



PRESS RELEASE

The VŠE and the MSD IT Global Innovation Centre have Signed a Cooperation Agreement for the Academic Year 2015/2016

On 1st September, 2015, the Rector of the University of Economics, Prague (VŠE), Prof. Hana Machková, and the Director of the MSD and Innovative IT Centre in Prague, John Westby, have signed a cooperation agreement for the coming academic year. From the beginning of the Winter semester, experts from the MSD's technology hub shall again be involved in teaching at VŠE, building upon cooperation with students in the execution of their diploma theses, as well as giving them the opportunity to participate in the innovative projects being realized at the MSD IT center.

Prague, 2 September 2015



MSD (known in the United States and Canada under the brand name of Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, NJ, USA) is one of the largest pharmaceutical companies worldwide. It delivers innovative treatments for diabetes and heart disease, cancer and infectious diseases. MSD is a leading manufacturer of biological drugs. Over the long term it is a leading developer and supplier of vaccines. Since 2014, MSD has been a partner of University of Economics (VŠE). The MSD IT Global Innovation Centre provides services for all branches of MSD worldwide.

"Our company is interested in cooperating with universities in Prague. Establishing the partnership with the VŠE means that we have managed to do it in the fastest time, as well as with the most advanced university of them all," said John Westby during the meeting, which was held at the University of Economics, Prague. During the first year of cooperation many projects have been realized. Experts from the MSD Innovative IT Centre got involved in teaching at the University, as well as collaborating with students in the execution of their diploma theses. Within the framework of the Competence Centres of the Faculty of Informatics and Statistics, students also work on innovative projects set, and realized, by the company. Collaboration with the University of Economics, Prague during the academic year 2014/2015 is mapped out in the [following video](#).

"The key to success is a mutually beneficial partnership. Cooperation with the MSD IT Global Innovation Centre in Prague is very intense, because it is managed on both sides by professionals with an interest in the matter. From our side, I appreciate the director's activities of xPORT VŠE, Ota Novotny, who is also head of the Department of Information Technologies at the Faculty of Informatics and Statistics of the VŠE. From our partner's side, there is extraordinary personal commitment given by the



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director John Westby. The same unstinting commitment is also freely given by the other top managers of the company". Such was the rector of the VSE, Prof Hana Machkova's evaluation of these partnerships.

The past year was also significant for the MSD IT Innovation Centre in Prague. In Spring the center moved its headquarters to the brand new Riverview building in Smíchov. Throughout the year, it continued to recruit highly qualified IT specialists, economists, scientists and mathematicians. The company is also planning to continue hiring more people next year. The total investment in the functioning of the Prague center in the period 2014-2016 will reach 1.5 billion CZK. The center focuses on research in information technologies, mathematical modeling, information security, mobile technologies and data analysis.

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The University of Economics, Prague (Vysoká škola ekonomická v Praze) is the leading university in the field of management and economics in the Czech Republic. The University of Economics, Prague is composed of more than 20,000 students and has six faculties – five in Prague and one in Jindřichův Hradec in South Bohemia. These include: the Faculty of Finance and Accounting, the Faculty of International Relations, the Faculty of Business Administration, the Faculty of Statistics and Informatics and the Faculty of Economics and Public Administration. The faculty based in Jindřichův Hradec is specialized in management. Graduates of the University of Economics, Prague occupy responsible positions in the private as well as in the public sector. Most of them are employed in the sectors of industry and services, trade, marketing, banking, public administration, accounting, audit, tourism and the field of information technology. Many significant Czech and foreign economists have obtained the University's Honoris Causa Title; for example, the Nobel Prize winner Prof. Robert A. Mundell, Prof. Milton Friedman and Prof. Gary S. Becker. More information at <http://www.vse.cz/english>.

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