to other 4EU+ partners’ technology transfer centres.
- **3. Awareness raising, PR and specialised KTT education**  
The Centre has to constantly inform internal university clients about the importance, impact and benefits of knowledge and technology transfer activities. There are several tools to support the ongoing internal PR campaign, including specialised training cycles (Management of Science and Innovation – basic, advanced, expert levels) and ad hoc onsite bespoke seminars with individual departments. Catalogue of Services presents the potential for contractual research services mainly to external partners. The Centre and all its staff actively creates links to the wider KTT community both in the Czech republic as well as abroad (Transfera.cz, ASTP, AUTM).

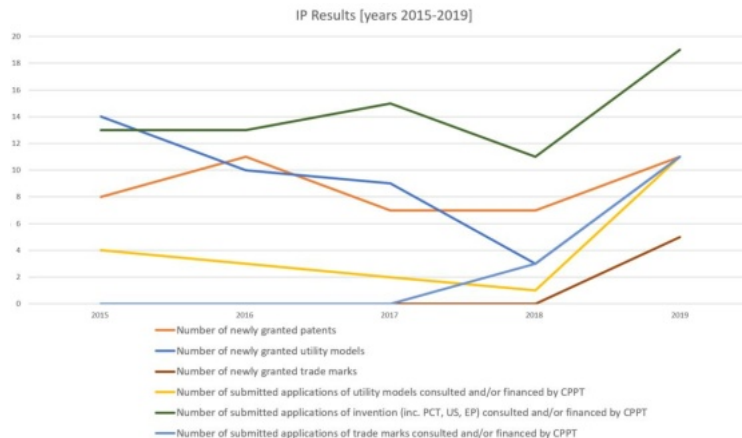
## Our services

The Centre provides **services to the academic community** (both staff and students of Charles University) in areas linked to **the initial stages of innovation and commercialisation** and valorisation process. It focuses mostly on **intellectual property**, expert staff provides **legal and patenting advice, specialised analyses and searches** based

on expert tools, including **databases** like BCC reports or Global Data. There is ongoing very **close cooperation with the subsidiary company** in the field of market analyses and business development.

The Centre for Knowledge and Technology Transfer **mediates contacts with external partners**, it can provide all necessary **support for contractual research agreements**, consultancy arrangements, it is very active in seeking new ways of reaching out to public bodies with the offer of the university know-how, including **strong focus on valorisation of the outcomes of social science and humanities**. IP protection in the form of patents is more wide-spread at our medical faculties and then on mathematics and physics, pharmacy and life-science faculties.

For more data on the volume of licences, contractual research etc. please visit the **relevant annual reports**, including the statistical annexes [here](#).



## Subsidiary company Charles University Innovations Prague

The final stages of commercialisation – searching for a relevant external partner, negotiation and closing down of a deal are usually completed the team of **Charles University Innovations Prague s.r.o.** (CUIP). CUIP is a **wholly owned subsidiary** of the Charles University founded on 22 June 2018. Goal of the company is to **transfer knowledge and technology** created at the Charles University **to the real life**. Within this field, CUIP closely cooperates with its partner – the Centre for Knowledge and Technology Transfer of the Charles University.

CUIP provides the following services:

- consulting and management services for projects with a commercial potential and for founding of spin-off companies emerging from research conducted at the Charles University
- securing investors for university spin-off companies
- negotiation of licensing or other agreements in a given area
- financial support for spin-off companies
- support of sponsorship and fundraising activities at the Charles University

Please **see more** on CUIP's scope of activities in its dedicated section here as well as on [www.cuip.cz](http://www.cuip.cz).

## The innovation offer of Charles University

The innovation offer of Charles University is promoted through several websites as well as using other media and events. The Centre manages the **“Catalogue of Services”** covering the university offer of **expert services available for external partners**. The **advance technologies** are managed and offered via **CUIP** and its website. Biannually innovation fair called **Via Carolina** takes place.

**Staff** from the Centre for Knowledge and Technology Transfer and CUIP **regularly visits conferences and specialised trade fairs** to promote Charles University **portfolio and widen our networks of contacts**.

## Internal regulations

The whole process is outlined in the **Rector's Directives** dealing with IP [HERE](#) and **technology transfer and commercialisation** [HERE](#). And the preceding [from 2015](#) and [from 2014](#) (and [from 2009](#)).

## Financial resources and Proof of Concept

The Centre also constantly seeks **additional financial resources** to support the innovation ecosystem, ongoing **professional development** of its staff and of the university-wide **innovation network** and above all **“pre-seed”** money aimed at proof of concept activities.

**Proof of Concept projects**, especially the last few rounds of funding from [Technological Agency of the Czech Republic](#) (Programme **Gama**) has had a high positive impact on the development of the institutional environment at Charles University for knowledge and technology transfer activities. Proof of Concept funding has also **significantly contributed to the change of mind-sets of the academic staff involved**. The will to include the potential commercialisation routes

as possible outcomes of their research activities has increased as well as number of cases with a real commercial success. Creating the subsidiary company Charles University Innovations Prague s.r.o. (CUIP) in 2018 has also enhanced the whole ecosystem and especially speeded up negotiation process with external commercial partners and enabled have more deals completed.

The selection of proof of concept projects is overseen by **the Commercialisation Board of Charles University** which is an official advisory body to the rector as per the Statue/ Constitution of Charles University ( [Article 12](#) ).

## University Innovation Network of Charles University

The Centre for Knowledge and Technology Transfer also manages **University Innovation Network** of Charles University. The capacities of the core team of the Centre are limited given the size of the Charles University academic community. Therefore, it very closely cooperates with its **part-time colleagues – innovation scouts** – dedicated staff **at each of the faculties** and other university bodies to be **the first point of contact** and communication channel **for the researches and students** in all matter related to IP protection, innovation and commercialisation, and impact of research on society. The network is supported by its sponsors at the managerial level as well ambassadors – academic innovators willing to share their practical experiences from innovation/commercialisation projects with their peers. **The network meets regularly**, especially the innovation scouts and the core team from the Centre. At least twice a year there is a high-level meeting with the university and faculty management.

## Education: Management of Science Innovation

In order to raise better awareness among academic community, the Centre for Knowledge and Technology Transfer regularly teaches courses within **“Management of Science Innovation” training**. It offers three levels accessible for both students and staff:

- **basic** (MSI1 – blended mixture of online webinars and lectures and practical exercises aimed primarily at pre-graduate and PhD students but is accessible to all staff too)
- **advanced** (MSI2 – live seminars with experienced lecturers from industry, dealing with practical case studies)
- **expert** (MSI3 – individual coaching for those who need to create a real business plan for their case and might be thinking about setting up a spin off company)

Besides MSI courses, the Centre regularly organises **other** bespoke **training** events at the faculties, often aimed at **IP protection** and **patenting**, **database searches** and general **KTT procedures** at Charles University.

## The Centre and the TT community

The Centre for Knowledge and Technology Transfer has also been an active member and leader of the knowledge and technology transfer community **in the Czech Republic and abroad**. It contributed to the unified **national KTT association** [Transfera.cz](#) and currently influences its activities via having a representative in its Board. Similarly, the Centre’s Director is a Board member of the **international professional association** [ASTP](#) . Both the associations are respected partners to public administration, funding bodies and industry partners – which is rather advantageous position for Charles University in the knowledge and technology transfer nationally and internationally.

## The Centre in the media

**Technology Transfer people are essential to connecting universities with the commercial sphere: An interview with Sharon Finch**

iForum: Charles University Online Magazine • Author: Jana Pilátová, Ed. Jan Velinger • Photo: Jana Pilátová



"Sharon Finch is an expert in Technology Transfer (TT) who spoke recently at Charles University on the subject of bridging researchers and universities and the commercial sphere through so-called TTOs or Technology Transfer Offices." (...) **"I often hear from scientists that they have no time for TT. Is that the case? Well TT is not their main focus or their role. The same thing happens actually with pharma companies because with lots of clinicians or regulatory people, TT is not their main job either. But innovations have become so important to pharmaceutical companies that they too recognize that without external innovation that they would not be successful."** The full text [ZDE](#) .

### **CU hosts Excellence-in-ReSTI meeting & awards: Pilot project taught ins-and-outs of project design & management**

UniMedia • Author: Jan Velinger • Photo: Vladimír Šigut



"Few doubt the importance of social and technological innovation projects; in a period of ever-evolving playing fields or shifting sands, it is more important than ever that good ideas don't fall the wayside.

Charles University got on board the Excellence-in-ReSTI (Research, Social and Technological Innovation) pilot project for that primary reason: for participants – graduates - to be able to gain a solid foundation and valuable experience in getting projects successfully funded and off the ground." The full text [HERE](#) .

### **Amanda Zeffmann: Changing the status quo: How uni consultancy offices are facilitating knowledge transfer**

UniMedia • Author: Jan Velinger • Photo: Vladimír Šigut



"Charles University's Centre for Knowledge and Technology Transfer (CPPT) and subsidiary Charles University Innovations Prague hosted the 7th National Knowledge and Technology Transfer Conference in the Czech capital last week. Dovetailing with the Via Carolina Fair - providing an overview of products and services - the conference tackled key questions in the transfer of knowledge, namely **how to expand the impact of studies and research beyond university**

**walls.** As of late, a renewed focus has been placed on spreading benefits through commercialising successful research in the social sciences and the humanities."

The full text [HERE](#)

#### **Final meeting of participants in the international educational program Excellence-in-ReSTI**

On July 1, 2019, representatives of **12 scientific and research organizations from 9 European countries** participating in Excellence-in-ReSTI project gathered together in Carolinum. Excellence-in-ReSTI is an **international training program** aimed at **improving the skills of project managers** in the field of social and technological innovation. Charles University provided the Moodle e-learning platform and also prepared 2 out of the 20 courses. The Prague meeting was organized by the Centre for Knowledge and Technology Transfer (CPPT).

#### **A panel discussion on E-learning took place as part of the Excellence-in-ReSTI Final Meeting**

A panel discussion on E-learning took place as part of the Excellence-in-ReSTI Final Meeting organised by Centre for Knowledge and Technology Transfer (CPP) on July 1, 2019, in Carolinum. The topic was E-learning programmes within the Danube Region: common challenges, shared lessons and potential synergies. More about the meeting can be found here: <https://youtu.be/2OJWKPXjic> .