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PRESS RELEASE

Charles University

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<http://www.cuni.cz>

## Joint CU and VŠE course helps students start a career with the EU

Prague, 31. 1. 2023 – Charles University (CU) and the University of Economics in Prague (VŠE) are launching a joint preparatory course for the EPSO tests, which help participants in recruitment processes for European Union institutions.

Success in open recruitment processes is the gateway to the greater representation of citizens of the Czech Republic in institutions of the European Union. Participants in this new course learn about opportunities for work in EU bodies and institutions and prepare for the entrance tests organised by the European Personnel Selection Office (EPSO). This innovative course is intended for graduates from higher education and students in the final year of a bachelor's or master's course who want to pursue a career within the EU.

*“This course, which will strengthen the standing of Czech citizens in European institutions, is a highly significant one. I see supporting our graduates on the path towards their desired career as part of the mission of universities. We are educating generations of people who are advancing themselves and drawing on their acquired knowledge to improve our society. Gaining employment in an EU body is an excellent way of applying the knowledge you have gained at university,”* says Charles University Rector **Milena Králíčková**.

The individual modules organised by the universities involved in the course complement each other and together constitute a comprehensive base to ensure that applicants are well prepared for the recruitment processes for starting a career with the EU. The course simulates the individual phases of recruitment processes, presents methodologies for successfully passing these processes, and also gives participants feedback. Participants learn about the staff regulations of institutions, the legal standing of EU officials and their career opportunities. The course focuses in particular on entrance tests, which are sat on computers, known as computer-based tests (CBT) and assessment centres. These tests focus on verbal, numerical and abstract thinking.

*“The modules provided by the Faculty of International Relations at VŠE in Prague are entirely online and consist of video lectures and work submitted through the Moodle system, with personal meetings taking the form of webinars. Tuition incorporates modern methods such as e.g. the provision of*

*feedback on outputs by fellow students (peer review) and listening to podcasts by candidates who have passed the EPSO tests. In the event of higher student numbers we intend splitting them into several groups for webinars to allow us to provide adequate individualised feedback. Successful completion of the course requires highly advanced knowledge of English. The only part of the course that uses Czech is the one concerned with verbal communication, as this part can also be taken in Czech,"* says **Hana Machková**, the Vice-Dean for International Relations of VŠE in Prague.

In relation to the two types of recruitment processes (general and specialist), the course is intended for graduates in various fields. Recruitment processes for administrators with a general focus (*generalist*) are accessible to all higher education graduates. Specialist positions are aimed at specialists in IT, cybernetics and data analysis, as well as, amongst others, specialists in the natural scientists, specifically in fields such as energy, the environment and the climate. The course is particularly suitable for graduates in economics and finance, languages and creative disciplines (digital content creation and social media), as well as the social sciences (law and political science).

The institutions and bodies of the EU offer approximately 60,000 positions. Working for the EU doesn't only mean working for the Commission, the Council of the EU or in the European Parliament. Applicants can also find employment in other bodies or institutions that specialise in a particular area: the Court of Auditors, the Committee of the Regions, the European External Action Service, and others.

Even though the majority of staff work in Brussels or Luxembourg, some positions are based with the representations of the Commission and offices of the European Parliament in individual Member States. In addition to this, positions are available in the 48 agencies specialising in specific areas and spread over the whole of the EU. With more than ten thousand employees, these agencies are the third largest employer after the Commission and the European Parliament. One of them – the European Union Agency for the Space Programme – is based in Prague. It is also possible to work for European institutions outside the EU – the European External Action Service administers EU delegations in third countries. The EU additionally has representation in a number of international organisations.

**DOCUMENT CHECKED BY:**

Václav Hájek

CU Press Officer

Public Affairs and Communications Department Charles University

Phone: +420 721 285 565

E-mail: [pr@cuni.cz](mailto:pr@cuni.cz)

Mgr. Věra Koukalová

University Press Spokesperson

University of Economics in Prague

Phone: +420 777038820

E-mail: [pr@vse.cz](mailto:pr@vse.cz)

### **Charles University**

Charles University was founded in 1348, and is one of the oldest universities in the world. There are currently 17 faculties at the University (14 in Prague, 2 in Hradec Králové and 1 in Plzeň), plus 3 institutes, 6 other centres of teaching, research, development and other creative activities, a centre providing information services, 5 facilities serving the whole University, and the Rectorate, the executive management body for the whole University. The University has the highest and the best research output in the Czech Republic, as shown, for example, by the evaluation of its research output by the Research, Development and Innovation Council. The University has over 8,600 employees, of which almost 4,000 are academic and research workers. The student population of Charles University numbers almost 51,000, roughly one-sixth of all students in the Czech Republic, who study in more than 870 accredited degree programmes. 19,000 students study in bachelor's degree programmes, nearly 25,000 in master's degree programmes, and 6,700 in doctoral programmes. More than 10,800 of the University's students are foreign nationals. Approximately 8,000 students graduate from the University every year. Graduates of Charles University are traditionally one of the groups of the Czech populace with the lowest unemployment rate. More than 16,000 participants attend a variety of lifelong learning courses every year. The University is dedicated to international cooperation with prestigious educational and research institutions. CU has more than four hundred bilateral agreements and 208 international partnership agreements with universities abroad.

### **Prague University of Economics and Business**

Prague University of Economics and Business (VŠE), founded in 1953, is the largest public university of economics in the Czech Republic and offers a wide range of bachelor's, subsequent master's, doctoral and MBA study programs to interested parties. VŠE has six faculties, five of which are based in Prague and one in Jindřichův Hradec. More than 13,000 students are currently studying at VŠE. The school cooperates with more than 250 partner universities on four continents. More than 1000 students are sent abroad every year and a similar number of foreign students are accepted. VŠE is also a member of a number of international organizations and networks of universities, such as the international strategic alliance CEMS (Global Alliance in Management Education) and PIM (Partnership in International Management). VŠE is included in the Financial Times rating, and as part of the Eduniversal Ranking project, it has long been rated as one of the best "business schools" in Central and Eastern Europe. Two subsequent Master's study programs of the Faculty of International Relations ("International Business - Central European Business Realities" and "International Business") have received the prestigious EFMD Accredited (European Foundation for Management Development) international accreditation. The honorary title of VŠE "doctor oeconomiae honoris causa" was received by a number of prominent Czech and foreign economists, e.g. Nobel Prize winners prof. Robert A. Mundell, Prof. Milton Friedman, Prof. Gary S. Becker and Richard Thaler.